

## THE PILGRIM ROAD

### *music for a medieval gap year!*

*Thanne longen folk to goon on pilgrimages,  
And palmeres for to seken straunge strondes,  
To ferne halwes, kowthe in sondry londes;*

In the Middle Ages going on pilgrimage was the nearest equivalent to the modern idea of taking a gap year. It could be much shorter – there were shrines to local saints – or it could be a great adventure to Rome, Jerusalem (though you'd probably need to go as an armed crusader) or Compostella. Spain has always been a popular choice for a break! Our programme takes you on a journey but it is not without danger and you might not be popular with those left behind ...

<b>O Roma nobilis</b>	Anon. Goliard song 12 <sup>th</sup> cent.
<b>Perspice Christicola</b>	Anon. English c.1240
<b>Dança Amorosa</b>	Anon. Italian c.1390
<b>Ja nun hons pris</b>	Richard Coeur de Lion (1157-1199)
<b>Aquel que de vontade</b>	No.249 Cantigas de Santa Maria (Escorial ms b.I.2 - mid 13 <sup>th</sup> cent)
<b>Cuncti simus concanentes</b>	Llibre Vermell (c. 1399)
<b>Cantigas de Amigo</b>	Martín Codax (mid 13 <sup>th</sup> cent.)

A Madrid bookseller found the manuscript of the Cantigas de Amigo by Martin Codax in 1914. It had been used to form part of the

binding for a 16<sup>th</sup> century edition of a work by Cicero. The words had already been known from two other manuscripts but this is the oldest surviving secular music from the Iberian Peninsula. Unfortunately the scribe did not write in the music for the sixth song, although he ruled the staff lines. Most modern performers borrow melodies from other songs of the period or compose something in a similar style. This is the earliest known example of a song cycle. The poems are written in the Galician dialect.

#### **Ondas do mar**

*O waves of Vigo's bay, have you seen my lover?  
Ah God, will he soon come to me?*

#### **Mandad' ey comigo**

*My lover is returning, I have received a message,  
Mother I shall go to Vigo.*

#### **Mia irmana fremosa**

*O my fair sister, come with me to the church at Vigo  
by the sea: we will gaze upon the ocean.*

#### **Ay Deus, se sab'ora meu amigo**

*Ah God, if only my lover could know  
that I languish in Vigo, deep in love.*

#### **Quantas sabedes amar amigo**

*All you who would be lovers, come to the sea at Vigo:  
we will bathe in the ocean waves.*

#### **Eno sagrado, en Vigo**

*In the churchyard at Vigo there danced a lover:  
I am so in love.*

#### **Ay ondas, que eu vin veer**

*Ah waves that I came to see, will you not tell me  
why my lover thus tarries far from me?*

#### **Branle de Bourgogne**

Anon. French c.1500