

## Vicente Lusitano Motets | Project report for Angel Early Music

Despite continuing uncertainties and some last-minute changes of personnel required due to COVID-19, the recording sessions for this project were able to go ahead from 15-19 November 2021, following live performances of much of the repertoire as part of various concert programmes in the preceding months.

The recording, which marked the beginning of a new relationship between The Marian Consort and LINN Records, took place in the wonderful acoustic of All Hallows Gospel Oak in London. A promotional video for the CD, featuring Lusitano's *Salve Regina* and *Regina caeli*, was filmed during the sessions and gives a flavour of the recording:



The full personnel featured on the recording are as below:

### The Marian Consort

Charlotte, Ashley, Lucinda Cox *Soprano*

Rory McCleery *Countertenor/Director*

Sarah Champion, Rosie Parker, Jess Gillingwater *Alto*

Edward Ross, Ben Durrant, Will Wright, Oscar Golden-Lee *Tenor*

David le Prevost, Ben Rowarth, Stuart O'Hara, Simon Whiteley, Edmund Saddington *Bass*

The CD was released on September 23 2022 (following the earlier release of an advance EP featuring Lusitano's *Inviolata* alongside the Josquin setting which inspired him and a new work by Roderick Williams based on both these pieces), and was prominently featured by both Tidal and Apple Music on their digital platforms (the cover of their 'Choral Harmonies Playlist' for the former, and the 'Choral Chill' and 'Early Music' playlists for the latter) along with an editorial which notes that ***The Marian Consort and its unflappable director, Rory McCleery, dive deep into the sacred motets of Lusitano's *Liber primus epigramatum*, the first-ever publication of works by a Black composer. Their choice of 10 pieces reveals the striking breadth of invention, subtle textures.'***

Since then the disc has been reviewed widely, both in English-language and many European publications and websites: links are presented below, and pdfs are attached.

We are delighted that the CD, as well as being a Gramophone Editor's Choice and featuring in their selections of both '[Best Classical Music Albums of 2022](#)' and '[Best Choral Recordings of 2022](#)', was also Album of the Month in Toccata magazine and winner of the 2022 Presto Recordings of the Year for 'World Premiere Recording (Rediscovery)'. It has also been shortlisted for the Early Music category of the International Classical Music Awards and the Preis der deutschen Schallplattenkritik and was included in [the list of the 15 Best Classical Music Recordings of 2022](#) by Giornale della Musica

It was '[Le Disque Classique du Jour](#)' on France Musique on 14 November 2022 and was featured in [an article on Lusitano in the New York Times](#) on January 5<sup>th</sup> 2023. On BBC Radio 3's Record Review on December 19 2022, Andrew Mcgregor commented "Lusitano's music's been rediscovered for this remarkably beautiful recording by The Marian Consort ... a recording as luminous as the polyphony it is framing."

[Forum Opera](#)

[Gramophone](#)

[Musik an Sich](#)

[CultuurPakt](#)

[Early Music America](#)

We are enormously grateful to the Trustees of Angel Early Music for their support of this project, and delighted that we have achieved what we set out to do, namely to bring this fantastic and unjustly neglected repertoire to life and to promote it to as wide an audience as CD distribution allows, in so doing educating the public in its merits and hopefully encouraging further performance.

The recording has also been of considerable benefit to the profile and wider perception of The Marian Consort, with our new partnership with LINN enabling us to reach European audiences and markets more directly and effectively than previously, and the music of Lusitano also featuring prominently in our programming for an upcoming US tour in 2024.

On behalf of the singers of The Marian Consort, thank you again for your support.

Rory

Rory McCleery  
Artistic Director, The Marian Consort