

About the Program

This program features songs from the 13th and 14th centuries about various beasts, including donkeys, pythons, panthers, and a whole host of winged creatures. The songs are primarily madrigals from the Trecento, but a liturgical song, *Orientis partibus* (Song of the Ass) played multiple times in the concert will bear the light burden of hosting this journey as we meet our fellow animal brothers and sisters.

About the Artists

Duo Custos specializes in the music of the fourteenth century. With the intabulations of the Faenza Codex as inspiration, Christa Patton and Dongmyung Ahn create unique tapestries of sound that evoke the rich medieval world, using instruments, innovative musicianship, and passionate scholarship.

The Custos, the symbol at the end of a staff of music in early notation that shows the first note on the following staff, has roots in the idea of providing care, watching over, guarding and keeping safe one's charges. Protector of the treasure which is music itself, the custos ensures the way will not be lost and the music can play on.

Early string specialist **Dongmyung Ahn** is a performer, educator, and scholar whose interests span the twelfth to nineteenth centuries. She studied baroque violin with Stanley Ritchie at Indiana University where she received her Bachelor's of Music with high distinction and her Master's of Early Music. Dongmyung is co-founder of Duo Custos and regularly performs with the Sebastians, TENET Vocal Artists, Green Mountain Vespers, Raritan Players, and Pegasus. She has played rebec in the critically acclaimed production of *The Play of Daniel* at the Cloisters. A dedicated educator, Dongmyung is the director of the Queens College Baroque Ensemble and has taught music history at Queens College, Rutgers University, and Vassar College. She received her PhD in musicology at the Graduate Center, CUNY and has published an article on medieval liturgy in the Rodopi series *Faux Titre*. For younger audiences, Dongmyung has written a children's book *Eggy Goes to Venice* about her niece's trip to Venice to hear Monteverdi's *Vespers* with Tenet Vocal Artists.

Christa Patton, historical harpist and early wind specialist, has performed throughout the Americas, Europe, and Japan with many of today's premier early music ensembles including Piffaro the Renaissance Band, Early Music New York, Boston Camerata, The King's Noyse, Folger Consort, Newberry Consort, Apollo's Fire, Parthenia, ARTEK and Chatham Baroque. As a Baroque harpist specializing in 17th century opera, Christa has performed with New York City Opera, Wolf Trap Opera, Opera Atelier and the Opera Theater of Saint Louis. She has served on the faculty of Rutgers University and the Graduate Center at CUNY. She is also director of the Baroque Opera Workshop at Queens College, specializing in the works of early 17th century composers. She can be heard playing historical harps and a multitude of wind instruments on recordings including *Istampitta* [Lyrachord], *Chacona* [Dorian], *Nobile Donna* [ATMA], *Los Ministriles in the New World*, and *Back before Bach* [Navona].

NEXT WEEK: Dan McCarthy and Friends
Vivaldi Viola d'Amore Concerti