




Composer Portfolios

BINGEN



Name	Hildegard Von Bingen
Nationality	German
Born-Died	1098-1179
Vision	<p>“Heaven was opened and a fiery light of exceeding brilliance came and permeated my whole brain and inflamed my whole heart and my whole chest”</p> 

Interesting Stories

An Accomplished Woman

Hildegard had many professions and talents. She was a visionary, a prophet and a pioneer who wrote books on biology, botany, medicine, theology and the arts. She was sought after by all for her help and advice. This saw her writing letters to the poor on medical matters but also popes, emperors and kings seeking spiritual and political advice.

Symphonia Armonie Celestium Revelationum

Symphonia Armonie Celestium Revelationum is a collection of 77 songs compiled by Hildegard. They form a cycle for the church year. It also features a music drama, Ordo Virtutum; a play about the struggle between 17 Virtues and the Devil over the destiny of a female soul.

Hildegard’s compositions stand out from other religious music because of the improvisatory style of her melodies: they are freer, more wide-ranging and elaborate than the simple, one-octave lines advocated by her contemporaries.

Facts:

- Hildegard of Bingen was a saint, composer and poet.
- Hildegard is one of the first identifiable composers in the history of Western Music.
- She was born over 900 years ago
- For most of her life she lived in a hilltop monastery in the Rhineland.
- It was the custom to promise your 10th child to the church, so at 8 she was sent to the monastery.
- Hildegard often wrote about her visions- commentators today suggest she may have suffered from migraines.
- Hildegard died in 1179 in the monastery she had founded at Rupertsberg, near Bingen.

Bingen's Music

Now we know more about the woman, why not listen to some of her music!

- Columba Aspexit
- O Virgo Splendens
- Processional of Embodied Souls
- Ave generosa
- Ave Maria, O auctrix
- Spiritus sanctus vivificans vita
- Spiritui sancto honor sit
- O rubor sanguinis
- O ecclesia oculi tui
- Favus distillans
- Cum vox sanguinis