

## ***Bernstein Artists, Inc.***

Management/Production/Project Development/Representation

### **“From Chant to Organum: Improvised Polyphony of the Middle Ages.”**

Lionheart is noted for its chant performance, which often includes elements of organum, the improvised polyphony from which Western harmony evolved over the course of the Middle Ages. What are these techniques? What evidence justifies their use in historically-informed performance? What do they require of the singer? Of the ensemble? What lasting influence have these techniques had on music? The six men of Lionheart, each an expert in his own right, take turns guiding the audience through these and other issues, each from his own unique perspective. Only a few words are required, however, since what is being described is heard immediately in performance by this flexible ensemble. Sung examples include the “Dies irae” from the Requiem Mass, the Sarum hymn “Sancte dei preciose,” and works by Notre-Dame composers Leonin and Perotin.

Richard Porterfield has been on the college Techniques of Music faculty at Mannes since 1994. In 2009 he earned his M.Phil. in Music Theory from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, where he is working with his advisor William Rothstein on the forthcoming Ph.D. dissertation *Melodic Function and Modal Process in Gregorian Chant*. (Lionheart’s presentation includes musical examples from medieval treatises he has examined in his doctoral research.) Mr. Porterfield has taught at City College and Hunter College, and has read academic papers at the national meeting of the Society for Music Theory, and at the International Congress on Medieval Studies at Kalamazoo, Michigan. Twice he has been a Guest Lecturer at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, most lately leading Mannes students in a Sunday afternoon presentation at the Grace Rainey Rogers Auditorium (“Sounding Illuminations: The Music of the Manuscripts,” now available as streaming video at the MMA iTunes U channel, and on YouTube).

Jeffrey Johnson, a doctoral student at Teacher’s College, teaches at the C.W. Post campus of Long Island University, where he directs the Madrigal Singers. Lawrence Lipnik teaches gamba and recorder at many venues including Wesleyan University. All of the members of Lionheart have worked extensively with other excellent ensembles as well as their own, and all have made valuable contributions to workshops, demonstrations, and panels Lionheart has presented at home and on tour, with students and with the general public.

*Sue Renée Bernstein, President*

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