

Music in Catalonia  
in the XV and XVI Centuries

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Music in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries was entirely dependent upon patronage. The kings, nobles and cathedrals of the Crown of Aragon, then comprising Aragon, Valencia, Catalonia, Sicily, Sardinia and Naples, were enlightened and generous patrons of both sacred and secular music. Sacred music, with Latin texts, both liturgical and non-liturgical, flourished in the cathedrals and royal chapels during the reigns of Pere III (1336-1387) and Joan I (1387-1396). With the advent of the Trastámara dynasty, Castilian superseded Catalan as the court language and so most secular music set Castilian poetic texts. Some Catalan-texted music has been preserved, however, which shows a delightful freshness in form and melody.

The importance of Catalonia and the Levante, with its close contacts with France at the time of the Avignon papacy (1378-1416) and with Italy from the time of Alfonso V's entry into Naples in 1443, in the later development of a 'Spanish' school of polyphony, cannot be underestimated.

Iberia, under the direction of Ivor Bolton, will perform works of Catalan origin from the period 1450-1530.