

PRESENTATION OF "THE TROUBADOURS OF THE KING"

VENERANDA

DIES

ENSEMBLE



VENERANDA DIES
E N S E M B L E

MEET VENERANDA DIES ENSEMBLE

Veneranda Dies Ensemble is a group specialized in Early/Medieval Music created in Toledo (Spain) in 2005 by the multi-instrumentalist Fernando Mosquera. Since its origin, the repertoire of this Ensemble has encompassed the Music of the Three Cultures, European Medieval Music or the Music of Troubadours, and, more specifically, Judeo-Sephardic Music, from *Llibre Vermell* of Montserrat, from *Códex Calixtinus*, *Cantigas de Alfonso X 'El Sabio'*, *Cantigas de Amigo* by Martin Códax, Arab and Andalusian pieces, Jewish music and old medieval Christmas carols rescued and re-configured by Fernando Mosquera.

During their first years of life they spend time performing concerts, participating in festivals and studying new repertoires. In 2009, they were hired by the BBC of England for the DVD recording of one of their concerts at the Samuel Ha Levi Synagogue in Toledo. This DVD, titled '**Sounds of Sefarad**', would only be published in England.

Since its inception, **Veneranda Dies Ensemble** has sometimes been accompanied live by a selected group of professional dancers specialized in Middle Age Dances, giving their shows a musical and visual orientation through dance.

In 2011, after signing a contract with the several records label, they released their first studio album, '**MomentuM**', dedicated to European Medieval Music and with which they have been touring ever since. This album had the collaboration in the production of the Hon. Toledo City Council, which from the beginning has promoted the trajectory of this Ensemble.

In 2018, Fernando Mosquera begins the investigation of a new repertoire dedicated exclusively to the Music of Occitan troubadours. To do this, he traveled to Occitania to visit libraries, museums and archives, as well as to study in situ the fortresses, castles and battle sites involved in the Crusade against the Albiguenses (Cathars) that took place in the early 13th Century.

This work of study and adaptation of the repertoire results in a new album, which is published in 2020 with the title of '**The Troubadours of the King**'.



MEET “THE TROUBADOURS OF THE KING”

After two years of research, study, adaptation of the repertoire and recording, 'The Troubadours of the King' includes a selection of the most significant Occitan troubadour songs, all of them related to the fin 'amor. Some of them have never even been recorded in other media or by other specialists, which further highlights the rigor with which this work has been carried out.

This repertoire is about a group of troubadours who are forced to travel along the St. James' Way from Carcassonne (Occitania), crossing the Pyrenees and Catalonia, to the Kingdom of León, all during the Crusade against the Albiguenses (Cathars) from the beginning of the 13th Century. There they will coincide with king Alfonso IX of León, known for his love of troubadour music, to whom they will relate in person the adventures they suffered throughout their journey fleeing from the Crusade.



The content of the album is accompanied by an exhaustive script where historical events with their protagonists, places and battles that had great significance in the environment where the story of the characters on the album are located are explained in detail. It is, therefore, a complete work where the music itself is accompanied with detailed explanations of the historical situation and important events of the Crusade against the Cathars.

In addition, the great specialists in Ancient Music Mara Aranda, Jota Martínez and David Mayoral collaborate in this work.



• VENERANDA DIES ENSEMBLE •

This Ensemble is made up of several musicians of different nationalities: Spain, Syria and Sudan. This makes their specialization in several of the branches of Early Music very broad and adaptable to all kinds of repertoires.

The experience and different origins of each musician result on stage in a fusion of cultures in which the differences (and similarities) that unite these countries with such diverse origins can be observed. They subtly combine the different sounds of their replica instruments from the Middle Ages, interpreted in a way faithful to the interpretive techniques of the time.

The Ensemble is made up of:

- **Maribel Minaya** (Spain): singing in Sephardic, Galician-Portuguese, Hebrew, Medieval Latin, Old English and Langue d'Oc (Occitan) languages.
- **Wafir Sheik Gibril** (Sudan): úd (Arab lute), nays (Arab flutes), Egyptian riqq, Arab bendhir, Arab qaraqabs, Arabic-Moroccan singing and choirs.
- **Juan Manuel Rivero** (Spain): fiddle, citole, troubadour lute, hurdy-gurdy, shofar (Hebrew horn), song and choirs.
- **Salah Sabbagh** (Syria): Persian daf, Persian daf with rattles, Persian zarb, Egyptian dojolla, Moroccan bendhir, Arab bendhir, Syrian d'rbuka, Egyptian riqq, battle drum, caxixi, metal plate and handkerchief with rattles.
- **Fernando Mosquera** (Spain): bagpipes for fole, Bulgarian-Sephardic bagpipe, Romanian bagpipes, Romanian double aulos, Viking horn, three-note horn, Numantine horn, zither, hurdy-gurdy, medieval flutes, ocarinas, Arabic bendhir, neck udu (pitcher drum), singing, choirs and Direction.



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**MARIBEL
MINAYA**



**WAFIR SHEIK
GIBRIL**



**JUAN MANUEL
RIVERO**



**SALAH
SABBAGH**



**FERNANDO
MOSQUERA**



LISTEN TO US, FOLLOW US, GET TO KNOW US

Along with this document, we give you a folder containing our latest studio work and our last photo shoot, but if you want to delve into our music and our imagination, we provide you with links to our social networks and previous works.

You can also contact us via email: management@fernandomosquera.com



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VenerandaDiesEnsemble



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