

THE LAMENTATIONS AND RESPONSORIES, 1600

Emilio de' Cavalieri (c.1550-1602)

Ensemble *Profeti Della Quinta*

During the last decades of the 16th century, one of the most extreme musical revolutions took place: Renaissance polyphony gave place to the new dramatic *monodic style*, driven by the *basso continuo*. One of its leaders, although sometimes forgotten, was Emilio de' Cavalieri. His expressive setting of the beautiful and dark biblical text of the Lamentations will shock even modern listeners. The work combines the old and new styles: beautiful and complex polyphonic sections alternating with highly expressive monodies and duets. The piece is not only of rare beauty but also of historical significance, being the earliest known *monodic* setting of a religious text, in the manner that later developed into the Oratorio.



(St Jerome, Caravaggio, c.1605)

Ensemble *Profeti Della Quinta*, which consists of singers and instrumentalists who specialize in music from Cavalieri's era, gives an expressive and virtuosic performance of the piece, as the historical performance practice of the time requests. The ensemble has recently recorded a CD of music from Salomone Rossi's *Hashirim Asher Lish'lomo* (Venice, 1622/3) ["The Song of Solomon and instrumental music", Pan Classics]. The CD gained the title "CD of the month" in the German magazine "Toccata alte music actuel".

Doron Schleifer, Hanna Järveläinen - Canto
Dan Dunkelblum - Alto
Mathias Spoerry - Tenor
Elam Rotem - Bass, Cembalo, musical director
Ziv Braha - Theorbo
Elizabeth Rumsey - Lirone
Tore Eketorp - Violone
Ralph Stelzenmüller - Organ

For more information and video samples: www.quintaprofeti.com

Please contact us at: contact@quintaprofeti.com

Elam Rotem

Schützengraben 16,

CH-4051 Basel, Switzerland

+41-(0)79-5830097