

*Aprile/April* was commissioned by historian Kathryn Reyerson to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Center for Medieval Studies at the University of Minnesota. It was premiered by the Dale Warland Singers on May 2, 1998, at Ted Mann Concert Hall in Minneapolis, MN.

duration: c. 5:30

*Sonetti Dei Mesi*

Folgore da San Gimignano  
1250? – 1317?

*Aprile*

D'April vi dono la gentil campagna,  
Tutto fiorita de bell' erba fresca;  
Fontane d'acqua che non vi rincesca;  
Donne e donzelle per vostra compagna:  
Ambianti palafren, destrier di Spagna,  
E gente costumata a la Francesca,  
Cantar, danzar a la provenzalesca  
Con istormenti novi della Magna.  
E dintorno vi sian molti giardini,  
E giachita vi sia ogni persona:  
Ciascun con reverenza adori e 'nchini  
A quell gentil, ch'ho dato la corona  
Di pietre preziose, le più fini  
Ch' a 'l Presto Gianni o 'l re di Babilona.

translation by D. G. Rossetti

I give you meadow-lands in April, fair  
With over-growth of beautiful green grass;  
There among fountains the glad hours shall pass,  
And pleasant ladies bring you solace there.  
With steeds of Spain and ambling palfreys rare;  
Provençal songs and dance that surpass;  
And quaint French mummings; and through hollow brass  
A sound of German music on the air.  
And gardens ye shall have, that every one  
May lie at ease about the fragrant place;  
And each with fitting reverence shall bow down  
Unto that youth to whom I gave a crown  
Of precious jewels like to those that grace  
The Babylonian Kaiser, Prester John.