



CANTO IGNOTO

Jarchas, Romances & Cantigas

One of the biggest challenges for performers of medieval music is that only a small fraction of the music of this period has survived. As musicians we need as much information as possible and the necessary training to convert the information into music.

It is important to approach the practices, such as improvisation, that might have been commonly used in some repertoires. Improvisation and also the familiarity with different musical oral traditions are some of this ensemble's extraordinary strengths.

With this program the ensemble approaches the repertoire of Las Jarchas: the first lyric genre in vernacular language known in the Iberian Peninsula. It flourished between the 11th and the 13th century during the Hispano-Arabic coexistence. The members of Vox Suavis make use of **improvisation within the framework of medieval monody** and give a voice to these melodies (Ignoto Canto), referred to as unknown because only the written form survived.