Recent Releases
We'll sample a pair of new releases on this week's show, including 'Il Genio Inglese'. This recording by Ground Floor and violinist Alice Julien-Laferrière highlights the musical activities of Nicola Matteis, the Neapolitan violinist who enthralled music-loving London with his playing. We'll also hear organist Aude Heurtematte play a new organ built especially for early music, located in Champcueil, France.

The Songbooks of Margaret of Austria
The daily life of Duchess Margaret of Austria (1480-1530) was steeped in art and music. She owned an impressive art collection, including *The Arnolfini Wedding* by Jan van Eyck, and left behind two gorgeously illuminated songbooks containing music by the most celebrated composers of her time. We'll hear selections from these songbooks, by composers like Brumel, de la Rue, and Ockeghem, with performances by the Clerks' Group, Capilla Flamenca, and Encantar.

Ensemble Leones
This week's show focuses on Ensemble Leones, directed by lutenist Marc Lewon. The group specializes in Medieval and Renaissance music, with a special affinity for the music of German-speaking lands. We'll hear selections from several of their recordings, including songs by Oswald von Wolkenstein, the Minnesinger Neidhart, and the mysterious Monk of Salzburg.

Music for the Duke of Milan
The *Missa Galeazescha* by Loyset Compère was composed for Duke Galeazzo Maria Sforza of Milan. In it, motets in honor of the Virgin Mary stand in for the usual Mass movements. We'll
hear an outstanding performance of this unique Mass by Odhecaton, directed by Paolo Da Col, plus fanfares for trumpets and tympani played by La Pifarescha.

PROGRAM #: EMN 20-33
RELEASE: February 1, 2021

The Harmonies of Heaven
This week, Early Music Now showcases an exciting recent release from Concerto Palatino called 'Nature's Secret Whispering- Music in the Cosmology of Johannes Kepler'. Kepler longed for harmony, both celestial and earthly, and this superb CD presents music he probably knew, by composers like Lassus, Andrea Gabrieli, and Lambert de Sayve. Concerto Palatino is directed by renowned cornettist Bruce Dickey.

PROGRAM #: EMN 20-34
RELEASE: February 8, 2021

Ockeghem's Requiem
The profoundly beautiful Requiem by Johannes Ockeghem may have been composed to commemorate the death of a French king. We'll hear a performance by Cappella Pratensis, which was recently included in Gramophone's list of Top Choice classical recordings. We'll also hear some of Ockeghem's songs performed by the Boston-based ensemble Blue Heron.

PROGRAM #: EMN 20-35
RELEASE: February 15, 2021

Valentine's Day
This week we're delving into the concept of fin'amor, which is often translated as courtly love. The troubadours were the most famous courtly love poets, but they weren't the only ones. We'll hear motets from the Montpellier Codex, songs from Le Voir Dit by Machaut, and the dawn song Reis Glorios. Our performers include Anonymous 4, Paul Hillier, and the Oxford Camerata.

PROGRAM #: EMN 20-36
RELEASE: February 22, 2021

Celebrating Michael Praetorius
2021 is a big year for fans of Michael Praetorius! It marks the 450th anniversary of his birth and the 400th anniversary of his death- two excellent reasons to celebrate his life and music! We'll hear some of his innovative Lutheran choral music, organ works, and some of those famous Dances from Terpsichore!
The Garden of Zephyrus
This week's show takes us to a lush medieval garden with The Orlando Consort, with selections from their CD The Rose, the Lily, & the Whortleberry. We'll also hear sensual garden-themed pieces with texts from the Song of Solomon, performed by Stile Antico, and the tender This Day Dawes, performed by The Sixteen.

Charpentier in Italy
Marc-Antoine Charpentier (1643-1704) was the only composer of his generation to travel from France to Italy, which he later called "the true source" of musical innovation. Ensemble Correspondances, directed by Sébastien Daucé, imagines Charpentier's musical discoveries on his journey through Italy in their stunning new release for Harmonia Mundi.

Music for St. Nicholas
This week's show presents music in honor of St. Nicholas, bishop of Myra, from the 12th through the 15th centuries, performed by Ensemble Peregrina. We'll also hear instrumental arrangements of medieval songs performed by the Folger Consort.

Music for Holy Week
We're highlighting music for Holy Week in this edition of Early Music Now, including selections from New York Polyphony’s new release, And the sun darkened. We’ll hear pieces by Loyset Compère, Josquin des Prez, and more. We'll also hear portions of an oratorio for Holy Week by Luigi Rossi and a setting of Stabat Mater by William Cornysh. Our featured performers include New York Polyphony, Les Arts Florissants, and The Sixteen.
April Fools' Day
Believe it or not, there's some pretty strange early music out there, and this week's Early Music Now proves it! We'll revel in the weird, wild, and wacky with composers like Heinrich Biber, Solage, Carlo Gesualdo, and Henry Purcell.