FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 15, 2003

WHAT: The Center Series presents Lionheart  
*Guillaume de Machaut: The Cure for Love*

WHEN: Thursday, February 13 at 7:30 pm

WHERE: Bowker Auditorium  
University of Massachusetts Amherst  
Call 1-800-999-UMAS or 545-2511 for tickets or  
go on-line to [www.fineartscenter.com/tickets](http://www.fineartscenter.com/tickets)

(LIONHEART EDUCATES AUDIENCES IN THE DELIGHTS AND DANGERS OF COURTLY LOVE)

On Thursday, February 13 at 7:30 pm in Bowker Auditorium, Lionheart, a renowned “early music” ensemble, will perform music by medieval composer, Guillaume de Machaut. Praised by the *New York Times* for their “impressive clarity and, where appropriate, ethereal beauty”, Lionheart’s uncanny ability to accurately reproduce medieval music is undisputed. The group’s resonant richness makes it hard to believe that only six voices are involved.

Lionheart (Jeffrey Johnson, Lawrence Lipnik, John Olund, Richard Porterfield, Kurt-Owen Richards, and Michael Ryan-Wenger) is best known for its interpretation of medieval and Renaissance a cappella music, with Gregorian Chant as the keystone of its repertoire. The ensemble also collaborates with instrumental ensembles, dance companies, and contemporary composers. Lionheart will be joined by Alexandra Montano who will read the poetry throughout the performance.

Guillaume de Machaut (c. 1300 - 1377) may not be as familiar to modern readers as are his younger contemporaries, Chaucer, Boccaccio and Petrarch, but in the fourteenth century, Machaut was the best known and most influential of them all. Throughout his career Machaut, like Chaucer, enjoyed the patronage of royalty, and his works were written to honor and delight noble lords and ladies.

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Lionheart will perform selections from the Guillaume de Machaut’s repertoire and the *Remede*, beginning with the *virelai* (a kind of song for dancing), “Douce Dame Jolie.” The virelai is followed by three *ballades* (a medieval song form), and then selections from Machaut’s tale, *Remede de Fortune*, a mixture of prose, verse, and song. Lionheart concludes with the *virelai*, “Quant je suis mis”, and the *rondeau* (a song form based on complex rhyme schemes), “Rose, liz, printemps”.

The subject of the *Remede* is a young man's first love, and how he learns to become worthy of his Lady, narrated by the young lover himself. He tells us how the goddess of Love enflamed his heart, and seeing his inexperience, set out to instruct him to serve his chosen lady. The lover composes love songs to express his feelings, and one day the Lady discovers one of the young man’s compositions. She asks him if he knows who composed it, and in embarrassment and fear of rejection, the young man flees his lady without answering, singing a long complaint against the goddesses of Love and Fortune. After being consoled by goddess of Fortune, the young man returns to his Lady where he takes up her courtship.

“With the Lionheart voices ranging from bass through countertenor, the singing was as sublime as the music: firmly projected but unforced, velvet-finished... You could spend your money on a week at a spa, or several sessions with a shrink, but you would be hard pressed to have a more warming, calming experience than this.” (*Kansas City Star*)

Tickets for Lionheart’s *Guillaume de Machaut: The Cure for Love* are $25, $15; 17 and under $10 Five College Students $10, $7. For tickets and information, call the Fine Arts Center Box Office at 545-2511 or 1-800-999-UMAS, or visit our website at [www.fineartscenter.com/centerseries](http://www.fineartscenter.com/centerseries). This performance is sponsored, in part, by Barnes & Noble Booksellers.

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