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| Virga Jesse floruit,In qua flos apparuitAltissimi Filius.Quod lingua prophetica scripsit,Complevit clementiaQuando vox angelica dixit:Ave plena gratia.Jam patet in virgineSine viri semine conceptus, Surgite qui colitis Deum, quia cernitis et natum videbitisRegem angelorum. | A shoot sprang from the stock of Jesse,A blossom appeared on it,The Son of the most high.What the prophet had preachedWas realized by (God the) mercifulWhen the angel’s voice said:Hail (Mary), full of graceInstantly the child is present in the virgin,Without a man’s aidConceived,Arise, you who adore God,For you see born a child,And at the same time,The King of the angels. |

The Sonoma Bach Choir performed Senfl’s re-imagination of Josquin’s famous *Ave Maria* last December; this put me on to Senfl, a composer I had not really explored. And lo, he’s wonderful!—most especially in this piece. It speaks its own language: Tightly imitative, but with an astounding control of range, and with a willingness to reside at times in a magical texture which goes nowhere, simply IS. For example, notice the very end, where he builds sopranos up to their top F, and then subsides down to the most delicate echoing extension of the word ‘angelorum.’

Hi all,

Yes, once again I can't resist (even during my so-called staycation) sending out a piece for your delectation.

This one is by the redoubtable Ludwig Senfl. (We had his 'De profundis' several weeks ago.)

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