

BEN VENNAS MAIO

PABLO SANMAMED





Above, on the cover and on the last page, Celtia Moroño dressed up as *Maya*. Photos: Eutropio Rodríguez

Ben Vennas Maio by Pablo Sanmamed, is an approach to the 13th century songs *Cantigas* by king Alfonso X through two styles: mediaeval music and jazz.

The work is released by aCentral Folque in vinyl so music combines with other arts: pictures by Eutropio Rodríguez and texts by Alba Cid.

Music, literature and photography present their own entity to the main subjects of Ben Vennas Maio: the *Cantigas*, the spring, the women.


The music

Galician double bass player and composer Pablo Sanmamed gathers international success musicians such as Begoña Olavide (psaltery and voice), Elena Tarrats (voice), Xurxo Varela (viola da gamba), Iago Mourinho (piano) and Chus Pazos (drums). The result is a natural combination of early music and jazz.

Freedom and ornamentation are two pillars of Ben Vennas Maio. Voices and instruments offer a trip through nine tracks by Alfonso X and others from the Arab-Andalusian tradition, renewed and arranged for this release. These *cantigas* are based on rich rhythmical patterns giving another dimension to the style of jazz. Texts of these *cantigas* are sometime surprising, for instance "Non ven al maio", a song is a critic about the excesses of the wealthy.



Ben Vennas Maio band. Photo: Eutropio Rodríguez

A young girl with light brown hair and green eyes is looking directly at the camera. She is wearing a large, elaborate crown made of many pink and white flowers. She has large, ornate gold earrings and is wearing a white lace collar with a gold brooch. A red shawl is draped over her shoulders. She is also wearing several necklaces, including one with large pearls and another with dark beads.

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Ramom Pinheiro, aCentral Folque. +34 651074897 - info@folque.com