



SACRED MUSIC FOR KAISER MAXIMILIAN I Works by Isaac, Josquin et al. Ensemble Hofkapelle Michael Procter	CHR77439	PC: 02G
	2 CDs 1999 & 2005	

500 years ago, on 19 January 1519, Maximilian I (archduke of Austria, German king, and Holy Roman emperor) passed away. With his policies of wars and marriages, Maximilian I had laid the foundations upon which the Habsburgs built their immense power. In addition to extending this power, he promoted science and arts and defined himself as the 'last knight'. He founded a court chapel around the composer Heinrich Isaac, and gathered the most famous musicians of Europe.

The programme on the first CD includes motets by Isaac, Senfl and Josquin which were written for different sacred occasions at the Maximilian court. The second CD features two Marian Masses composed for Maximilian by Isaac. The first one was set for four voices; the emperor must have liked it very much because he asked Isaac to revise it and build a six-voice version. The **Ensemble Hofkapelle** present the two masses in alternation with Gregorian chant (first mass) and organ improvisations in the style of Paul Hofhaimer, Maximilian's famous court organist (second mass).