

**Shield of Harmony** is a quartet of 15th-century music specialists. The ensemble's name refers to the circular shield - held by the allegorical maiden Harmony (Musica), the Seventh Liberal Art as described by Martianus Capella (c. 420) in his *Marriage of Philology and Mercury*. From the shield's concentric rings emanates celestial music, the so-called 'Music of the Spheres'.

Ensemble director **Crawford Young** graduated from New England Conservatory in Boston in 1976. He studied medieval music with Thomas Binkley at Stanford University prior to joining the medieval quartet *Sequentia* in Cologne in 1978. Young has been a founding member of two prominent medieval ensembles, Boston-based *Project Ars Nova* and the *Ferrara Ensemble* of Basel, which under his direction in 1996 both won a *Diapason d'Or de l'Année* and was a finalist for *Gramophone's Early Music Recording of the Year*. Since 1982 he has taught lute and various medieval music courses at the *Schola Cantorum* in Basel, has given courses at conservatories and universities in Europe, North America and Australia, and has published research articles and a facsimile edition of early lute manuscripts. With some thirty critically-acclaimed early music recordings spanning thirty years, he is well-known to early music audiences. As lutenist and guitarist he has accompanied *Andreas Scholl* since 2004.

**Kathleen Dineen** from Co. Cork., Ireland, was awarded the Irish Arts Council Bursary Award to study voice with Richard Levitt and Dominique Vellard at the *Schola Cantorum*, where she currently teaches medieval singing. In addition to being a guest teacher at *CEMPR* at the University of Birmingham, she has sung with many ensembles including *The Clerkes of Oxenford* London, *Sequentia* and *Ferrara Ensemble*, and since 2001 has directed *White Raven* a cappella trio, with whom she has recorded two CDs. She has been musical director for a number of productions including the medieval Easter play from *Tours* in 2004 and "A Celtic Voyage" in collaboration with *Ouroborus Theater Ireland* in 2008. She has made many appearances in concert series and festivals throughout Europe, and has been featured on many radio broadcasts in USA, Australia and Europe.

**Margit Übellacker** studied dulcimer at the *Bruckner-Konservatoire* in Linz with Karl-Heinz Schickhaus and with Birgit Stolzenburg-De Biasio at the *Richard Strauss Conservatoire* in Munich, before going on to study with *Crawford Young* at the *Schola Cantorum Basiliensis* (*Diplom für Alte Musik* 2004). As an interpreter of Early Music she has performed in Europe, South America, Asia, Australia and in the USA and has taken part in radio and CD recordings with groups such as *L'Arpeggiata*, *Musica Fiorita*, *Il Suonar Parlante*, *Concilium Musicum Wien*, the *Australian Brandenburg Orchestra*, *Orchestre de Radio France*, *L'Orfeo Barockorchester*, as well as with *Crawford Young* (lute), with *Aline Zylberajch* (fortepiano) and with her own Ensembles *Dulce Melos* and *La Gioia Armonica* (prizes for the first CD of the Ensemble with music of Antonio Caldara: *Pizzicato Supersonic Award*, *Goldberg: 5 Étoiles*, *Prelude Classical Award* 2006 for the best Debut CD).

**Marc Lewon** specialises in medieval strings and medieval Germanic languages and literature. After gaining a Master's degree in musicology and medieval German from *Heidelberg University*, he moved to Basel to further his practical music studies in the *Medieval Department* of the *Schola Cantorum*. There he studied lute with *Crawford Young*, vielle with *Randall Cook* and singing with *Kathleen Dineen*. In 2006 he completed his diploma in medieval lute, graduating with honours. He plays regularly with a number of ensembles including *Dulce Melos*, *Les Flamboyants* and *Le Basile* and is head of the project ensemble "Leones". Besides being a busy performer, he gives courses in medieval

music and publishes articles and editions on the subject. Since 2008 he directs the course of studies in medieval music at Burg Fürsteneck in Germany.