

More exotic still is the Egidius Kwartet's recording of music from **The Songbook of Hieronymus Lauweryn van Watervliet** (Etcetera KTC 1314, *rec* 2006, 90'). Van Watervliet was a wealthy businessman and founder of towns and polders and a lover of the arts, and his songbook (British Library Add. Ms. 35087) is a largely secular anthology, containing for the most part French-texted songs, but with 25 in Dutch. The entire collection is anonymous, but comparison with other sources reveals it to include the work of Josquin, Busnois, Compère, Mouton and others.

Sensibly, the Egidius Kwartet (actually here a kwintet, with the addition of soprano Susan Jonkers) have concentrated on the unknown music, including all the Dutch-texted songs, rather than aiming at the big names, though not-quite-such-big names such as Compère, van Ghizegem and Ghiselin are also represented (in fact, Compère earns a stunning rendition of his *O vos omnes*, the only sacred work performed), interspersed between sets of Dutch songs. The scheme works because the quality of the Dutch material is so high. Songs such as the yearning *Rijck god nu moet ic trueren* or the self-pitying *Noch wee tic een ionc vraukin fijn* are quite unforgettable, and both vocal quartet and consort give superbly measured performances. The music's transcriber, Peter de Groot (also the Egidius alto) provides a note in which he engagingly and honestly discusses his experiment in word-setting following the text distribution in the manuscript: I declare myself completely convinced. This fascinating two-disc set would earn another star, had I any to award, for the very witty rhyming English translations made by the group's bass, Donald Bentvelsen.