

## Sensational Rediscovery of the "Mass of Muri"

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On November 11, 2006, the executive committee of the Valentin-Rathgeber-Society travelled to Muri/Switzerland to attend the premiere of the "Mass of Muri" of Rathgeber. In 1731, Valentin Rathgeber dedicated a mass to the abbot Gerold Haimb on the occasion of the abbot's day of benediction. This mass was considered to be lost so far. The gambist and singer Thilo Hirsch/Basel recently found a mass of Rathgeber in a manuscript collection dated to 1736 and housed in the music library of the monastery of Einsiedeln. This mass is called "Mass of Muri" and can be identified with the mass mentioned in the account book of the abbot.

After comparing the manuscript with the printed works, the Valentin-Rathgeber-Society could prove that the manuscript is identical to Missa solennis 12 of Opus XII that Rathgeber published in 1733 and dedicated to Anton Cajetan of Unertl, the Dean of St. Peter/Munich. The Valentin-Rathgeber-Society edited this mass and placed the new edition at the disposal of the Cappella Murensis and the ensemble arcimbolito. What's more, even a new recording of the "Mass of Muri" with historical instruments was released. It is a piece of luck that another riddle of the Rathgeber research could be solved due to the excellent cooperation with our Swiss partners. Most probably Rathgeber found two patrons for one and the same composition.