The ARC Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions (Europe 1100-1800) presents:

SINGING DEATH

Date: 17th August 2013
Venue: Gryphon Gallery, Graduate Centre (1888 Building), Grattan Street (near cnr. Swanston St.) The University of Melbourne, Victoria, 3010

‘Singing Death’ is a day-long symposium and a concert combined. The program alternates academic papers on the music, art and literature of death with performances of some of the music associated with it. The aim is to combine the work of scholars on death from medieval to modern times with a direct experience of its emotional charge through performance. In this way we hope to foster a deeper understanding of the cultural and historical context in which the music was composed and performed and some of the functions it attempted to fulfil. The day ends with a reception and a short concert, ‘The last goodbye’. Please bring a plate or a donation.

Death is the unanswerable question for humanity, ‘the question of questions’ as Federico García Lorca has it, since it lies beyond human experience. The music of death represents one of the most profound ways in which, nevertheless, we struggle to accommodate it within the scope of the living by giving a face and a voice to death and the dead.

Music provided by Troveresse Medieval Music ensemble [Alex Connelly, Helen Dell, William Thompson], joined by Una McIlvenna, Nela Trifkovic and Carol Williams.

SPEAKERS:

- HELEN DELL (University of Melbourne): Haunting music: Hearing the voices of the dead.
- UNA MCILVENNA (University of Sydney): Singing the Death of Criminals.
- DOLLY MCKINNON (University of Queensland): ‘I weep for the dead’: Tolling of bells and the soundscape of death in England (c.1500-c.1800).
- CHARLES ZIKA (University of Melbourne): ‘Dances of Death, 15th to 18th centuries.’

Registration free but places are limited. Click here to register or email Jessica Scott (Jessica.Scott@unimelb.edu.au).
Convenors: Helen Dell (helen.dell@unimelb.edu.au), and Helen Hickey (helen.hickey@bigpond.com).
AV requirements: Helen Hickey. General enquiries: Helen Dell.