

The vidas of the troubadours in our program, in the order in which they appear in the program:

Bernatz de Ventadorn

Bernatz de Ventadorn was from the Limousin, from the castle of Ventadorn. He came from humble origins, the son of a servant who was a baker, who heated the oven to bake the bread of the castle. And he became a handsome and an able man, and he knew how to sing and to invent poetry well, and he became courtly and learned.

And his lord, the Viscount of Ventadorn, became very fond of him, and of his inventing and singing, and honored him greatly. And the viscount had a wife who was young, noble, and lively. And she also grew fond of Bernatz and of his songs, and she fell in love with him. And he fell in love with the lady, and he wrote his songs and his poems about her, about the love that he had for her, and about her merits. Their love lasted for a long time before the viscount became aware of it. And when the viscount saw it, he banished Bernatz, and had his wife locked up and guarded. And the lady then gave Lord Bernatz permission so that he could go away and leave that region.

And he left and he went to the Duchess of Normandy, who was young and fair, and who understood merit and honor and words of praise. And the songs and the poems of Lord Bernatz pleased her very much, and she received him and welcomed him well. He was in her court for a long time, and he fell in love with her, and she with him. And he wrote many good songs about her. And while he was with her, King Henry of England took her for his wife, and also moved her away from Normandy, and took her to England.

Lord Bernatz remained here, sad and grieving, and he went to the good Count Raimon of Toulouse, and stayed with him until the count died. And Lord Bernatz, because of the sadness that he felt, joined the Cistercians at Dalon, and there he died.

And what I, Lord Uc de Saint-Circ, have written about him was told to me by the viscount, Lord Ebles de Ventadorn, who was the son of the viscountess whom Lord Bernatz loved. And Bernatz composed these songs which you will hear, and which are written below.

Guiraut de Bornelh

Guiraut de Bornelh was from the Limousin, from the region of Excideuil, from a rich castle belonging to the Viscount of Limoges. And he was a man of humble birth, but he was intelligent in letters, and had a natural wit. And he was the best inventor of poetry of any of the ones who came before him or after him. For this reason, he was called the master of the inventors, and he is still called so by all of those who truly understand subtle discourse, in which love and reason are well-expressed. He was greatly respected by worthy men, and by those who understood love, and by the ladies who understood the masterly words of his songs.

And his life was such that all winter he spent in school, and he taught letters, and all summer he travelled about the courts, and took with him two singers who sang his songs. He never wanted a wife, and everything that he earned he gave to his poor relatives, and to the church of the village where he was born. The church was called, and still is, Saint Gervais. And here are written a great number of his songs.

Raimbaut de Vaqueiras

Raimbaut de Vaqueiras was the son of a poor knight of Provence from the castle of Vaqueiras who was called Peirol, and who was thought to be mad. Lord Raimbaut became a minstrel, and spent a long time with the Prince of Orange, Guillem des Baux. He knew how to sing well and how to compose *coblas* and *sirventes*. And the Prince of Orange did him much good and honored him greatly, and he increased his rank, and made him known and esteemed in noble society.

And Raimbaut came to Montferrat, to my lord the Marquess Bonifaci. And he was in his court for a long time. And he improved in wit, and in arms, and in invention. And he fell in love with the sister of the marquess, who was called Lady Beatritz, and was the wife of Enrico del Carretto, and he wrote many good songs about her. And he called her *Bels Cavalliers* in his songs. And it was thought that she truly loved him. And when the marquess went to Romania on crusade, he took Raimbaut with him and made him a knight. And he gave him much land and a large rent in the kingdom of Thessalonika. And there he died.

La Comtessa de Dia

The Countess of Dia was the wife of Lord Guillem de Poitou, a beautiful and good lady. And she fell in love with Lord Raimbaut d'Aurenga, and composed many good songs about him.

Berenguier de Palazol

Berenguier de Palazol was from Catalonia, from the county of Roussillon. He was a poor knight, but able and learned and skilled at arms. And he wrote good songs, and he sang about Lady Ermesson d'Avinyo, wife of Lord Arnaut d'Avinyo, who was the son of Lady Maria de Peiralada.

Jaufré Rudel

Jaufré Rudel de Blaia was a very noble man, the prince of Blaie. And he fell in love with the Countess of Tripoli without having seen her, because of the great good and the great nobility he had heard of her from pilgrims returning from Antioch. And he wrote many songs about her, with good melodies. Determined to see her, he took the cross, and sailed away to see her. And then he was taken so gravely ill on board the ship that those with him thought he would die. But they did at least take him to Tripoli to a

shelter, thinking him doomed. And it was made known to the countess, and she came to him at his bedside, and took him in her arms. And he knew that she was the countess, so he got back his sight and his sense of smell, and praised God, and thanked Him for having preserved his life until he had seen her. And thus he died in the arms of the countess. And she had him buried with honor in the house of the Templars in Tripoli. And afterwards, on that same day, she became a nun because of the grief she felt for him and his death. And here are written some of his songs.

Cadenet

Cadenet was from Provence, from a castle called Cadenet, which is on the bank of the Durance River, in the county of Forcalquier. And when he was a child, the castle was pillaged by the men of the Count of Toulouse. And the men of the castle were either killed or taken prisoner. And he was taken prisoner to Toulouse by a knight named Guillem de Lantar. And Guillem brought him up and kept him in his house. And he became good and handsome and courtly, and he knew how to sing and speak well, and he learned how to invent *coblas* and *sirventes*.

And he took leave of Guillem de Lantar and went around the courts and became a minstrel. He travelled around on foot for a long time, miserable, around the world. And he came to Provence and nobody knew him. And he had himself called Cadenet, and he began to write good and beautiful songs. And Lord Raimon Leugier de Dosfraires from the bishopric of Nice gave him equipment and honor. And Lord Blacatz honored him and did him great good. For a long time, he had great wealth and honor. And later he joined the Hospitallers, and with them he ended his days. And all his deeds I learned by listening and seeing.