

Hildegard von Bingen

by Susan B. Jones

Hildegard von Bingen was a medieval nun, mystic, composer, writer, and visionary who influenced the church and society in the 12th century.

Born c.1098 Died 1179

Hildegard:

- Had visions of God starting in childhood and wrote them down in her famous work Scivias.
- Wrote more surviving chants (70) than any other composer from the Middle Ages, and is one of the few known to have written both the music and the words.
- Wrote books on medicine, nature, and theology, and invented a secret language and alphabet.
- Founded two monasteries for women and came a respected leader and adviser to kings, queens, bishops, and popes.

She was canonized and declared a Doctor of the Church in 2012, and is celebrated as a saint, a prophet, and a genius.

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