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**BOSTON EARLY MUSIC FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES
2010–2011 CONCERTS AT THE MORGAN LIBRARY & MUSEUM
IN NEW YORK CITY**

Cambridge, MA – July 29, 2010 – The **Boston Early Music Festival (BEMF)** is proud to announce its 5th season of concerts in New York City in partnership with **The Morgan Library & Museum**, showcasing the world’s leading period instrument soloists and ensembles. Long regarded as “the premier international venue for Baroque, Renaissance and Medieval music” (*American Record Guide*), BEMF has been presenting the world’s most innovative and accomplished singers, instrumentalists, chamber ensembles, and Baroque orchestras for over 20 years through its highly-acclaimed annual concert series. BEMF’s collaboration with the Morgan to bring these artists to the New York City concert stage was described by *The New York Times* as “a shot in the arm for New York’s relatively modest early-music scene.” All concerts take place in the Morgan’s exquisite **Gilder Lehrman Hall**, located at 225 Madison Avenue at 36th Street in New York City.

The 2010-2011 BEMF season at the Morgan will open on **Wednesday, November 10, 2010 at 7:30pm**, with renowned ensemble **Fretwork** presenting a program entitled *Music for Viol Consort* by *Henry Purcell and William Lawes*. Founded in 1986, Fretwork has been celebrated as “the world’s leading viol consort” (*The Independent*) and has enjoyed particular acclaim for their performances of English music for *viol*, including a 2009 *Gramophone Award* for a recording of music by Purcell, some of which will be featured in this concert.

On **Thursday, January 13, 2011 at 7:30pm**, one of the world’s most acclaimed Baroque oboists, **Gonzalo X. Ruiz**, directs his new ensemble **Symphonie des Dragons** for their world debut in a program entitled *From the Court to the Stage: The Rise of the French Oboe Band*. Ruiz, who has been praised as “a master of expansive phrasing, lush sonorities and deft passagework” (*San Francisco Examiner*), will perform with the ten-member ensemble featuring oboes, recorders, and bassoons as they explore varied repertoire by Lully, Purcell, Handel and others in order to trace the evolution of the oboe band from Versailles to London.

The season will close with two performances of the **BEMF Chamber Opera Series** semi-staged production of the 1718 chamber version of **Handel’s *Acis and Galatea*** on **Sunday, April 3, 2011 at 3pm and 7pm**. First presented to a sold-out audience in Boston in November of 2009, BEMF’s Grammy-nominated Artistic Directors **Paul O’Dette and Stephen Stubbs** return to lead the **BEMF Chamber Ensemble** in a production *The Boston Globe* called “musically impeccable,” featuring staging

by **Gilbert Blin** and costumes by **Anna Watkins**. The original cast will reprise their roles, led by tenor **Aaron Sheehan** as *Acis* and soprano **Teresa Wakim** as *Galatea*.

Individual tickets are priced at \$35 for Morgan Members, and \$45 each for non-members for Fretwork and Symphonie des Dragons and \$50 for Morgan Members and \$60 for non-members for tickets to Handel's *Acis and Galatea*. Discounted subscription packages including all three concerts are priced at \$105 for Morgan Members and \$135 for non-members. Tickets and subscriptions may be ordered directly through the Morgan at **212-685-0008 ext. 560** or online at **www.themorgan.org/bemf**.

Recognized as the preeminent early music presenting organization in North America, the **Boston Early Music Festival** has been credited with securing Boston's reputation as "America's early music capital" (*The Boston Globe*). Founded in 1981, the Boston Early Music Festival offers diverse programs and activities, including three Grammy-nominated opera recordings, an annual concert series that brings early music's brightest stars to the Boston and New York concert stages, and a biennial week-long Festival and Exhibition recognized as the "world's leading festival of early music" (*The Times*, London). The fully staged operatic centerpiece of the 16th Festival and Exhibition in 2011 will be the North American premiere of **Agostino Steffani's** *Niobe, Queen of Thebes* led by BEMF Artistic Directors **Paul O'Dette** and **Stephen Stubbs**, and Stage Director and Set Designer **Gilbert Blin**. The international cast will include soprano **Amanda Forsythe** in the title role and countertenor **Philippe Jaroussky** as *Anfione*.

The Morgan Library & Museum began as the private library of financier Pierpont Morgan, one of the preeminent collectors and cultural benefactors in the United States. Today, more than a century after its founding, The Morgan serves as a museum, independent research library, musical venue, architectural landmark, and historic site. Located at Madison Avenue and 36th Street, with a world-renowned collection that ranges from Rembrandt to Picasso, Mozart to Bob Dylan, Dickens to Hemingway, and Gutenberg Bibles to Babar the elephant, The Morgan Library & Museum maintains a unique position among cultural institutions in New York, the nation, and the world.

Gilder Lehrman Hall, designed by renowned architect Renzo Piano, was opened by the Morgan in May 2006, and seats 264 people, providing a uniquely intimate concert venue. The Morgan's 2010-2011 concert season features internationally distinguished musicians performing early to contemporary music, including singers Elizabeth Futral, Dolora Zajick, and Wolfgang Holzmair; young artists Ran Dank, piano, Hahn-Bin, violin, and Narek Hakhnazaryan, cello; the Orchestra of St. Luke's and Israeli Chamber Project, among others.

Dates, times, venues, artists, and programs are subject to change.

For more information, images, press tickets, or to schedule an interview, please contact Kathleen Fay at 617-661-1812 or email kathy@bemf.org.

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