

# Boston Early Music Festival

INTERNATIONAL BAROQUE OPERA • CELEBRATED CONCERTS • WORLD-FAMOUS EXHIBITION

**Boston Early Music Festival**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** August 23, 2017

## Boston Early Music Festival Announces 2017–2018 Season

- The Season opens with a 6-city North American tour of the BEMF Chamber Ensemble, including concerts in New York City and Boston;
- Two concert performances in Boston of *Almira*, Handel's first opera, led by BEMF's own GRAMMY Award-winning Musical Directors, Paul O'Dette and Stephen Stubbs;
  - Ten programs in Boston and 3 programs in New York City;

Cambridge, MA—The Boston Early Music Festival is pleased to announce that subscription packages and individual tickets are now on sale for its 2017–2018 Season, our 28<sup>th</sup> year of bringing the most acclaimed Early Music artists and ensembles to Boston in an annual series of concerts. The 2017–2018 Season will also include a North American tour by BEMF's own Chamber Ensemble, and for the 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive year brings opera to Boston on Thanksgiving weekend at New England Conservatory's Jordan Hall.

### BEMF On Tour: September–October, 2017

BEMF opens its 2017–2018 Season with a 6-city North American tour to celebrate the upcoming release of our latest recording featuring “Duets of Love and Passion” by Agostino Steffani. GRAMMY Award-winning Musical Directors **Paul O'Dette** and **Stephen Stubbs** lead these enchanting chamber duets that were an essential inspiration in the musical development of the young Georg Friedrich Handel.

In addition to performances in Vancouver, BC, Victoria, BC, Seattle, WA, and Kansas City, MO, BEMF will open its own 2017–2018 Season with this program, on **Thursday, October 5, 2017 at 7:30pm**, at Gilder Lehrman Hall at the Morgan Library & Museum in New York City, and **Friday, October 6, 2017 at 8pm**, at New England Conservatory's Jordan Hall in Boston. The all-star **Boston Early Music Festival Chamber Ensemble** will be joined by a stunning cast of vocalists—sopranos Amanda Forsythe and Emőke Baráth, tenor Colin Balzer, and baritone Christian Immler—in rare performances of these truly gorgeous masterworks.

### 2017–2018 Season in Boston and New York City

The 2017–2018 Season continues on **Friday, November 10, 2017 at 8pm**, at First Church in Cambridge, Congregational as **Le Poème Harmonique** make their concert series début. Director **Vincent Dumestre** leads five instrumentalists and one singer in a spellbinding program exploring Spanish influences on 17<sup>th</sup>-century dance music in France.

BEMF Opera returns for its 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive Thanksgiving weekend with **Handel's *Almira* in Concert** on **Saturday, November 25, 2017 at 8pm** and **Sunday, November 26, 2017 at 3pm**, at NEC's Jordan Hall. GRAMMY Award-winning Musical Directors **Paul O'Dette** and **Stephen Stubbs** lead an outstanding cast and the all-star instrumentalists of the **BEMF Orchestra** with Concertmaster **Robert Mealy**, for these special performances of Handel's first opera. Originally presented at the June 2013 Festival, this masterpiece tells a story of intrigue and romance at the Court of Castile. Written when Handel was only 19 years old, *Almira* already illustrates the genius that would cement his legacy as one of history's greatest composers. The stellar cast features soprano **Dorothee Miels** in the title role, along with sopranos **Amanda Forsythe** and **Teresa Wakim**, tenors **Colin Balzer**, **Zachary Wilder**, and **Jan Kobow**, and baritones **Christian Immler** and **Jesse Blumberg**.

One of BEMF audience's most beloved ensembles, **The Tallis Scholars** and director Peter Phillips return for their 29<sup>th</sup> consecutive year on **Friday, December 8, 2017 at 8pm**, at St. Paul Church in Cambridge. One of Early Music's truly essential ensembles, these extraordinary singers return for the holiday season with a program celebrating the prolific Renaissance composer Heinrich Isaac (ca. 1450–1517), with music by the great master alongside works by Josquin des Prez, John Browne, and Thomas Crecquillon.

The virtuoso instrumentalists of the **Flanders Recorder Quartet**—and guest artist soprano **Cécile Kempenaers**—return to the BEMF concert stage in New York City on **Thursday, February 22, 2018 at 7:30pm**, at Gilder Lehrman Hall at the Morgan Library & Museum, and in Boston on **Friday, February 23, 2018 at 8pm**, at First Church in Cambridge, Congregational. Their program will feature instrumental music and songs inspired by the changing of the seasons from Renaissance Italy, Netherlands, and England.

In March, BEMF brings American chamber orchestra **Apollo's Fire** back to Boston on **Saturday, March 24, 2018 at 8pm**, at Emmanuel Church, Boston. Director Jeannette Sorrell leads an ensemble of 18 instrumentalists in a program inspired by J. S. Bach's lively performances at Zimmermann's Coffeehouse in Leipzig, with rousing music by Vivaldi, Handel, Telemann, and Bach's beloved Brandenburg Concertos No. 4 and 5.

The singers of **Stile Antico** have firmly established themselves as one of the world's most vibrant and expressive vocal ensembles. These superb singers return to BEMF on **Saturday, April 7, 2018 at 8pm**, at St. Paul Church in Cambridge, in an intimate program of Spanish Renaissance master Tomás Luis da Victoria's intense settings of the Tenebrae Responsories.

The thrilling young harpsichordist **Jean Rondeau** has quickly emerged as one of Early Music's "must-see" artists for his captivating and passionate performances. He makes his solo début with BEMF on **Thursday, April 19, 2018 at 7:30pm**, at the Morgan Library and Museum, New York City, and on **Friday, April 20, 2018 at 8pm**, at First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, in a recital of the *Goldberg Variations* by J. S. Bach.

Renowned cornetto virtuoso **Bruce Dickey** and exquisite soprano **Hana Blažíková** offer a "breathtaking" program of musical conversations between cornetto and voice on **Friday, April 27, 2018 at 8pm**, at First Church Congregational, Cambridge. A star-studded ensemble joins these exceptional performers in music by Scarlatti, Merula, Carissimi, and more.

Finally, the legendary **Jordi Savall** and **Hespèrion XXI** conclude the 2017-2018 Season with a fascinating journey through Celtic musical traditions on **Friday, May 11, 2018 at 8pm** at Emmanuel Church, Boston. For more than 50 years, Jordi Savall has crafted a legacy as one of the most versatile musical personalities of his generation, in performances that marry meticulous research with enthusiastic and engaging musicianship.

Subscriptions and individual tickets for the Boston Concert Series are now on sale through the Boston Early Music Festival Box Office at **617-661-1812** or online at **www.BEMF.org**. Discounted subscription packages start as low as \$54 for three programs. Tickets for the performances at The Morgan Library & Museum are on sale now at **www.themorgan.org/bemf**.

The 2017–2018 Boston Early Music Festival Concert Series is presented with support from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, National Endowment for the Arts, ConstellationCenter, WGBH Radio Boston, Harpsichord Clearing House, Zuckermann Harpsichords International, and The Gregory E. Bulger Foundation.

#### **ABOUT THE BOSTON EARLY MUSIC FESTIVAL:**

Recognized as the preeminent early music presenter and Baroque opera producer in North America, the **Boston Early Music Festival (BEMF)** has been credited with securing Boston's reputation as "America's early music capital" (*The Boston Globe*). Founded in 1981, BEMF offers diverse programs and activities, including one GRAMMY Award-winning and four GRAMMY Award-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 20<sup>th</sup> Boston Early Music Festival will take place from June 9-16, 2019. BEMF's Artistic Leadership includes Artistic Directors **Paul O'Dette** and **Stephen Stubbs**, Opera Director **Gilbert Blin**, Orchestra Director **Robert Mealy**, and Dance Director **Melinda Sullivan**.

**For more information, images, press tickets, or to schedule an interview, please contact Kathleen Fay at 617-661-1812 or email [kathy@bemf.org](mailto:kathy@bemf.org).**

#### **BEMF 2017–2018 SEASON: BOSTON CALENDAR**

##### **Boston Early Music Festival Chamber Ensemble**

Paul O'Dette & Stephen Stubbs, *Musical Directors*

Amanda Forsythe & Emóke Baráth, *soprano* | Colin Balzer, *tenor* | Christian Immler, *baritone*

Friday, October 6, 2017, 8pm

New England Conservatory's Jordan Hall (30 Gainsborough Street, Boston, MA)

*Steffani: Duets of Love and Passion*

Tickets: \$100 - \$75 - \$55 - \$45 - \$25

##### **Le Poème Harmonique**

Vincent Dumestre, *director*

Friday, November 10, 2017, 8pm

First Church in Cambridge, Congregational (11 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA)

*Danza! Spanish Dances in 17<sup>th</sup>-century France*

Tickets: \$70 - \$51 - \$39 - \$20

**Handel's *Almira*: Opera in Concert!**

**Boston Early Music Festival Opera**

Paul O'Dette and Stephen Stubbs, *Musical Directors*

BEMF Orchestra | Robert Mealy, *Concertmaster*

Dorothee Miels, *Almira* | Amanda Forsythe, *Edilia* | Colin Balzer, *Fernando* | Christian Immler, *Consalvo*

Zachary Wilder, *Osman* | Jesse Blumberg, *Raymondo* | Teresa Wakim, *Bellante* | Jan Kobow, *Tabarco*

Saturday, November 25, 2017, 8pm

Sunday, November 26, 2017, 3pm

New England Conservatory's Jordan Hall (30 Gainsborough Street, Boston, MA)

Tickets: \$125 - \$75 - \$55 - \$45 - \$25

**The Tallis Scholars**

**Peter Phillips**, *director*

Friday, December 8, 2017, 8pm

St. Paul Church, Cambridge (29 Mt. Auburn Street, Cambridge, MA)

*Celebrating Heinrich Isaac (ca. 1450–1517)*

Tickets: \$75 - \$55 - \$45 - \$25

**Flanders Recorder Quartet**

**Cécile Kempnaers**, *soprano*

Friday, February 23, 2018, 8pm

First Church in Cambridge, Congregational (11 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA)

*A Song for all Seasons: Instrumental music and songs from the Renaissance by Byrd, Dowland, and others*

Tickets: \$70 - \$51 - \$39 - \$20

**Apollo's Fire**

**Jeannette Sorrell**, *director*

Friday, March 24, 2018, 8pm

Emmanuel Church, Boston (15 Newbury Street, Boston, MA)

*A Night at Bach's Coffehouse*

Tickets: \$70 - \$51 - \$39 - \$20

**Stile Antico**

Saturday, April 7, 2018, 8pm

St. Paul Church, Cambridge (29 Mt. Auburn Street, Cambridge, MA)

*Tenebrae Responsories: Tomás Luis da Victoria*

Tickets: \$70 - \$51 - \$39 - \$20

**Jean Rondeau**, *harpsichord*

Friday, April 20, 2018, 8pm

First Church in Cambridge, Congregational (11 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA)

*J.S. Bach: Goldberg Variations, BWV 988*

Tickets: \$70 - \$51 - \$39 - \$20

**Hana Blažiková**, *soprano* & **Bruce Dickey**, *cornetto*

Friday, April 27, 2018, 8pm

First Church in Cambridge, Congregational (11 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA)

*Breathtaking: A Cornetto and a Voice Entwined*

Tickets: \$70 - \$51 - \$39 - \$20

**Hespèrion XXI**

**Jordi Savall**, *director*

Friday, May 11, 2018, 8pm

Emmanuel Church, Boston (15 Newbury Street, Boston, MA)

*Celtic Universe: A dialogue between Ancient, Historical, and Modern traditions*

Tickets: \$75 - \$55 - \$45 - \$25

**BEMF 2017–2018 SEASON: NEW YORK CITY CALENDAR**

**Boston Early Music Festival Chamber Ensemble**

Paul O'Dette & Stephen Stubbs, *Musical Directors*

Amanda Forsythe & Emóke Baráth, *soprano* | Colin Balzer, *tenor* | Christian Immler, *baritone*

Thursday, October 5, 2017, 7:30pm

Gilder Lehrman Hall at the Morgan Library & Museum (225 Madison Avenue, New York, NY)

*Steffani: Duets of Love and Passion*

Tickets: \$45; \$35 for members | Series Tickets: \$120; \$90 for members

**Flanders Recorder Quartet**

**Cécile Kempnaers**, *soprano*

Thursday, February 22, 2018, 7:30pm

Gilder Lehrman Hall at the Morgan Library & Museum (225 Madison Avenue, New York, NY)

*A Song for all Seasons: Instrumental music and songs from the Renaissance by Byrd, Dowland, and others*

Tickets: \$45; \$35 for members | Series Tickets: \$120; \$90 for members

**Jean Rondeau**, *harpsichord*

Thursday, April 19, 2018, 7:30pm

Gilder Lehrman Hall at the Morgan Library & Museum (225 Madison Avenue, New York, NY)

*J.S. Bach: Goldberg Variations, BWV 988*

Tickets: \$45; \$35 for members | Series Tickets: \$120; \$90 for members

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

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