

Boston Early Music Festival

INTERNATIONAL BAROQUE OPERA • CELEBRATED CONCERTS • WORLD-FAMOUS EXHIBITION

Boston Early Music Festival
43 Thorndike Street, Suite 302
Cambridge, MA 02141
617-661-1812 | www.bemf.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 18, 2017

Boston Early Music Festival returns to the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center in Great Barrington with a double bill of comic operas by Pergolesi — June 24 & 25, 2017

Cambridge, MA – The **Boston Early Music Festival (BEMF)** will return to the Berkshires this summer with a double bill of Neapolitan comic opera by Pergolesi. Winner of the 2015 GRAMMY® Award for Best Opera Recording, BEMF will present encore performances of its 2014 production of **Giovanni Battista Pergolesi's *La serva padrona* and *Livietta e Tracollo*** at the splendid **Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center** (14 Castle Street in Great Barrington, MA), **Saturday, June 24, 2017 at 8pm** and **Sunday, June 25, 2017 at 3pm**. Tickets (\$25–\$85) are available now through the Boston Early Music Festival Box Office at www.BEMF.org or **617-661-1812**, or from the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center Box Office at mahaiwe.org or **413-528-0100**.

PERGOLESİ'S *LA SERVA PADRONA* & *LIVIETTA E TRACOLLO*

Originally written as interludes to be performed between acts of a more somber production, Pergolesi's light-hearted comedies quickly enchanted audiences with their farcical humor and engaging romance. Eventually, these comic operas would be performed on their own to adoring audiences throughout Europe, with Pergolesi acknowledged as an especially significant early composer in this *opera buffa* style. *La serva padrona*, which had its premiere in Naples in 1773, tells the tale of a haughty yet cunning maid who conspires to wed her testy employer. *Livietta e Tracollo* debuted a year later as part of festivities for a royal birthday, and features the con-artist, Tracollo, who meets his match in a peasant girl, Livietta, out to avenge her wronged brother. For this production—in a nod to the original presentations of these operas—Stage Director Gilbert Blin will alternate between scenes of the two works.

“Zest and earthy opulence.” — *The Boston Globe*

BEMF presents encore performances of its intimate 2014 Chamber Opera Series production led by Musical Directors **Paul O'Dette** and **Stephen Stubbs** and Stage Director **Gilbert Blin**. They are joined in the directorial team by Concertmaster **Robert Mealy**, Costume Designer **Anna Watkins**, Movement Coordinator **Melinda Sullivan**, Lighting Designer **Kelly Martin**, and Executive Producer **Kathleen Fay**. Soprano **Amanda Forsythe**, acclaimed by *The New York Times* as “simply dazzling,” heads a cast of four dynamic singers, all favorites of past BEMF Opera productions. Forsythe sings the role of Serpina in *La serva padrona* opposite bass-baritone **Douglas Williams** in the role of Uberto, while **Erica Schuller** and **Jesse Blumberg** perform the respective title roles in *Livietta e Tracollo*. The soloists appear alongside the 13-member **BEMF Chamber Ensemble** and five members of the **BEMF Dance Company**.

RESOURCES

Press Images: <http://www.bemf.org/pages/press/images.htm>

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 19th Boston Early Music Festival will take place from June 11–18, 2017, and will feature fully staged performances of André Campra's *Le Carnaval de Venise* as the Centerpiece Opera. 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**.

The 2017 Boston Early Music Festival is presented with support from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, National Endowment for the Arts, ConstellationCenter, 99.5 WCRB, Harpsichord Clearing House, Zuckermann Harpsichords International, the Centre de musique baroque de Versailles, and the Institut Français.

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

BEMF IN THE BERKSHIRES CALENDAR

Pergolesi's *La serva padrona* & *Livietta e Tracollo*

Saturday, June 24, 2017 at 8pm

Sunday, June 25, 2017 at 3pm

Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center (14 Castle Street, Great Barrington, MA)

Tickets: \$85 - \$55 - \$25

Amanda Forsythe, *Serpina* (United States)

Douglas Williams, *Uberto* (United States)

Erica Schuller, *Livietta* (United States)

Jesse Blumberg, *Tracollo* (United States)

Paul O'Dette and Stephen Stubbs, *Musical Directors* (United States)

Gilbert Blin, *Stage Director* (France)

Robert Mealy, *Concertmaster* (United States)

Melinda Sullivan, *Movement Coordinator* (United States)

Anna Watkins, *Costume Designer* (United Kingdom)

Kelly Martin, *Lighting Designer* (United States)

Kathleen Fay, *Executive Producer* (United States)

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

###