

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

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Boston Early Music Festival to receive two 2015 ECHO Klassik Awards in gala ceremony this Sunday

Cambridge, MA – **Boston Early Music Festival** Directors will be on hand for a gala ceremony this Sunday, October 18, 2015 at Konzerthaus Berlin as two BEMF recordings are among the prestigious honorees at the **2015 ECHO Klassik Awards**. Sometimes referred to as the “German GRAMMY”, the ECHO Klassik is among the most prominent prizes in classical music, with winners selected by a jury of prominent industry experts and given annually by the Deutsche Phono-Akademie since 1994.

“It is such a tremendous honor that two of our Baroque opera recordings have been selected to receive ECHO Klassik Awards,” says BEMF Executive Director **Kathleen Fay**. “We pride ourselves on assembling an all-star, international roster of artists and directors for our opera projects, and we are especially delighted to have been recognized for our recent recordings with awards in the United States, Germany, the United Kingdom, and France.”

BEMF’s recording of Charpentier’s *La Descente d’Orphée aux Enfers* and *La Couronne de Fleurs* for cpo (Classic Produktion Osnabrück), also a 2015 GRAMMY Award-winner, has been selected as **Recording of the Year in the 17th/18th Century Opera field**. BEMF’s 3-CD set of Steffani’s *Niobe, Regina di Tebe* for ERATO/Warner Classics, featuring lead soloists **Philippe Jaroussky** and **Karina Gauvin**, will be recognized as the **World Premiere Recording of the Year**. BEMF Artistic Directors **Paul O’Dette** and **Stephen Stubbs**, BEMF Opera Director **Gilbert Blin**, Executive Director **Kathleen Fay**, and producer **Renate Wolter-SeEVERS** will be on hand to accept the awards in the lavish, televised ceremony.

CHARPENTIER’S LA DESCENTE D’ORPHÉE AUX ENFERS AND LA COURONNE DE FLEURS

Only days after the conclusion of BEMF’s June 2013 Festival, members of the **Boston Early Music Festival Vocal & Chamber Ensembles** travelled to the acoustically brilliant Sendesaal Studio in Bremen, Germany to make a recording of Charpentier’s *La Descente d’Orphée aux Enfers* and *La Couronne de Fleurs* for cpo (Classic Produktion Osnabrück). BEMF Artistic Directors **Paul O’Dette** and **Stephen Stubbs** led the recording, which features eleven singers from the **BEMF Vocal Ensemble**. BEMF Orchestra Director **Robert Mealy** served as concertmaster of the ten-member **BEMF Chamber Ensemble** and BEMF Opera Director **Gilbert Blin** served as Drama Coach. In addition to the 2015 ECHO Klassik Award, the recording received the 2015 GRAMMY Award for Best Opera Recording and was shortlisted for a 2015 Gramophone Award.

STEFFANI’S NIOBE, REGINA DI TEBE

Originally presented as the 2011 Festival Operatic Centerpiece, *Niobe, Regina di Tebe* is the seventh in BEMF’s series of Baroque Opera Recordings that have earned four GRAMMY nominations including one GRAMMY Award for Best Opera Recording. Released in January 2015 on the ERATO/Warner Classics label, the 3-CD set is led by Musical Directors **Paul O’Dette** and **Stephen Stubbs** and features a stellar cast including soprano **Karina Gauvin** in the title role of Niobe and countertenor **Philippe Jaroussky**

reprising his role as King Anfiene from the original 2011 production. BEMF Orchestra Director **Robert Mealy** leads the 35 member BEMF Orchestra and BEMF Opera Director **Gilbert Blin** serves as Drama Coach. The recording has been met with enormous acclaim, including *Gramophone Magazine's* Recording of the Month, a *Diapason D'Or*, and the 2015 Gramophone Award Shortlist.

ABOUT THE BEMF BAROQUE OPERA PROJECT

One of BEMF's main goals is to unearth and present lesser-known Baroque operas performed by the world's leading musicians armed with the latest information on period singing, orchestral performance, costuming, dance, and staging. BEMF operas reproduce the Baroque's stunning palette of sound by bringing together today's leading operatic superstars and a wealth of instrumental talent from across the globe to one stage for historic presentations, all zestfully led from the pit by the BEMF Artistic Directors Paul O'Dette and Stephen Stubbs, and creatively reimaged for the stage by BEMF Opera Director Gilbert Blin. Since 2008, the BEMF Chamber Opera Series has taken this internationally acclaimed musicianship, scholarship, and direction and focused it on small-scale works in intimate productions each Thanksgiving weekend. Two productions from the Chamber Opera Series have also been presented on tour across North America: Handel's *Acis and Galatea* in 2011 and Charpentier's *La Descente d'Orphée aux Enfers* and *La Couronne de Fleurs* in 2014.

In 2004, BEMF initiated a series of recordings to preserve its groundbreaking Baroque opera creations and to attempt to fill the gaps in the current discography of Western opera. The first three CDs in the series earned GRAMMY nominations for Best Opera Recording and Charpentier's *La Descente d'Orphée aux Enfers* and *La Couronne de Fleurs* won in this category at the 2015 GRAMMY Awards. An eighth recording, Handel's *Acis and Galatea*, is planned for release later in 2015 on the German label cpo (Classic Produktion Osnabrück).

RESOURCES

Images from the original 2011 production of Charpentier's *La Descente d'Orphée aux Enfers*
http://www.bemf.org/pages/press/images_orphee.htm

Images from the original 2011 production of Steffani's *Niobe, Regina di Tebe*
http://www.bemf.org/pages/press/images_niobe.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 three 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 the 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**, and Orchestra Director **Robert Mealy**.

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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