

Boston Early Music Festival

INTERNATIONAL BAROQUE OPERA • CELEBRATED CONCERTS • WORLD-FAMOUS EXHIBITION

Boston Early Music Festival
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 2, 2017

BEMF presents Akademie für Alte Musik Berlin in a program of Baroque music inspired by nature – March 24 in Boston.

ARTISTS: Akademie für Alte Musik Berlin (Germany)

Bernhard Forck, concertmaster

Michael Bosch & Xenia Löffler, oboe

Christian Beuse, bassoon

WHEN: Friday, March 24, 2017, at 8:00pm

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

PROGRAM: Of Frogs and Men: Nature of the Baroque

Carlo Farina: *Capriccio Stravagante*

Jan Dismas Zelenka: *Hipocondrie à 7 concertanti* in A major, ZWV 187

Georg Philipp Telemann: Violin Concerto in A major, "Les Rainettes" (The Frogs)

Alessandro Marcello: Concerto No. 5 in B-flat major, from "La Cetra"

Antonio Vivaldi: Concerto for Recorder in D major, "Il Gardellino" (The Goldfinch), RV428

Vivaldi: Concerto for Oboe & Bassoon in G major, RV 545

Francesco Geminiani: Concerto Grosso No. 12 in D minor, "La Follia" (after Corelli)

TICKETS: Tickets are priced at **\$25, \$45, \$55, \$75 and \$100** each, and can be purchased at www.BEMF.org and **617-661-1812**, as well as through the Jordan Hall Box Office located at 30 Gainsborough Street in Boston and by telephone at 617-585-1260; a \$5 discount for students, seniors, and groups is available by calling 617-661-1812.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM:

Founded in East Berlin in 1982, Akademie für Alte Musik Berlin has reached the pinnacle of Early Music with countless awards and accolades for their concerts and recordings. The ensemble returns to BEMF this March with fifteen musicians to perform "Of Frogs and Men," a delightful program showcasing brilliant and playful depictions of the natural world through music.

The external and internal realms of nature have always been a central concern of the artist. The Baroque era found new ways to express these phenomena, with an ever increasing interest in science lending strength to a new view of nature. The literal examinations of the scientists spilled over to the composers, who mimicked the sounds of wildlife with their own musical language: Farina imitates dogs barking and cats fighting, while Telemann deftly crafts the love life of croaking frogs. Composers also delved into the anxious states of internal nature - the emotions and psychological frames of mind and body: Zelenka paints a fascinating and suggestive portrait of Hypochondria, suffering in good health.

Experience an evocative array of inventive soundscapes, from dogs and frogs, to Geminiani's frenzied recreation of the human mind consumed by madness, in this captivating evening of extraordinary gems.

ASSOCIATED EVENTS:

There will be a Pre-Concert Talk at 7pm with members of the ensemble.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS:

Recognized as one of the world's leading chamber orchestras, the Akademie für Alte Musik Berlin enjoys an unprecedented history of success. The ensemble performs approximately 100 concerts per year, ranging from small chamber works to large-scale symphonic pieces, and performs under the artistic leadership of its concertmasters Stephan Mai, Bernhard Forck, and Georg Kallweit. The ensemble performs regularly in Europe's leading musical centers, and has toured Asia, North America, and South America.

The international success of the Akademie für Alte Musik Berlin is highlighted by well over a million recordings sold to the public. Recording exclusively for harmonia mundi France since 1994, the orchestra's CDs have earned many international prizes, including the *Cannes Classical Award*, the *Gramophone Award*, the *Diapason d'Or*, the *German Record Critics Award*, and the *Edison Award*, as well as a GRAMMY Award for its recording of Gluck's *Italian Arias with Cecilia Bartoli*. The latest additions to the orchestra's discography are CDs devoted to Handel's *Water Music*, Bach's *St. John Passion* conducted by René Jacobs, and Mendelssohn's *Elias* conducted by Hans-Christoph Rademann.

RESOURCES:

Download artist photos: <http://www.bemf.org/pages/press/images.htm>

BEMF's 2016–2017 Season Press Release: http://www.bemf.org/pages/press/052416_1617season.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 2016–2017 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.

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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