

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** January 27, 2012

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**MEDIA ALERT: Boston Early Music Festival presents Richard Egarr, Music Director of the Academy of Ancient Music, in a solo harpsichord recital.**

**ARTIST:** Richard Egarr, *harpsichord* (United Kingdom)

**WHEN:** Friday, February 10, 2012 at 8pm  
First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, 11 Garden Street, Cambridge, MA

**PROGRAM:** *The Harpsichord's Golden Century: Music of Couperin, Blow, Froberger, and Purcell*

Louis Couperin: Suite in F major  
John Blow: Suite in A Minor  
Johann Jakob Froberger: Toccata II in D Minor  
Froberger: Suite in C Major  
Froberger: *Tombeau fait a Paris sur la mort de Monsieur Blancheroche*  
Henry Purcell: Ground in D Minor  
Purcell: Suite in G Minor  
Purcell: A New Ground  
Purcell: Suite in D Major  
Couperin: Suite in C Major

**TICKETS:** Tickets priced at **\$19, \$38, \$49, and \$66** each and can be purchased at [WWW.BEMF.ORG](http://WWW.BEMF.ORG) and **617-661-1812**; a \$5 discount for students, seniors, and groups is offered by calling 617-661-1812. Subscription discounts of 10% are available with the purchase of three or more programs.

**ABOUT THE PROGRAM:**

Richard Egarr, Music Director of the Academy of Ancient Music, takes center stage for a thrilling recital highlighting music for solo harpsichord from the 17th century. Called “the Bernstein of Early Music” by NPR Music for his always exhilarating and engaging performances, Egarr has made countless international appearances from Europe to China, including thrilling Boston audiences with appearances with AAM and the Handel and Haydn Society.

“Music history contains a few blessed instances of composer and instrument achieving a perfect symbiosis,” says soloist Richard Egarr. “The harpsichord had its 'golden age' in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. This instrument’s roots lie firmly in the sound-world and repertoire of the lutenists, with its ornaments, broken chords, and reliance on resonance. Few composers have ever really understood this, apart from the few geniuses from this golden time.” Egarr has selected some of the finest examples from this vibrant century and is sure to deliver brilliant and eloquent interpretations of these gorgeous works.

**ABOUT THE ARTIST:**

**Richard Egarr** brings a joyful sense of adventure and a keen, enquiring mind to all his music-making. He is equally happy conducting, directing from the keyboard or playing concerti (on organ, harpsichord, fortepiano or modern piano), giving solo recitals, playing chamber-music, and indeed talking about music at every opportunity. Music Director of the Academy of Ancient Music since 2006 (when he succeeded Christopher Hogwood), Egarr complements this with a handful of other select period ensembles, including recent appearances with the Handel and Haydn Society in Boston, Portland Baroque, and Philharmonia Baroque, as well as performances with non-period chamber and symphon orchestras, such as the Dallas Symphony and Rotterdam Philharmonic. In addition to recording with AAM, Egarr has an extensive discography of solo works and duets with violinist Andrew Manze.

**RESOURCES:**

Download artist photos: <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** 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 17<sup>th</sup> Boston Early Music Festival is planned for June 9–16, 2013.

The 2011–2012 Boston Early Music Festival Concert Series is presented with support from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, National Endowment for the Arts, ConstellationCenter, 99.5 All Classical, Harpsichord Clearing House, Zuckermann Harpsichords International, The Gregory E. Bulger Foundation, U. S. Trust/Bank of America Private Wealth Management, and GTC Law Group.

**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).**

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