

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** December 2, 2011

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**MEDIA ALERT: Boston Early Music Festival presents celebrated a capella ensemble Stile Antico in a choral program for the holidays.**

**ARTIST:** Stile Antico (United Kingdom)

**WHEN:** Saturday, December 17, 2011 at 8pm  
St. Paul Church, Bow & Arrow Streets, Harvard Square, Cambridge, MA

**PROGRAM:** *Puer Natus Est — Tudor Music for Christmas and Advent*

Plainchant, *Veni Emmanuel*

Thomas Tallis: *Videte miraculum*

William Byrd: *Tollite portas*

Tallis: "Gloria" from Missa *Puer natus est*

Byrd: *Ave Maria*

Robert White: *Magnificat*

John Taverner: *Audivi vocem de caelo*

Tallis: "Sanctus" and "Benedictus" from the Missa *Puer natus est*

Byrd: *Rorate caeli*

Tallis: "Agnus Dei" from the Missa *Puer natus est*

Byrd: *Ecce Virgo concipiet*

Plainchant, *Puer natus est*

John Sheppard: *Verbum Caro*

**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:**

Celebrate the holiday season with the sublime voices of **Stile Antico**! This self-directed group of singers has won praise and acclaim spanning the globe for their exquisite performances balancing precise tone with soaring beauty. They return to the BEMF stage following standing ovations for their October, 2010 concert and present a program of immense grandeur and delicate grace featuring sparkling masterworks for the Christmas and Advent seasons by Tallis, Byrd, Taverner, Sheppard, and other Tudor composers.

The program is centered around Thomas Tallis's magnificent 7-part mass, written for the combined choirs of the Spanish and English Chapels Royal and first performed in December, 1554. Based on the Christmas plainsong *Puer natus* (a boy is born), it celebrated not only the Advent season, but also the apparent pregnancy of Queen Mary. The mass is interspersed with contemporary liturgical settings for

Advent and Christmas, from the perfect miniatures of William Byrd's propers for the fourth Sunday of Advent to Robert White's extended *Magnificat* and John Sheppard's extraordinary *Verbum Caro*.

#### **ABOUT THE ARTISTS:**

**Stile Antico** is an ensemble of young British singers, now established as one of the most original and exciting voices in its field. Much in demand in concert, the group performs regularly throughout Europe and North America. Their recordings on the Harmonia Mundi label have enjoyed great success, winning awards including the *Diapason d'or de l'année* and the *Preis der deutschen Schallplattenkritik*, and have twice attracted GRAMMY nominations. Their recent release *Song of Songs* won the 2009 Gramophone Award for Early Music and reached the top of the US Classical Chart.

Working without a conductor, the members of Stile Antico rehearse and perform as chamber musicians, each contributing artistically to the musical result. Their performances have repeatedly been praised for their vitality and commitment, expressive lucidity and imaginative response to text. Stile Antico's repertoire ranges from the glorious legacy of the English Tudor composers to the works of the Flemish and Spanish schools and the music of the early Baroque. They are regularly invited to lead courses at Dartington International Summer School, and their commitment to educational work has been recognised through generous funding from the National Lottery through Arts Council England.

Stile Antico's recent engagements include debuts at the BBC Proms, the Amsterdam Concertgebouw, early music festivals in Boston, Bruges, Barcelona and Utrecht, and at the Cervantino Festival in Mexico. The group has toured extensively with Sting, appearing across Europe, Australia and the Far East as part of his Dowland project *Songs from the Labyrinth*. During 2011, Stile Antico makes its debut at London's Wigmore Hall, appears at leading festivals throughout Europe and twice tours the United States.

#### **RESOURCES:**

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

Stile Antico's Website: <http://www.stileantico.co.uk/>

#### **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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