

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

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**MEDIA ALERT: Legendary chamber ensemble Il Giardino Armonico makes their Boston début with the Boston Early Music Festival on Saturday, February 19, 2011**

**ARTIST:** Il Giardino Armonico (chamber orchestra; Italy)

Giovanni Antonini, *director & flute*  
Enrico Onofri, Marco Bianchi, *violini*  
Stefano Barneschi, *viola*  
Paolo Beschi, *violoncello*  
Giancarlo De Frenza, *bass*  
Luca Pianca, *lute*  
Riccardo Doni, *harpsichord*

**WHEN:** Saturday, February 19, 2011 at 8pm  
Sanders Theatre at Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

**PROGRAM:** *A Venezia! Music by the Venetian Baroque Masters*

Dario Castello: Sonata decimaquinta a 4  
Tarquinio Merula: Canzone a 4, "La Lusignola"  
Merula: Ciaccona for two violins and continuo  
G.B. Buonamente: Sonata for three violins and continuo  
Giovanni Legrenzi: Sonata seconda a 4, Op. X  
Antonio Vivaldi: Concerto in C Major, RV 444 for flute, strings and continuo  
Vivaldi: Concerto in C Minor, RV 441 for recorder, strings and continuo  
Baldassarre Galuppi: Concerto a 4 in G Minor  
Vivaldi: Concerto in C Major, RV 443 for flute, strings and continuo

**TICKETS:** Tickets for the Cambridge performance are priced at **\$19, \$38, \$49, \$66, and \$100** each and can be purchased at **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:**

One of the world's most legendary chamber ensembles, **Il Giardino Armonico** celebrates its 25th anniversary with its first ever appearance with the Boston Early Music Festival and their Boston début. Seven virtuosic instrumentalists offer a program of dramatic and evocative Italian baroque repertoire. This performance will take the listener on a musical journey through a century of works by Venetian masters, including Vivaldi, Merula, Galuppi, and Castello.

**Il Giardino Armonico** was founded in Milan in 1985 and brings together some of Europe's leading musicians, all of them specialists in period instrument performance. Praised as "brightly coloured, individualistic, confident, stylish, arrestingly decorated [and] bubbling with enthusiasm" (*Gramophone*), the ensemble has regularly performed at the world's most prestigious concert halls and festivals and in collaboration with acclaimed soloists in concert performances and staged operatic productions. Il Giardino Armonico has an extensive discography and has received some of the highest honors in the recording industry, including a Grammy Award, Diapason d'Or, Echo Preis, and a Gramophone Award, among others. Since April 2007 Il Giardino Armonico is Resident Baroque Group of the Centro Cultural Miguel Delibes in Valladolid. The ensemble makes their Boston debut with this performance.

**ABOUT THE DIRECTOR:**

**Giovanni Antonini** is a founding member of the baroque ensemble **Il Giardino Armonico**, which he has led since 1989. He has appeared with the ensemble as conductor and as soloist on the recorder and baroque transverse flute in venues across the world and on numerous award-winning recordings. As a conductor, Antonini has also collaborated with many of the world's renowned ensembles and artists, including Cecilia Bartoli, the Berlin Philharmonic, the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, and the Kammerorchester Basel, among many others.

**RESOURCES:**

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

**ABOUT THE BOSTON EARLY MUSIC FESTIVAL:**

Recognized as the preeminent early music presenting organization 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 fully staged operatic centerpiece of the 16<sup>th</sup> Festival and Exhibition in 2011 will be the North American premiere of **Agostino Steffani's** *Niobe, Queen of Thebes* led by BEMF Artistic Directors **Paul O'Dette** and **Stephen Stubbs**, and Stage Director in Residence and Set Designer **Gilbert Blin**. The international cast will include soprano **Amanda Forsythe** in the title role and countertenor **Philippe Jaroussky** as *Anfione*.

The 2010–2011 Boston Early Music Festival concert season is presented with support from the Dante Alighieri Society, Massachusetts Cultural Council, National Endowment for the Arts, ConstellationCenter, WGBH Radio Boston, Harpsichord Clearing House, Zuckermann Harpsichords International, The Gregory E. Bulger Foundation, and U. S. Trust/Bank of America Private Wealth Management. Dates, times, venues, artists, and programs are subject to change.

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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