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## **The Boston Early Music Festival Announces the Full Schedule for the 2011 Festival & Exhibition, June 12–June 19 in Boston**

Cambridge, MA – May 2, 2011 – The **Boston Early Music Festival** announces the full schedule for the 2011 Festival and Exhibition entitled *Metamorphoses: Change and Transformation* and running from June 12 to June 19 in Boston, Massachusetts. Called “Heaven...for early music fans” by *The New York Times*, the 16<sup>th</sup> international Festival and Exhibition features two exciting opera productions, 15 concerts showcasing the finest artists in the field today, and the world-famous Exhibition. Ticket packages are available now from the BEMF Box Office at **WWW.BEMF.ORG** or **617-868-BEMF**.

### **CENTERPIECE OPERA—Steffani’s *Niobe, Regina di Tebe***

The operatic centerpiece of the 2011 Festival will be the North American premiere of *Niobe, Regina di Tebe* (Niobe, Queen of Thebes) by the Italian composer Agostino Steffani (1653–1728). *Niobe* will be led by three-time Grammy-nominated BEMF Artistic Co-Directors **Paul O’Dette** and **Stephen Stubbs**; along with Stage Director and Set Designer **Gilbert Blin**; Costume Designer **Anna Watkins**; Choreographers **Caroline Copeland** and **Carlos Fittante**; and Lighting Designer **Lenore Doxsee**. BEMF will offer five fully-staged performances of Steffani’s *Niobe* from **June 12 to 19, 2011** at the **Cutler Majestic Theatre at Emerson College** (219 Tremont Street, Boston, MA, USA), followed by two performances at the **Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center** (14 Castle Street, Great Barrington, MA, USA) on **June 24 and 25, 2011**.

The internationally acclaimed cast will be led by soprano **Amanda Forsythe** in the title role of Niobe. She has performed in numerous BEMF opera productions and is a rising international star who has garnered critical acclaim for her “lovely range of vocal colors, gorgeous top notes and terrific agility” (*The Wall Street Journal*). In the role of *Anfione*, Niobe’s husband, countertenor **Philippe Jaroussky** makes his North American stage debut. He has established himself as one of the world’s greatest countertenors with a 2008 Echo Award for Best Singer and a profile in *The New York Times Magazine* among the growing number of accolades for his virtuosic coloratura and compelling dramatic interpretations. Joining them will be the internationally-acclaimed 34-piece **Boston Early Music Festival Orchestra**, the new **BEMF Baroque Dance Ensemble**, and members of the nationally-renowned **PALS Children’s Chorus**. Flying effects will be provided by **ZFX, Inc.**

Composed in 1688 while Steffani was employed by Maximilian Emanuel, Elector of Bavaria in Munich, *Niobe, Regina di Tebe* is composed to a libretto by Luigi Orlandi, inspired by the mythological tale in Ovid’s *Metamorphoses*. One of the more tragic figures of Greek mythology, Niobe ruled the city of Thebes with her husband Anfione. Niobe considered herself the gods’ equal, and in a moment of arrogance, mocked the god Leto for having a mere two children to her own brood of seven sons and seven daughters. Leto avenged this act of hubris by slaying all fourteen of Niobe’s children. Overwhelmed with grief, Anfione took his own life upon learning of the deaths. With her entire family gone, Niobe turned to stone, from which her tears now endlessly flow.

### **BEMF CHAMBER OPERA—Handel’s *Acis and Galatea***

In addition to the fully staged centerpiece opera, the 2011 Festival will feature an encore production of the BEMF Chamber Opera Series’ intimate staging of Handel’s original 1718 chamber version of *Acis and Galatea*. When BEMF first presented this opera in 2009, *The Boston Globe* hailed the production as “Musically impeccable.” Written as a courtly entertainment about the simplicity of rural life, *Acis and Galatea* depicts the love affair between the nymph Galatea (**Teresa Wakim**, soprano) and the shepherd Acis (**Aaron Sheehan**, tenor), who must endure a long separation. Their reunion is thwarted by the giant Polyphemus (**Douglas Williams**, baritone), who is himself in love with Galatea. Polyphemus kills Acis, and as Galatea laments the loss of her lover, she uses her divine powers to transform Acis into an everlasting fountain. This semi-staged production features gorgeous costumes, exquisite staging, and outstanding performances by the **BEMF Vocal and Chamber Ensembles** under the direction of Musical Directors **Paul O’Dette** and **Stephen Stubbs** and Stage Director **Gilbert Blin**. Also presented in a North American tour this past spring, the opera will be performed on **Saturday, June 18 at New England Conservatory’s Jordan Hall** in Boston and **June 26 and 27 at the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center** in Great Barrington, MA.

### **FESTIVAL CONCERTS**

Recognized as “the world’s leading festival of early music” by *The Times* of London, the 2011 Boston Early Music Festival features 15 official Concerts bringing together luminaries and emerging stars in the field. Early Music lovers can enjoy a wide array of programs spanning centuries of music performed by some of the world’s most dynamic and engaging artists.

Vocal programs include: **Les Voix Baroques** performing settings of the sensual and poetic texts of *The Song of Songs*; the Grammy Award-winning voices of **The King’s Singers** in a program of Renaissance madrigals; **Boston Camerata** presenting the medieval drama *Le Roman de Fauvel*; beloved vocal ensemble **The Tallis Scholars** in a celebration of the music of Tomás Luis de Victoria; and the all-star instrumentalists of **Tragicomedia** joining a quintet of esteemed singers to present vocal chamber duets of Steffani and Handel.

Instrumental ensembles performing Festival Concerts will include: the energetic players of **Ensemble Lucidarium** exploring music from the Middle Ages; chamber ensemble **Quicksilver** performing music from 17<sup>th</sup>-century Italy; the always popular **Boston Early Music Festival Orchestra** concert in a dazzling program of Bach, Handel, Corelli, and Vivaldi and featuring harpsichord soloist **Kristian Bezuidenhout**; violinist **Rachel Barton Pine’s Trio Settecento** presenting virtuosic Baroque masterpieces; **Solamente Naturali** in a program exploring the fusion of Baroque music and the folk traditions of European fiddlers; and the gifted recorder consort **Mezzaluna** presenting music from 16<sup>th</sup>-century Venice.

The 2011 Festival concerts will also feature four accomplished instrumental soloists: **Luca Guglielmi** makes his North American harpsichord recital début exploring themes from Ovid’s *Metamorphosis*; Early Music superstar and viola da gamba virtuoso **Jordi Savall** presents gorgeous Irish and Scottish viol music; world-renowned lutenist **Paul O’Dette** performs a program of remarkable and moving works by Italian composer Marco dall’Aquila; and **Kristian Bezuidenhout**, fortepiano, is joined by members of the **Freiburg Baroque Orchestra** in a performance of Mozart’s dazzling and lyrical Piano Quartets.

In addition to the schedule of Festival Concerts, BEMF will offer two Mini-Festivals during the week. **William Porter** directs the **Organ Mini-Festival** on June 16 with performances by **James David Christie, Luca Guglielmi, and William Porter**. On June 17, **Peter Sykes** directs the **Keyboard Mini-Festival** with presentations from six exceptional artists on the harpsichord, the fortepiano, and the clavichord.

### **EXHIBITION AND CONCURRENT EVENTS**

The world famous Exhibition, “one of the largest showcases for early instruments in the country” (*The Boston Globe*) is host to tradespeople from across the globe, with top makers of period instruments joined by schools of music, performers, publishers, and more. From June 15 to June 18, these specialists will be on hand at the Radisson Hotel in Boston to give demonstration recitals, host workshops and panel discussions, and share details of their work with Festival attendees. The one-of-a-kind BEMF CD Store returns for the 2011 Exhibition with over 400 titles and 5,000 CDs from the field’s most distinguished labels all in one place. Also returning will be the Exhibition’s Family Day on Saturday, June 18 where children and parents alike can enjoy an engaging and interactive presentation by BEMF Director of Education, David Coffin. Festival Week Passes are available now at **WWW.BEMF.ORG** or **617-868-BEMF**; Day Passes will be sold at the Exhibition from June 15 to June 18. Other concurrent events for the 2011 Festival include performance Masterclasses by distinguished Festival musicians, a Gala Opening Night Reception on Sunday, June 12, Dance Workshops hosted by the Festival opera choreographers, Pre-Opera Talks featuring BEMF Directors, and a remarkable array of nearly 100 Fringe Concerts throughout the Festival week.

### **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 2011 Boston Early Music Festival is presented with support from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, ConstellationCenter, WGBH Radio Boston, Harpsichord Clearing House, Zuckermann Harpsichords International, the National Endowment for the Arts, The Gregory E. Bulger Foundation, the U. S. Trust/Bank of America Private Wealth Management, the Dante Alighieri Society, the Viola da Gamba Society of America, and the American Recorder Society. 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).**

### **RESOURCES:**

2011 Festival Press Ticket Policy  
<http://www.bemf.org/pages/press/presstix.htm>

Press Images:  
<http://www.bemf.org/pages/press/images.htm>

Video of the 2009 Production of Handel’s *Acis and Galatea*  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iu\\_2nVJonqA&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iu_2nVJonqA&feature=player_embedded)

## 2011 BOSTON EARLY MUSIC FESTIVAL CALENDAR

### OPERA

#### **Steffani's *Niobe, Regina di Tebe* (Niobe, Queen of Thebes)**

*Fully staged operatic centerpiece of the Festival*

**Sunday, June 12, 2011 at 3:30pm**

**Tuesday, June 14, 2011 at 7pm**

**Wednesday, June 15, 2011 at 7pm**

**Friday, June 17, 2011 at 7pm**

**Sunday, June 19, 2011 at 3:30pm**

Cutler Majestic Theatre at Emerson College (219 Tremont Street, Boston, MA)

**Friday, June 24, 2011 at 7pm**

**Saturday, June 25, 2011 at 7pm**

Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center (14 Castle Street, Great Barrington, MA)

Amanda Forsythe, *Niobe*

Philippe Jaroussky, *Anfione*

Paul O'Dette and Stephen Stubbs, *Musical Directors*

Gilbert Blin, *Stage Director*

*Flying effects provided by ZFX, Inc.*

Tickets: \$30 - \$60 - \$80 - \$110 - \$145 - \$250

#### **Handel's *Acis and Galatea***

*BEMF Chamber Opera Series*

**Saturday, June 18, 2011 at 8pm**

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

**Sunday, June 26, 2011 at 3:30pm**

**Monday, June 27, 2011 at 7pm**

Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center (14 Castle Street, Great Barrington, MA)

Teresa Wakim, *Galatea*

Aaron Sheehan, *Acis*

Paul O'Dette and Stephen Stubbs, *Musical Directors*

Gilbert Blin, *Stage Director*

Tickets: \$25 - \$45 - \$69 - \$105

### FESTIVAL CONCERTS

#### **Les Voix Baroques**

**Stephen Stubbs, director**

*Canticum Canticorum—The Song of Songs*

**Monday, June 13, 2011 at 8pm**

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

Tickets: \$22 - \$33 - \$45 - \$58

#### **The King's Singers**

*Triumphs—Renaissance Conquests in Love and War*

**Tuesday, June 14, 2011 at 8pm**

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

Tickets: \$22 - \$33 - \$45 - \$58

**Luca Guglielmi, harpsichord**

*Cembalo Metamorphosis*

**Tuesday, June 14, 2011 at 11:15pm**

Emmanuel Church (15 Newbury Street, Boston, MA)

Tickets: \$20

**Ensemble Lucidarium**

**Avery Gosfield and Francis Biggi, directors**

*Ninfale—Ovid, poetry and music in Italy at the end of the Middle Ages*

**Wednesday, June 15, 2011 at 5pm**

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

Tickets: \$22 - \$33 - \$45 - \$58

**Boston Camerata**

**Anne Azéma, director**

*The Morphing Beast: Le Roman de Fauvel—A medieval fable in poetry and music*

**Wednesday, June 15, 2011 at 5pm**

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

Tickets: \$22 - \$33 - \$45 - \$58

**Quicksilver**

**Robert Mealy and Julie Andrijeski, directors**

*Stile Moderno: The New Science of Music In Italy*

**Wednesday, June 15, 2011 at 11:15pm**

Emmanuel Church (15 Newbury Street, Boston, MA)

Tickets: \$20

**Jordi Savall, treble viols**

with guest artists **Paul O'Dette, lute** and **Shane Shanahan, percussion**

*The Celtic Viol - An Homage to Irish and Scottish Musical Traditions*

**Thursday, June 16, 2011 at 5pm**

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

Tickets: \$22 - \$33 - \$45 - \$58

**Boston Early Music Festival Orchestra & Soloists**

**Robert Mealy, director**

**Kristian Bezuidenhout, harpsichord**

*The Orchestra at Play: Festive concertos, suites, and sinfonias by Bach, Handel, Corelli, and Vivaldi*

**Thursday, June 16, 2011 at 8pm**

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

Tickets: \$25 - \$38 - \$49 - \$66

**Paul O'Dette, lute**

*Music of Marco dall'Aquila*

**Thursday, June 16, 2011 at 11pm**

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

Tickets: \$20

### **Trio Settecento**

with guest artist **Robert Mealy**, *violin*

*The Alchemical Violin: Works by Muffat, Veracini, J.S. Bach, C. P. E. Bach, and J. G. Pisendel*

**Friday, June 17, 2011 at 5pm**

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

Tickets: \$22 - \$33 - \$45 - \$58

### **The Tallis Scholars**

**Peter Phillips**, *director*

*The Genius of Tomas Luis de Victoria (1548—1611)*

**Friday, June 17, 2011 at 8pm**

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

Tickets: \$22 - \$33 - \$45 - \$58

### **Solamente Naturali**

**Miloš Valent**, *director*

*Baroque Fiddlers from Moravia, Slovakia, England, and Scotland*

**Friday, June 17, 2011 at 11:15pm**

Emmanuel Church (15 Newbury Street, Boston, MA)

Tickets: \$20

### **Kristian Bezuidenhout**, *fortepiano*

with members of the Freiburg Baroque Orchestra

*Mozart at 29: Piano Quartets, K. 478 and K. 493*

**Saturday, June 18, 2011 at 2:30pm**

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

Tickets: \$22 - \$33 - \$45 - \$58

### **Tragicomedia and Friends**

**Stephen Stubbs**, *director*

*Fioratura: The vocal chamber duets of Steffani and Handel*

**Saturday, June 18, 2011 at 11pm**

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

Tickets: \$20

### **Mezzaluna**

with **Paul O'Dette**, *lute*

*The Instrumental Music of Ottaviano Petrucci, Venice, 1501—1508*

**Sunday, June 19, 2011 at 12:30pm**

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

Tickets: \$22 - \$33 - \$45 - \$58

**ORGAN MINI-FESTIVAL**

**William Porter, *director***

**PART ONE**

**James David Christie, *organ***

*Sweelnick and his Students*

**Luca Guglielmi, *organ***

*Iter Bachianum—From Sweelinck to Bach through Frescobaldi, Buxtehude, and other famous pupils*

**Thursday, June 16 at 9:30am**

Houghton Chapel, Wellesley College (106 Central Street, Wellesley, MA)

Tickets: \$35

**PART TWO**

**William Porter, *organ***

*The Great “Leipzig” Chorales of J.S. Bach*

**Thursday, June 16 at 2pm**

The First Lutheran Church of Boston (299 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA)

Tickets: \$35

**KEYBOARD MINI-FESTIVAL**

**Peter Sykes, *director***

**Peter Sykes and Luca Guglielmi**

*The Harpsichord*

**Friday, June 17 at 9am**

First Church in Boston (66 Marlborough Street, Boston, MA)

Tickets: \$25

**Christoph Hammer and Kristian Bezuidenhout**

*The Fortepiano*

**Friday, June 17 at 11:30am**

First Church in Boston (66 Marlborough Street, Boston, MA)

Tickets: \$25

**Michael Tsalka and Miklós Mikael Spányi**

*The Clavichord*

**Friday, June 17 at 2pm**

First Church in Boston (66 Marlborough Street, Boston, MA)

Tickets: \$25

### **Performance Masterclasses**

An assortment of Performance Masterclasses by distinguished Festival musicians will be offered throughout the week. BEMF Masterclasses allow students, as well as professional musicians, to receive a public coaching by some of the top performers in the field today. Interested students are asked to complete and submit the Masterclass Application Form along with an audition CD; a \$50 registration fee will be due should you be chosen to perform. Auditors are encouraged to attend; admission is FREE with a BEMF Pass. For more information on participating in a masterclass at the 2011 Festival, please contact [Carla Chrisfield](mailto:Carla.Chrisfield), General Manager, by email at [carla@bemf.org](mailto:carla@bemf.org), or by calling the BEMF office at 617-661-1812.

### **Phoebe Carrai**

*violoncello*

**Wednesday, June 15 at 2pm-4pm**

### **Erin Headley and Christel Thielmann**

*viola da gamba*

**Thursday, June 16 at 11am-1pm**

Presented in collaboration with the Viola da Gamba Society of America. *Please visit [www.vdgsa.org](http://www.vdgsa.org) for scholarship details.*

### **Gonzalo X. Ruiz**

*Baroque oboe*

**Thursday, June 16 at 2pm-4pm**

### **Cynthia Roberts**

*violin*

**Friday, June 17 at 12:30pm-2:30pm**

### **Ellen Hargis, Paul O'Dette and Stephen Stubbs**

*17th-century accompanied solo song*

**Friday, June 17 at 2:30pm-4:30pm**

### **William Porter**

*organ*

**Saturday, June 18 at 10am-12 noon**

### **Peter Van Heyghen**

*recorder*

**Saturday, June 18 at 12 noon-2pm**

Presented in collaboration with the American Recorder Society

*Dates, times, venues, artists, and programs are subject to change.*

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