



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The San Francisco Early Music Society announces its 40th anniversary season, October 2015 - March 2016

Oct. 23 - 25 | **Archetti with Debra Nagy**

Nov. 20 - 22 | **Baltimore Consort**

Dec. 11 - 13 | **Magnificat**

Jan. 29 - 31 | **Quicksilver**

Feb. 19 - 22 | **Ensemble Caprice**

Mar. 11 - 13 | **Infusion Baroque**

Fridays in Palo Alto ☼ Saturdays in Berkeley ☼ Sundays in San Francisco

sfems.org

SAN FRANCISCO, CA, August 3, 2015 — The San Francisco Early Music Society (SFEMS) is proud to announce its **40th anniversary season**. One of the nation's leading organizations for the advancement of historically informed performance of early music, SFEMS continues its robust traditions with concerts by six groups from around the U.S. and Canada including **Archetti Baroque String Ensemble** performing with **guest oboist Debra Nagy**, the **Baltimore Consort**, **Magnificat**, **Quicksilver**, **Ensemble Caprice** and **Infusion Baroque**. SFEMS' 2015-16 concert season opens the weekend of October 23 and runs through March 13, 2016.

"SFEMS is not only one of the oldest early music societies anywhere in the United States," says **Society President Robert Cole**. "It is also unique in offering such a broad range of services: education programs that have taught thousands of aspiring professional and amateur musicians; community services, such as our Affiliates Program, which has helped dozens of ensembles, including Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, Chanticleer and Magnificat, to get off the ground; production of the biennial Berkeley Festival, an event that's earned the organization international recognition; and of course our own wonderful, annual concert series, which has brought Bay Area audiences the best of what early music has to offer."

This year's season will feature a new venue, Palo Alto's **First Presbyterian Church at 1140 Cowper Street**. Each of the season's artists will perform a Friday in Palo Alto, Saturday in Berkeley and Sunday in San Francisco.

Individual tickets for SFEMS' six main concerts are \$40 with discounts for seniors and SFEMS members. SFEMS also offers discounts to season subscribers. For more information and to purchase tickets visit SFEMS.org.

In addition to its six-concert season, SFEMS will also continue its partnership with the **California Jazz Conservatory**, presenting September to May monthly Sunday afternoon concerts of early music with an eye to the improvisational common thread that links early music and jazz. For more information, visit SFEMS.org. Complete details about the upcoming concert season follow below.

Oct. 23 - 25 | ARCHETTI with guest oboist DEBRA NAGY

One of America's greatest baroque oboists **Debra Nagy** joins Northern California's premier baroque concerto ensemble to celebrate the most revered composers of the early



18th century. The lyricism of two Handel concerti grossi will be paired with the power and verve of three Bach solo concerti for harpsichord, for 2 violins, and for oboe and violin. Archetti was founded in 2010 by **violinist Carla Moore** and **viola da gambist John Dornenburg** to perform the rich chamber concerto repertory of the Baroque era. The ensemble's name means "little bows" in Italian and alludes to the dominance of bowed stringed instruments in the Italian Baroque concerto repertory. Archetti is based in the San Francisco Bay Area, where they have been praised for their "dazzling clarity" (*San Francisco Examiner*) and "beautiful ensemble playing" (*Early Music America*). In 2014, Archetti released its first CD on the Centaur label - *Handel and Hellendaal: Grand Concertos*.

NOV. 20 - 22 | BALTIMORE CONSORT

"Few early music players have more fun making music than the Baltimore six, who through their performances, take the position that echoes of renaissance secular music are still to be found in modern folk practice" – *The*



New Yorker. The Baltimore Consort performs a new program featuring its core repertory — music of the Elizabethan era — with songs and consort music from Shakespeare's plays.

Soprano Danielle Svonavec joins the ensemble to perform some of the greatest hits from the Bard's songbook, including "It Was a Lover and his Lass," "Where the Bee Sucks," "Full Fathom Five" and "The Willow Song."

Dec. 11 - 13 | MAGNIFICAT

Under the direction of **Warren Stewart** for over 20 years, Magnificat has recreated historical liturgies, performing great works from Monteverdi's Vespers to Charpentier's Midnight Mass in their intended musical context. This year they recreate a Lutheran Mass for Advent, following

Leipzig liturgy as Bach himself wrote out on his manuscript score of Cantata 62. The program will include congregational chorales, which the audience will be encouraged to sing.

JAN. 29 - 31 | QUICKSILVER

"Enlightening...the audience was on its feet cheering and hooting as if it were at a rock show" – *The New York Times*.

SFEMS is pleased to present a return engagement of Quicksilver, described as "drop dead gorgeous with a

wonderful interplay of timbres" by *Early Music America*. Led by violinists **Robert Mealy** and **Julie Andrijeski**, the ensemble will perform a program titled "The (very) First Viennese School," featuring music from the courts of Holy Roman Emperors Matthias to Leopold I: works by Valentini, Bertali, Buonamente, Pandolfi, Kerll, Legrenzi, Fux, Muffat and Schmelzer.



Feb. 19 - 21 | ENSEMBLE CAPRICE

"Imaginative, even powerful; and the playing is top-flight" – *The New York Times*.

Founded by acclaimed recorder soloist **Matthias Maute**, the Montreal-based Ensemble Caprice performs a program titled "Salsa Baroque: Music of Latin America

and Spain." During the 16th and 17th centuries, the blend of European polyphony and Latin American traditional music created a unique style that is exemplified by the *villancicos* of the Bolivian composer Juan de Araujo and his contemporaries. Also included on the program are sonatas by Locatelli and Falconieri, two European composers influenced by this Latin American style.



MAR. 11 - 13 | INFUSION BAROQUE

Winners of the Grand Prize and Audience Prize at the 2014 Early Music America Baroque Performance Competition, Montreal-based ensemble Infusion Baroque makes its Bay Area debut exploring the works of



17th- and 18th-century composers and their tangled, contrary and often scandalous personal lives. Featured will be music by Leclair, Geminiani, Merula, Guignon, Telemann and the Bach family.

ABOUT THE SAN FRANCISCO EARLY MUSIC SOCIETY

Founded in 1975, SFEMS is one of the nation's leading organizations for the advancement of historically informed performance of early music. Through its concert series, publications, outreach activities, affiliate support and educational programs SFEMS encourages the development of amateurs, supports professionals, and increases public involvement and participation in early music. SFEMS is the lead presenter of the Berkeley Festival & Exhibition of early music.

FACT SHEET

WHAT:

Archetti with Debra Nagy in concert: *Bach and Handel: Concerti for Oboe and Strings*.

WHEN & WHERE:

Friday, Oct. 23, 2015 | PALO ALTO

8pm @ First Presbyterian Church
1140 Cowper Street

Saturday, Oct. 24, 2015 | BERKELEY

7:30pm @ St. John's Presbyterian Church
2727 College Avenue

Sunday, Oct. 25, 2015 | SAN FRANCISCO

4pm @ St. Mark's Lutheran Church
1111 O'Farrell Street

Program: One of America's greatest baroque oboists joins northern California's premier baroque concerto ensemble to celebrate the most revered composers of the early 18th century. The lyricism of two Handel concerti grossi will be paired with the power and verve of three Bach solo concerti: for harpsichord, for 2 violins, and for oboe and violin.

Carla Moore, Jolie Einem, David Wilson, and Alicia Yang, violin

Kati Kyme, viola

Adaiha MacAdam-Somer, cello

John Dornenburg, violone

Davitt Moroney, harpsichord

with Debra Nagy, oboe

WHAT:

The Baltimore Consort in concert: *The Food of Love: Songs, Dances, and Fancies for Shakespeare*.

WHEN & WHERE:

Friday, Nov. 20, 2015 | PALO ALTO

8pm @ First Presbyterian Church
1140 Cowper Street

Saturday, Nov. 21, 2015 | BERKELEY

7:30pm @ St. John's Presbyterian Church
2727 College Avenue

Sunday, Nov. 22, 2015 | SAN FRANCISCO

4pm @ St. Mark's Lutheran Church
1111 O'Farrell Street

Program: The "rambunctious sextet" performs greatest hits from the Bard's songbook, including "It Was a Lover and his Lass," "Where the Bee Sucks," "Full Fathom Five" and "The Willow Song," plus sparkling arrangements of dances and consort music related to the plays.

Mary Anne Ballard, viols

Mark Cudek, cittern & bass viol

Larry Lipkis, bass viol, recorder, krummhorn & gemshorn

Ronn McFarlane, lute

Mindy Rosenfeld, flutes, fifes, bagpipes & krummhorn

Danielle Svonavec, soprano

WHAT:

Magnificat in concert: *J.S. Bach: Mass for Advent.*

WHEN & WHERE:

Friday, Dec. 11, 2015 | PALO ALTO

8pm @ First Presbyterian Church
1140 Cowper Street

Saturday, Dec. 12, 2015 | BERKELEY

7:30pm @ First Congregational Church
2345 Channing Way

Sunday, Dec. 13, 2015 | SAN FRANCISCO

4pm @ St. Mark's Lutheran Church
1111 O'Farrell

Program: Under the direction of **Warren Stewart**, Magnificat will recreate a Lutheran Mass for Advent, following Leipzig liturgy as Bach himself wrote out on his manuscript score of Cantata 62. The program will include congregational chorales, which the audience will be encouraged to sing.

WHAT:

Quicksilver in concert: *The (very) First Viennese School*.

WHEN & WHERE:

Friday, Jan. 29, 2016 | PALO ALTO

8pm @ First Presbyterian Church
1140 Cowper Street

Saturday, Jan. 30, 2016 | BERKELEY

7:30pm @ St. John's Presbyterian Church
2727 College Ave

Sunday, Jan. 31, 2016 | SAN FRANCISCO

4pm @ St. Mark's Lutheran Church
1111 O'Farrell

Program: Music in Vienna had its first flourishing long before Mozart. The splendid 17th-century court of the Holy Roman Emperors from Matthias to Leopold I were great music lovers who brought together composers and virtuosi to create a remarkable musical culture. The brilliant music composed for their varied court festivities offered a rich feast of sumptuous sonatas and ingenious ballets. Quicksilver's program will feature works of Valentini, Bertali, Buonamente, Pandolfi, Kerll, Legrenzi, Fux, Muffat and Schmelzer.

Robert Mealy and Julie Andrijeski, violin

Greg Ingles, trombone

Dominic Teresi, dulcian

David Morris, viola da gamba

Avi Stein, harpsichord & organ

Charles Weaver, theorbo & baroque guitar

WHAT:

Ensemble Caprice in concert: *Salsa Baroque: Music of Latin America and Spain*.

WHEN & WHERE:

Friday, Feb. 19, 2016 | PALO ALTO

8pm @ First Presbyterian Church
1140 Cowper Street

Saturday, Feb. 20, 2016 | BERKELEY

7:30pm @ St. John's Presbyterian Church
2727 College Avenue

Sunday, Feb. 21, 2016 | SAN FRANCISCO

4pm @ St. Mark's Lutheran Church
1111 O'Farrell

Program: During the 16th and 17th centuries, the musical dialogue between the Old and New Worlds produced extraordinary results. This fascinating blend of European polyphony and Latin American traditional music created a unique style that is exemplified by the *villancicos* of the Bolivian composer Juan de Araujo and his contemporaries. Also included on the program are sonatas by Locatelli and Falconieri, two European composers influenced by this Latin American style.

Matthias Maute and Sophie Larivière, recorder & traverso
David Jacques, baroque guitar
Susie Napper, cello
Ziya Tabassian, percussion

WHAT:

Infusion Baroque in concert: *Rebels and Rivalries*.

WHEN & WHERE:

Friday, Mar. 11, 2016 | PALO ALTO

8pm @ First Presbyterian Church
1140 Cowper Street

Saturday, Mar. 12, 2016 | BERKELEY

7:30pm @ St. John's Presbyterian Church
2727 College Avenue

Sunday, Mar. 13, 2016 | SAN FRANCISCO

4pm @ St. Mark's Lutheran Church
1111 O'Farrell

Program: Did you know that J.S. Bach went to jail? Or that Tarquinio Merula was dismissed from his job for indecent behavior? Winners of the Grand Prize and Audience Prize at the 2014 Early Music America Baroque Performance Competition, Infusion Baroque makes its Bay Area debut exploring the works of 17th- and 18th-century composers and their tangled, contrary and often scandalous personal lives. Featured will be music by Leclair, Geminiani, Merula, Guignon, Telemann and the Bach family.

Alexa Raine-Wright, traverso & recorder
Sallynee Amawat, violin
Camille Paquette-Roy, cello
Rona Nadler, harpsichord

TICKETS:

Individual tickets: \$34 - \$40

\$40 General

\$36 Seniors

\$34 SFEMS members

Subscriptions: \$204 for the full 6-concert series (**\$180** for SFEMS members). Choose 3 concerts for **\$108** (**\$96** for SFEMS members).

Tickets may be purchased online at **sfems.org**.