

Bright Day Star

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 4, 2009

Christmas with Camerata Nova!

WINNIPEG: Camerata Nova lights up the atrium of the new Manitoba Hydro Place, 360 Portage Avenue, with **two free performances** of *Bright Day Star*, a concert of Christmas music from medieval to modern on November 28 at 8:00 pm and November 29 at 3:00 pm.

No Jingle Bells here! Conductors Ross Brownlee and Mel Braun have created a unique mix of early carols and motets by Praetorius, Gabrieli, Morales, Bach and Flecha; rare American carols from the 1700s; new arrangements by Artistic Director Andrew Balfour; and four different versions of the *Huron Carol*, from traditional to modern.

"This choir has so much heart [...] and enlivens antiquated scores with such missionary zeal that even the most die-hard, newer music lover would find it hard to resist." - *Winnipeg Free Press*, November 2007

In *Bright Day Star* Camerata Nova will be joined by the Cantata Singers from the University of Manitoba for some glorious antiphonal singing, testing out the gallery and bridges of Hydro's beautiful building foyer. Come prepared to sing with us!

In the spirit of the Camerata Nova tradition of offering one free concert per year, admission to *Bright Day Star* is **FREE**; however donations are gratefully accepted.

Camerata Nova was founded in 1996 as a Winnipeg vocal ensemble dedicated to the exploration and performance of Renaissance music. Today, the group enjoys stretching the boundaries of its repertoire, performing a range of works from medieval songs to new Canadian works, including compositions by its Artistic Director, Andrew Balfour. The group has produced three CDs: Camerata Nova, Mystica and Nova Noël, as well as a DVD entitled Wa Wa Tey Wak.

Conductor Mel Braun is a versatile baritone singer himself who has performed and collaborated nationally. Mel teaches voice and works with opera ensembles at the Marcel A. Désautels Faculty of Music, University of Manitoba, where he is Head of the Voice Department. Conductor Ross Brownlee is currently teaching instrumental music at Westgate Mennonite Collegiate. Ross is also on the faculty for the Amherst International Early Music Festival summer music workshop. The University of Manitoba Cantata Singers is a small vocal ensemble of emerging professional singers and musicians, conducted by Mel Braun.

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To arrange an interview or for more information please contact:
James Botaitis at 204-995-3546 or james@cameratanova.com.

Professional **photos and video** of a rehearsal in the performance location are planned and can be made available to interested parties after Monday November 9th. If you or your organization would like copies or access to these elements, please let us know.

Further information about Camerata Nova and the artists at: www.cameratanova.com.