

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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VENICE, VESPERS and VIOLS

WINNIPEG, Manitoba – They are coming from Montreal, Minneapolis and even Spain (via Thompson) to help Camerata Nova celebrate the 400th anniversary of the publication of the *Vespers* by Monteverdi, with a concert featuring the grand music of Renaissance Italy entitled ***Vespers, Viols and Venice***.

The internationally-known Spanish baroque soprano Maria Luz Alvarez, top American lutenist and theorbo player, Phillip Rukavina, former Winnipegger organist Erik Reinart and our early music string quintet composed of players from the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra led by Claudine St-Arnauld will be joining us for an early music concert designed and conducted by Ross Brownlee. *Venice, Vespers and Viols* will be held in the beautiful St. Mary's Cathedral (353 St. Mary's Avenue), one of the few large stone churches in Manitoba, offering the resonant, crystal-clear acoustic that best suits this music.

The repertoire will consist of Italian Renaissance and Baroque music written for solo and choral voices, strings and continuo, including works by Caccini, Verdelot, Gombert, Giovanni Gabrieli and, of course, Claudio Monteverdi. Camerata Nova will be presenting several excerpts from the *Vespro della Beata Vergine* by Monteverdi, making it the only group in Winnipeg to highlight the 400th anniversary of the publication of this monumental 90-minute work of the Renaissance period, which was the most ambitious work of religious music before Bach came along.

"We will be doing several of the Monteverdi madrigals, both sacred and secular to further compliment the Vespers, explains Ross Brownlee. As well, Luz will be singing lute songs with Phil... This will be a treat! And there will be instrumental solos by Phil and some by the string ensemble for a constantly changing tonal palette."

Venice, Vespers and Viols
St. Mary's Cathedral (353 St. Mary Avenue)
Wednesday and Thursday, June 2 and 3, 2010 at 8:00 p.m.

Tickets (adults \$22, seniors \$20, students \$10) available over the phone (918-4547), online at www.cameratanova.com, at McNally Robinson Booksellers or at the door. Camerata Nova is an eyeGO to the arts participant (www.eyego.org).

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*.

More biographies provided on page 2.

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Conductor Ross Brownlee is currently coaching and directing the instrumental ensembles at Westgate Mennonite Collegiate. Ross is also on the faculty for the Amherst International Early Music Festival summer music workshop.

Born in Madrid (Spain), Maria Luz Alvarez started her musical education at the Royal Superior School of Singing of Madrid with Milagros del Pozo. In 1992, she went to Holland to study, graduating in Early Music Performance in 1994 at the Sweelinck Conservatorium of Amsterdam. Since then, she has been regularly invited as a soloist and has recorded several CDs of Renaissance polyphonic music.

Phillip Rukavina (lute, vihuela da mano, theorbo, baroque guitar), from Minneapolis, has received wide recognition for his performances of Renaissance polyphony on the lute. He is also known for his skill as a lute accompanist, ensemble performer, and for his engaging classroom presentations.

A former chorister of All Saints' Church in Winnipeg under Donald Hadfield, Erik Reinart completed studies in organ performance at the Geneva Conservatory, McGill University, and the University of Montréal. He has released one recording of Bach's *Klavierübung III* on the Atma label. He often appears in recital and as organist with Montréal-area choirs, as well as with the Montréal Symphony. Mr. Reinart is currently Organist and Choir Director at St. Georges Anglican Church in downtown Montréal.

Claudine St-Arnauld, violin and leader of the string quintet, obtained a Bachelor in Music Performance from the Quebec Conservatory of Music and studied at McGill University under Yehonatan Berick. She is a member of the WSO since 1998 and has performed with the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra, Camerata Nova, as well as the MusikBarock ensemble as group performer and soloist.

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

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