

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 8, 2013

Manitoba Hydro presents

Noël of the North

Camerata Nova Celebrates with Harp and...Spoon Choir!

WINNIPEG, Manitoba – On **Saturday, November 30 at 8:00 pm** and **Sunday, December 1 at 3:00 pm**, Camerata Nova performs its 17th annual FREE Christmas concert, sponsored by Manitoba Hydro, at **Crescent Fort Rouge Church**. Conductors Ross Brownlee and Michael McKay have put together an exciting and eclectic array of music, ranging from early Russian motets to Benjamin Britten, and Métis music!

True to the mission of Camerata Nova, ***Noël of the North*** is all about collaborations. Harpist Grace Cloutier from New York City will join us to perform exceptional harp/choir arrangements. Flautist Haley Rempel will also join in. In addition, the group will perform stunning Slavic motets provided to us by the Rose Ensemble of Minneapolis. Finally, in keeping with our five-year tradition, we have invited Sid Robinovitch, Andrew Balfour and Michael McKay to each write their own adaptation of a well-known carol – this time, it's *The Little Drummer Boy*!

Our audience gets to shine, too! Andrew Balfour has arranged an early Métis fiddle tune for Camerata Nova and “spoon choir.” Traditional wooden spoons will be sold for \$10 and audience members are invited to rehearse at intermission and then join us to perform.

Admission to these performances is FREE. However, we would appreciate if you could bring non-perishable food items for Winnipeg Harvest. Donations to Camerata Nova are also welcomed to defray the cost of the concert!

Camerata Nova is also launching a new album! At the suggestion of many of our fans, we are issuing ***Camerata Nova Live: Christmas in Early America***, a CD of last year's highly popular holiday concert, recorded by CBC Radio 2 and featuring early and contemporary American music.

With the generous support of:



Plus, on **November 16 at 2:30 pm**, as part of the Santa Claus Parade celebrations, Camerata Nova is pleased to offer a concert of popular Christmas music and to present excerpts of its upcoming concert in the **Atrium of the Manitoba Hydro Building**. Come into the warmth and join with us in singing your favourite carols!

Individual subscriptions for 2013-2014 are \$50 (adults), \$45 (seniors) and \$20 (students), and buddy subscriptions (two tickets to each concert) are \$95, \$85 and \$35. Subscribers are ensured prime seating, even at the free Christmas concert, and can buy Camerata Nova products at a reduced price (including the brand new CD!). Camerata Nova also continues to participate in *eyeGO to the Arts*, an innovative program designed to encourage high school students (grades 9 to 12) to attend live arts performances for \$5 per concert.

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For questions or interviews, please call Janet Charron at 204.918.4547 or write to info@cameratanova.com. Recent photos and a concert preview video will be available shortly.

About Grace Cloutier, harp...

Virtuoso harpist Grace Cloutier trained at The Juilliard School, Yale University, and in France. She gave her solo Carnegie Hall debut recital in 2006 and has since performed for audiences across the United States, Canada, Europe, and the Middle East. As a concert harpist, she has performed with the Moscow Chamber Orchestra and the Moscow Philharmonic at Carnegie Hall. An advocate of new music, Grace has collaborated with numerous composers. She maintains an active concert schedule, and has been featured on recordings including *Radiant* and *Winter Solace* (HIP Records, 2004 and 2008), *Ceremony of Carols* (Delos Records, 2011), *Toni Dolce* (Purple Critter, 2012), and *The Harp Music of David Lefkowitz* (Albany Records, 2012). As a chamber musician, she regularly performs with soprano Jennifer Black (The Metropolitan Opera) and Etherea Vocal Ensemble, and has performed with the Calder String Quartet, amongst others. A dedicated teacher, Grace regularly gives master classes nationwide and presently serves on the faculty at The Hartt Conservatory of Music.

About Camerata Nova...

“You never know what you’re going to get...” Camerata Nova is a vocal group without fear, performing medieval, Renaissance, Aboriginal and contemporary music. Often singing *a cappella*, the group also enjoys accompaniment from didgeridoos, crystal bowls, strings, all kinds of percussion, and/or early instruments. Since 1996, they continue to push the envelope, offering authentic early music performances, premières of Manitoba compositions and an eclectic array in between. Camerata Nova has issued four CDs: *Camerata Nova*, *Mystica*, *Nova Noël* and *Christmas in Early America*. as well as a DVD entitled *Wa Wa Tey Wak (Northern Lights)*. Camerata Nova is led by a group of extraordinary individuals: Artistic Director and Resident Composer Andrew Balfour, Early Music Curator and Conductor Ross Brownlee, and Co-Curators and Conductors Mel Braun and Michael McKay.