



Andrew Balfour, Artistic Director

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 15, 2015

# THE HERMETIC ODE:

## Choral Alchemy

### COME AS LEAD; LEAVE AS GOLD...

**WINNIPEG, Manitoba** – Do you believe in magic? Camerata Nova's final concert of the season is titled *The Hermetic Ode: Choral Alchemy*, and weaves magic and science into a fabric not yet seen on any stage. The concert will be held at **7:30 p.m. on Friday, May 8, 2015 in the Muriel Richardson Auditorium, of the Winnipeg Art Gallery.**

This is one of our most exciting and experimental concerts ever, exploring the ability of music and art to transform itself and the audience. Narrated by composer/conductor/actor Michael McKay, its visual, sound and electronic landscape will include five premieres of new works by Winnipeg composers Andrew Balfour, Michael McKay and Michael Schellenberg, and an integrated art show by Manitoba painter Margruite Krahn.

An engaging and accessible concert, communication will be sustained with audiences throughout. McKay, with his rich acting background, will narrate through the minefields with drama and humour. The repertoire is diverse and fascinating, from a piece written by Dufay for the opening of the famous Duomo in Florence in 1436 to a work by Michael McKay celebrating the Masonic/alchemic design of the Manitoba Legislative Building. Fission and fusion are involved as various pieces get pulled apart and re-combined in various forms. Electronics will play a role as will visuals. A program not to be missed.

Tickets (adults \$28, seniors \$23, students \$12) are available at McNally Robinson Booksellers, through our website ([www.cameratanova.com](http://www.cameratanova.com)) and at the door, as well as by phone (204.918.4547). High school students can also get tickets for \$5 through the eyeGo to the Arts program.

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**For more information:** Carolyn Rickey, Camerata Nova Executive Director

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With the generous support of:

Visual Art Patrons : **Harry and Susan Wiens**



### **About Camerata Nova**

"You never know what you're going to get..." Camerata Nova is a vocal group without fear, performing medieval, Renaissance, Aboriginal-infused 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.

### **About Michael McKay**

Michael McKay is a multi-faceted artist: pianist, accompanist, composer, music director, choral conductor, singer, harpist, and choreographer. Originally from Nova Scotia, he moved to Winnipeg over 8 years ago because he was ready for a change. He does not regret his decision and finds the Winnipeg arts community to be vibrant, extensive, and of good quality.

Michael currently works as music director of Good Neighbours Choristers, Manitoba Theatre for Young People, and Little Opera Company; sings in Camerata Nova and Winnipeg Singers; and plays piano for Bolero Dance Theatre. His compositions have been performed by Winnipeg Singers, Camerata Nova, Westminster United Church, Central Manitoba Youth Choir, and Westgate Mennonite Collegiate's choirs.

Michael McKay completed formal music studies at Acadia University from 1988 to 1993, majoring in Piano Performance. While there, he was unofficially minoring in Theory/Composition. Notable works included the "Sonata for Tuba and Piano," the "Don Arreyo' Suite for Orchestra," a short cycle of songs on poems by Cavafy, and the "Magnificat" for solo soprano, soprano saxophone, and piano. After graduating from Acadia, he went on to study at the University of Toronto, again majoring in Piano Performance. Following graduation in 1994, Michael got involved in musical theatre as arranger, composer and music director, first in Toronto and later in Wolfville (NS). Since moving to Winnipeg in 2006, he has been writing more for churches and choirs.