

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
NOVEMBER 8, 2012**

**Manitoba Hydro presents**  
**Camerata Nova: Christmas in Early America**  
***Festive, Fearless and Free!***

**WINNIPEG, Manitoba** – On **November 24th at 8:00 pm** and **November 25th at 2:00 pm** at **Crescent Fort Rouge Church** (corner of Wardlaw and Nassau), Camerata Nova presents its 16th free holiday concert, entitled ***Christmas in Early America*** and sponsored by Manitoba Hydro.

Have you ever heard of carols called *Sherburne*, *Slow Traveller*, *Kingsbridge* and *Fulfillment*? Have you ever seen sheet music with hearts, triangles, diamonds and squares, rather than notes? Join us and become a New England pilgrim, singing two-hundred-year-old carols with an amazing mix of joy and a little brimstone...

Curator/conductors Ross Brownlee and Michael McKay have put together a concert of American Christmas music like no other: puritan psalmody mixes with songs from Appalachia and music performed in the Spanish missions of the southwest. As always, there's a pinch of Manitoba thrown in as we present three new adaptations of the carol *I Wonder as I Wander* by Andrew Balfour, Leonard Enns and Michael McKay. Don't worry, we'll also mix in some holiday favourites, including a wild new version of *Jingle Bells* by McKay!

***Christmas in Early America*** is free – our annual gift to the community. There will be a food collection to support Winnipeg Harvest and we welcome donations to help defray our costs.

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*For questions or an interview with Mike or our own "Mr. Sackbut", Ross Brownlee, please call Janet Charron at 204-918-4547 or write to [info@cameratanova.com](mailto:info@cameratanova.com).*

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### **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. Now in their 16th year, 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 three CDs: *Camerata Nova*, *Mystica* and *Nova Noël*, and a DVD entitled *Wa Wa Tey Wak (Northern Lights)*. Camerata Nova is led by a trio of extraordinary individuals: Artistic Director and Resident Composer Andrew Balfour, Early Music Curator and Conductor Ross Brownlee, and Co-Curator and Conductor Mel Braun.

**Media Story Idea:** Winnipeg has a new music star in town! Mike McKay arrived here a few years ago from Nova Scotia. “I chose Winnipeg because of the winter weather”, says McKay sincerely. Off the wall? You bet – but in a good way! Mike is a conductor, composer and keyboardist of extraordinary talent. In addition to his links with Camerata Nova, he is choirmaster and organist at First Presbyterian Church and Good Neighbours Choristers, sings in Winnipeg Singers and plays piano for Bolero Dance Theatre, Little Opera Company and the Royal Winnipeg Ballet. He also puts on his own inimitable recitals, has written a musical (*Ooh-La-La... Eh?*) and his compositions have been performed by Winnipeg Singers, Camerata Nova, Westminster United Church, the Central Manitoba Youth Choir and Westgate Mennonite Collegiate choirs.

Andrew Balfour and Ross Brownlee agree that Mike is on a roll... His music, his sense of self and his sense of humour get better by the day. We invite you to profile him in print, on radio or on the Internet in connection with this concert. He’s also happy to blog...