

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 23, 2014

Camerata Nova presents

Dowland in Dublin

Early Music goes Celtic to Charm Us All in an Old Irish Pub!

WINNIPEG – It's time to sing and play of love and life – lost, found, hopes high, hopes dashed, cynical, sinful or sincere! For one night only, on **October 8, 2014, at 7:30 pm at Crescent Fort Rouge United Church**, Camerata Nova joins international star tenor Michael Slattery and La Nef (The Nave), an extraordinary early music group from Montréal, in a highly creative concert based on the music of Renaissance composer John Dowland.

With great skill, charm and integrity, La Nef has arranged Dowland's music in a Celtic style, as it would have been played in an Irish Pub in the early 1600s. On tour with both this concert and a companion CD, La Nef has invited Camerata Nova to perform in *Dowland in Dublin* – the only host group invited to do so – using arrangements written specially for them by La Nef lutenist Sean Dagher.

This transformation of Dowland's music is only the first alchemical magic in Camerata Nova's intriguing 2014-15 season.

- **Ghosts of Christmas Past** materialize November 22, 2014, at Westminster United Church, free family fun to spark memories of favourite carols from 18 Camerata Nova seasons. Expect the beautiful, joyous, twisted and quirky...always with love, respect and more than a little alchemy. Get a preview of this concert and hear season favourites at our free performance at Manitoba Hydro Place on Saturday, November 15.
- **Choral Night at the New Music Festival** (February 2, 2015, at 7:30 pm at Westminster United Church): Camerata Nova will premiere *Take the Indian*, a work for choir and cello by Andrew Balfour based on testimony from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The group will also

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perform Caroline Shaw's *Partita for Eight Voices* – wild, innovative and already a Pulitzer Prize and Grammy winner (tickets through the WSO box office).

- **Nova France** (February 21 at 7:30 pm and February 22, 2015, at 3:00 pm at **Église Précieux-Sang**) will explore 1000 years of French music, ranging from the serious and mysterious to the fast and fanciful de la France au Québec, à l'Acadie et au Manitoba. This will be an exciting collaboration with the renowned Skye Consort of Montréal and with the Festival du Voyageur.
- And, for the final transformation, travel with conductor Michael McKay as he transforms into an alchemist to navigate a visual, sound and sensory landscape like no other in **The Hermetic Ode: Choral Alchemy** premiering at the **Winnipeg Art Gallery** one night only May 8, 2015. Courageous composers and visual artists explore secret Masonic codes in Solomon's Temple and the Manitoba Legislative Building, greet the Windigo and conjure the spirits of raven, phoenix, swan and pelican – the birds of alchemy. Fearless performers interact live on stage with artificial intelligence, raising spirits and transcending the bonds of choral performance.

Season tickets for all four 2014-2015 season concerts are available online at www.cameratanova.com, at concerts, at McNally Robinson Booksellers and by phone 204.918.4547. Season subscriptions are adults \$75, seniors \$60 and students \$30. Affordable buddy subscriptions (a pair of tickets to each concert) are \$140, \$110 and \$50. Casual single tickets can be purchased online, at McNally Robinson Booksellers, by phone and at concerts with prices ranging from adults \$28, seniors \$23, students \$12 and high school student prices through *eyeGO to the Arts* at \$5 per concert.

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For more information:

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About La Nef (the Nave)

La Nef (the Nave) is a company dedicated to the creation and production of early and contemporary music, showcasing musicians and artists across disciplines to offer original and accessible experiences to its publics. Introducing theatrical elements, historical and literary themes, and little known or original music, La Nef creates worlds of sounds with multidisciplinary, multimedia, and operatic elements, a distinction that sets La Nef apart in the musical and cultural milieu.

For **Dowland in Dublin**, La Nef features Sylvain Bergeron (lute & arrangements), Seán Dagher (cittern & arrangements), Amanda Keesmaat (cello), Alex Kehler (violin) and Grégoire Jeay (flute & recorders), joined by Michael Slattery and Camerata Nova.

Reviews and Quotes

"It works. Dowland's tunes are sturdy, able to thrive on a lively lilt or bring a sentimental tear to the eye when offered with sweet Irish melancholy. Slattery sings with a feel for period style and the pub, and La Nef crosses genre divides with similar ease."

-- Mark Swed, *Los Angeles Times*, January 2012

"Tenor Michael Slattery is especially captivating, approaching each song sincerely and creatively, with a naturalness that helps maintain the recital's intimate atmosphere. The Montreal-based early-music group La Nef brings just the right inventive attitude, keeping each tune's essence and offering several jams."

--Judith Malafronte, Opera News, October 2012

"Working closely with Michael Slattery, we began to strip some of Dowland's Ayres of their complex accompaniments giving them a simple, Celtic flavor, midway between folk songs and art songs."

--Sylvain Bergeron, La Nef co-founder and *Dowland in Dublin* arranger

Michael Slattery, tenor

Since graduating from Juilliard, Michael Slattery has enjoyed an exciting international career. He has worked with the New York Philharmonic, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Lincoln Center's Mostly Mozart Festival, the French National Orchestra in Paris, the Akademie für Alte Musik in Berlin, and the Orchestra of St. Luke's at Carnegie Hall. Career highlights include the title role in Bernstein's *Candide* at Royal Festival Hall in London; *The Very Best of Lerner & Loewe* with the New York Pops at Carnegie Hall; J.S. Bach's *B-minor Mass* with Iván Fischer and the National Symphony Orchestra; Peter Sellars' *Tristan Project* with Esa-Pekka Salonen; Philip Glass's *Akhmat* with John Adams – both with the Los Angeles Philharmonic; the title role in Monteverdi's *L'Orfeo* at the Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris; and the Monteverdi *Vespers of 1610* at the Berlin Staatsoper. Michael Slattery's solo recordings include *The Irish Heart* and *Dowland in Dublin*, chosen by Opera News as one of the best recordings of 2012. He has also recorded an impressive number of Handel's works.

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.