

MUSICA SONORA

Christina Jarvis, Artistic Director
Jeffri Sanders, Co-Director

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Musica Sonora Announces Changes For Its 2009–2010 Season

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TUCSON, ARIZONA — Musica Sonora, Southern Arizona's premiere early music vocal ensemble, announces exciting and important changes for its new concert season. The ensemble, established in 2004 by Artistic Director Christina Jarvis with volunteer singers, has transitioned to a professional choir, now featuring Southern Arizona's most highly respected early music vocalists, including Melanie Germond, founding member of Liber: Ensemble for Early Music; Kathryn Mueller, who has appeared with Chicago's Ars Antiqua and New Trinity Baroque (Atlanta), among other groups; Dr. Harlan Hokin, who has performed with Ensemble PAN and Sequentia; and Jarvis herself, who has performed in England, France, Germany, and throughout the southwestern U.S., with artists such as theorbist William Carter.

Jarvis emphasized that the transition to a professional ensemble was necessary to enable the group to perform the great masterworks of the medieval, Renaissance, and baroque eras, works that require a higher level of technical mastery. "An early music singer must possess the flexibility, clarity of tone, and chops to pull off the fast moving passages and ornamentation so important to the style. Audiences not already familiar with this music will be surprised by its freshness and drawn to its beauty. These aren't museum pieces preserved behind glass cases, but rather living, breathing compositions, open to improvisation and new interpretation with each performance."

"Times like these are exactly when we need art and music. Our souls need refreshment as much as our bodies do. Concerts provide space in our lives to meditate, to free the mind, and to share the joy with the performers onstage," Jarvis continued. Concerning the decision to take on a much more expensive undertaking with Musica Sonora during current economic hardships, Jarvis wryly added, "It may seem counterintuitive to go pro during a recession, but who said artists were sane?"

Additionally, the ensemble has appointed a new co-director, Jeffri Sanders. Sanders is a noted local organist and harpsichordist, who for many years served as president of the Arizona Early Music Society. He holds degrees from Oberlin College and Conservatory, and from Westminster Choir College. Sanders brings much experience as a professional chorister and church music director.

Musica Sonora also announces a new location for its concerts: St. Andrew's Episcopal Church at 545 S. 5th Avenue in the historic Armory Park neighborhood, and a new concert schedule, providing both

an evening and an afternoon concert of each program. "St. Andrew's is a beautiful space to sing in and wonderfully appropriate for the intimate nature of this gorgeous music," Jarvis notes, "but seating is limited, so we wanted to provide plenty of opportunity for fans to attend."

Musica Sonora inaugurates its 2009–2010 season with a program titled "Everything We Love About Early Music: A Survey of Centuries and Styles," comprising a "greatest hits" collection of early vocal music, with selections from the 12th through the 18th centuries. Genres include Gregorian chant, chansons, madrigals, motets, and theater music, by composers such as Machaut, Lassus, Encina, Morales, Dowland, Purcell, Monteverdi, Charpentier, and J.S. Bach. Concerts are on Saturday, October 24 at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, October 25 at 3:00 p.m. Tickets are available in advance or at the door. For more information, contact Musica Sonora at 628-8119 or visit their website at www.musicasonora.org.



CALENDAR LISTING

All concerts are held at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 545 S. 5th Avenue. Tickets (\$15 general admission, \$12 seniors, \$5 students) are available in advance (628-8119 or musicasonora.org) and at the door; advance purchase is recommended. Free parking is available throughout the Armory Park neighborhood. St. Andrew's is wheelchair accessible.

Saturday, October 24, 2009, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, October 25, 2009, 3:00 p.m.

Everything We Love About Early Music: A survey of centuries and styles

With Jeffri Sanders, *harpsichord and organ*

Friday, December 11, 2009, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 13, 2009, 3:00 p.m.

An Old World Christmas

With Kiann Mapes, *baroque flute*, Laura Tagawa, *baroque violin*, and Jeffri Sanders, *harpsichord*

Saturday, January 30, 2010, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 31, 2010, 3:00 p.m.

Blood and Sand: The diverging tradition from medieval Andalusia

With Harlan Hokin, *tenor*, Paul Amiel, *ney and Gothic harp*, and Bruce Stanley, *percussion*

Saturday, April 17, 2010, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 18, 2010, 3:00 p.m.

Posthumously Dead: Heinrich Schütz's German Requiem

With Melanie Germond, *soprano*, and Jeffri Sanders, *harpsichord and organ*