



THE BOSTON CAMERATA

Anne Azéma, Artistic Director
Joel Cohen, Music Director Emeritus

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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February 28, 2011

****PLEASE TAKE NOTE: THE VENUE FOR THIS PRODUCTION HAS CHANGED.
IT WILL NOW BE HELD AT OLD WEST CHURCH
131 CAMBRIDGE ST., BOSTON, MA****

Anne Azéma and Camerata to Explore Medieval Mysticism

"The Spark of the Soul," an original exploration of mystical poetry and music from the Middle Ages, will premiere in the US on March 19, as the closing event of the Boston Camerata's in-town season.

Anne Azéma, Camerata's Artistic Director and featured soloist of the production, conceived the program in response to a commission from a music festival in Erfurt, Germany. The concert, built around the writings of the mystical visionary Meister Eckhardt, has since been featured at events in Paris and Strasbourg, France.

"This is passionate, involving material," remarks the French-born Azéma. "It draws you right in with the intensity of the quest for God and the divine. Just right for Lent!" she adds.

German string instrument virtuoso Susanne Ansorg will be joining Azéma in this two-woman show. "Susanne also sings and reads poetry," says Azéma. "When she speaks

medieval German you hear the angels sigh in appreciation."

Azéma is herself widely acclaimed for her solo programs of medieval song and legend. She is a recipient of the Grand Prix du Disque, and in 2010 was elevated to the rank of Knight (Chevalier) by the French government in recognition of her achievements.

Besides texts by Meister Eckhardt and other French and German mystics, the program includes Gregorian chants, medieval hymns and processions, and some sharply satirical songs critical of official Church policy and politics. "These deeply religious creators were anything but passive wimps," observes Azéma. "When they didn't like what they saw around them, they protested! Maybe that's why Meister Eckhardt, a strong nonconformist, vanished without a trace after a certain point."

The concert will take place in the Old West Church 131 Cambridge St. Boston, MA at 8 pm. Tickets are \$22-\$46 with student and senior discounts available. For additional information visit www.bostoncamerata.org, or contact Annie Houston, General Manager at manager@bostoncamerata.org.

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