



# THE BOSTON CAMERATA

ANNE AZÉMA, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR  
JOEL COHEN, DIRECTOR EMERITUS

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## **FRENCH CATHEDRAL COMMISSIONS MUSIC FROM BOSTON ENSEMBLE**

In an unusual homage to America's top-ranked classical musicians, a famous Gothic cathedral in France has turned to a Boston-based early music ensemble to celebrate its eight hundredth anniversary.

The Boston Camerata, well known for its programs of both European and American repertoires, has been commissioned to create and perform five new programs of medieval music, drawing on the rich heritage of Reims, capital of the French champagne country. Led by Artistic Director Anne Azéma, and by Director Emeritus Joel Cohen, Camerata's singers and instrumentalists will be in residence in Reims during much of June, 2011. "They asked us for a sample program that would work for their cathedral's celebration," recalls Azéma. "I submitted five different ideas and they said, hey, sounds good, we'll take all of them."

"Camerata has often performed French music in France. We really love those opportunities," continues the French-born singer and scholar. "But five new shows – well, that's a challenge, and a huge honor."

"We're often asked to perform early American music over there," adds Joel Cohen. "And that's wonderful, too. But I studied and worked in France, and Anne was born there. It's a homecoming of sorts. It's also a recognition of the many years we, and so many of our fine American colleagues, have devoted to French music both here in the States and in Europe."

The new Boston Camerata programs for Reims will be premiered between June 21 and 30. More information is available at:

<http://www.flaneriesreims.com/c12-concert-du-21-06-2011-20h30-flaneries-musicales-de-reims.html>

Camerata has recently returned from an extensive May tour in Europe, where "Borrowed Light," its music-and-dance coproduction with the Tero Saarinen Dance Company of Helsinki, played for about 8,000 people in five different cities.

"We're channeling different musical spirits this spring and summer," explains Azéma. "Borrowed Light' was all about Shaker song. Then we go to the Boston early music festival with a French medieval program. Then we're in Reims with those five new programs."

"Then, it's August, and Camerata is back in Paris with two more concerts of Americana. Maybe in between all those bookings we can just sit down for a rest, drink some French red wine, and eat a few American hot dogs."