

UN – FINISHED SIDE

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The Boston Camerata Presents a Love Affair from Medieval France

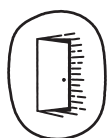
The final program of the organization's 67th season is the U.S. premiere of a Camerata narrative created in 2011 for the Reims Festival, and celebrates Director Emeritus Joel Cohen's 80th birthday.



Called “world-class” by the *New York Times*, [The Boston Camerata](#) is known for its insightful and meticulously researched programming of wide-ranging historical repertoire. Under Artistic Director **Anne Azéma**

– [recently named an Officier des Arts et des Lettres by the French government](#) – the organization's 67th season continues in this tradition of excellence and curiosity.

On May 7 at a Cambridge venue to be announced the Camerata season concludes with a United States premiere of *Douce Dame Jolie: Guillaume de Machaut's Last Affair*. The program tells the story of composer and poet Guillaume de Machaut (1300-1377) and his brief and intense romance with an admiring poet, dancer, and musician Péronne d'Armentière. Their bittersweet story, told in the words of both Machaut and Péronne, and sung to the accompaniment of harps, lutes, and vielles, is among the most affecting tributes to romantic love of the late Middle Ages.



Camerata's version of Machaut's verse novel, *Le Voir Dit – The True Story*, was first created by Camerata Music Director Emeritus **Joel Cohen** for the Reims Festival in 2011, when The Boston Camerata was in residence. Five different programs were created for the 800th anniversary of the cathedral, where Machaut had an ecclesiastical appointment. *Douce Dame Jolie* includes songs and texts that provide a nuanced and intimate perspective on timeless human circumstances and emotions.

The churchman and statesman Machaut and the free-spirited Péronne exchange letters and songs, meet a few times, swear eternal fealty, and are ultimately fated to remain forever separated by the pandemic of the Great Plague, and by the composer's advancing years. Their bittersweet story in verse is accompanied by what appear to be actual letters between the two, extremely rare comments by Machaut about his methods for composing, and above all by love songs of searing beauty.

Even as they grow distant, inevitably, Machaut continues to sing the praise of his now-unreachable lady, and of the ideal of courtly love.

"It's the story of an impossible love," says Artistic Director Anne Azéma. "And, eight centuries after it happened, it still speaks and sings to us so strongly, reawakening our own hopes and sorrows and joys. Machaut and Péronne are forever linked, down through the ages!"

COVID & STREAMING OPTIONS

The Boston Camerata requires patrons to be fully vaccinated and to wear a mask at all times in the concert venue. We recommend that unvaccinated patrons consider buying online tickets. More information is available at [bostoncamerata.org](https://www.bostoncamerata.org). On-demand streaming will be available May 20 - June 5.



**Douce Dame Jolie:
Guillaume de Machaut's Last Affair**

The Boston Camerata

Saturday, May 7, 2022 @ 8PM

Venue TBA

Cambridge, MA

Anne Azéma (voice, hurdy gurdy, narration, direction)
Camila Parias, Clare McNamara, Michael Barrett, Craig Juricka (voice)

Shira Kammen (vielle, rebec, harp)

Christa Patton (winds, harp)

Liza Malamut (brass)

Joel Cohen (narrator)

In person tickets: \$25/\$40/\$60

Online tickets: \$ 20 (release May 20)

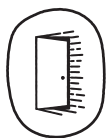
Students: \$ 10

www.bostoncamerata.org 617-262-2092

In-person and streaming options are available.



ANNE AZÉMA AND JOEL COHEN [PHOTO: YANNICK COUPANEC]



BOSTON CAMERATA

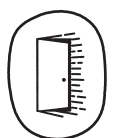
Founded in 1954, as an adjunct to the Boston Museum of Fine Arts' musical instruments collection, The Boston Camerata is among the most distinguished and longest-running early music groups in the U.S. today. Camerata's willingness to approach wide-ranging historical repertoire with a fresh perspective has been its calling card since the beginning.

Directed from 1969-2009 by Joel Cohen, and from 2009 to the present day by French-born vocalist, scholar and stage director Anne Azéma, the Boston Camerata is heralded for its consistency of approach and quality. Called "America's foremost early music ensemble" by *Le Monde* (Paris), the organization has presented a very large number of concert and media productions, both in the U.S. and abroad. Through the pandemic period, Camerata's innovative, online streaming productions of Baroque opera, Renaissance lutesongs, and early American Christmas music have received widespread attention around the globe.

Recent recordings include: *Treasures of Devotion*, music from the early Renaissance, *Free America! Songs of Resistance and Rebellion* produced by Harmonia Mundi (2019). Camerata's *A Medieval Christmas* out on Harmonia Mundi on October 2021, was met with great acclaim landing on the *Billboard* Traditional Classical Chart this past holiday season.



[PHOTO: ROBERT TORRES]





ARTISTIC DIRECTOR ANNE AZÉMA [PHOTO: DAN BUSLER]



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THANKS. LET US KNOW OF QUESTIONS.

