



THE BOSTON CAMERATA

ANNE AZÉMA, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
JOEL COHEN, DIRECTOR EMERITUS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PSALMS AND MUSICAL LEGENDS HIGHLIGHT CAMERATA'S 2009-2010 SEASON

Boston, May 2009

Four local productions form the core of The Boston Camerata's concert season in 2009-2010, augmented by national touring and foreign tours to Colombia, France, and Germany.

Anne Azéma, the early music ensemble's Artistic Director since 2008, revisits her Huguenot Protestant roots in November with the festive **Symphony of Psalms**, honoring the anniversary year of religious leader Jean Calvin. A large ensemble of singers and early instruments will be assisted and augmented by the Choral Fellows of Harvard University, directed by Edward Jones.

Music Director Emeritus Joel Cohen returns in December to direct **A Mediterranean Christmas**, one of Camerata's most successful holiday programs of recent seasons. For this unusual, East-meets-West program, Camerata's musicians will be joined by members of the Sharq Arabic Music ensemble. There will be five area performances.

The French-born Azéma will create two new programs in the spring, based around her special enthusiasm for legend and story telling through early music and poetry.

In March, **The Maria Monologues** will explore the meaning of medieval femininity, with music dedicated to the two key women around Jesus: Mary, the mother, symbol of purity, and Marie Magdalene, intimate companion, and reputedly a repentant sinner/fallen woman.

Alexander the Great: Hero, Warrior and Lover, to be premiered in May, will explore European, Turkish, and Jewish legends of the great conqueror, including musical and poetic evocations of antiquity, the Middle Ages, and the contemporary musical imagination. Partnering with Camerata in this pioneering program will be the Turkish ensemble Dünya, directed by Mehmet Sanlikol.

Several foreign tours, including Camerata's first appearances in South America, and performances in the Midwest and South, will round out a very busy season, the ensemble's second under Anne Azéma's direction.

Tickets for the Boston-area intown series will go on sale at the end of August, 2009. Further information is available by writing to assistant@bostoncamerata.org.

SINGERS OF PRAISE
THE BOSTON CAMERATA'S 2009-2010 CONCERT SEASON

I. A Symphony of Psalms: Honoring Jean Calvin 1509-1564

Sunday, November 8, 2009 Cambridge, MA, 4 PM
Memorial Church, Harvard University, One Harvard Yard
Cambridge, MA 02138

A new program specially conceived for the Jean Calvin anniversary year of 2009. The Boston Camerata presents a garland of psalm settings across the centuries, with special attention to Renaissance Europe, the birthplace of Protestantism. The musical settings will be grouped around important themes/motifs of the texts: psalms of supplication, psalms of praise and psalms of wisdom and grace. A large and colorful production, with voices, strings, winds and continuo instruments.

Assisted by **The Choral Fellows of the Harvard University Choir**, Edward E. Jones, director.

II. A Mediterranean Christmas, directed by Joel Cohen

"Jubilant and inspiring" - *The Boston Globe*

Friday, December 11, Lexington, MA, 8 PM
Follen Church Society, Unitarian-Universalist
755 Massachusetts Ave., Lexington, MA 02420

Saturday, December 12, Cambridge, MA, 8 PM
First Church Cambridge, 11 Garden St., Cambridge, MA 02138

Friday, December 18, Providence, RI, 8 PM
Saint Martin's Church, 50 Orchard Ave., Providence, RI 02906

Saturday, December 19, Newbury, MA, 8 PM
First Parish Church, 20 High Road- Route 1A, Newbury, MA 01951

Sunday, December 20, Boston, MA, 3 PM
First Lutheran Church 299 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116

The Christmas narrative retold using songs, chants, and instrumental pieces from the countries of the Mediterranean basin: Spain, Italy, and southern France in Europe, but also north Africa and the Holy Land. Works are drawn from medieval manuscripts and more recent folklore and oral traditions. With voices, early instruments of Europe and the Middle East, as well as songs and texts in Spanish, Provençal, Italian, Galician, Turkish and Arabic. In collaboration with **SHARQ Arabic Music Ensemble**, Karim Nagi, Director.

III. The Maria Monologues

Friday, March 5, 2010, Boston, MA, 8 PM
First Lutheran Church, 299 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116

An exploration of the “eternal feminine” in the Middle Ages, via songs and poems around two women named Mary: Mary Magdalen, the repentant sinner and intimate of Christ and Mary the Mother, source of grace and mercy to the human race. Liturgical songs, chansons, laude and miracles narratives around the themes of sin, love, pain and redemption.

IV. Alexander the Great: Hero, Warrior and Lover

Friday, May 7, 2010, Boston, MA, 8 PM
First Lutheran Church, 299 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116

Alexander's deeds, both real and legendary, inspired bardic poetry and song both East and West. Our second collaboration with the Turkish music ensemble, Boston-based *Dünya*, brings together these diverse traditions, with sources ranging from ancient times, to the Middle Ages, and continuing all the way to contemporary musical creation. In collaboration with **Dünya**, Mehmet Sanlikol, Director.