



THE BOSTON CAMERATA

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for immediate release
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CARMINA BURANA: MEDIEVAL STUDENT SONGS RING OUT WITH AZEMA AND THE CAMERATA

The joys and sorrows of student life in the Middle Ages will inspire the Boston Camerata's inaugural season concert in Boston on October 27.

Anne Azéma, famous here and abroad for her inventive programming of medieval song, will lead Camerata in "Carmina Burana" as an offering to Boston-area music lovers.

The program focusses in large part on the lighter and more playful side of the Middle Ages, with songs about riotous life in the Latin Quarter of Paris: drinking, gambling, and wenching. "But there is a serious and political side, too," comments Azéma.

"Young adults in the pay of the medieval Church saw a lot of abuse and corruption going on, and some of the best pieces are biting witty protest songs against the hierarchy. Think of Jon Stewart with a tonsured head, a quill, and a parchment."

Camerata's version of "Carmina Burana," one of its most successful productions, returns to the original thirteenth century manuscript for inspiration and melodic substance. But Anne Azéma stresses the timeless nature of the material.

"Yes, these are really old songs," reminisces Azéma. "But besides the drinking and the wenching there is plenty of political commentary concerning the abuse of power that sounds like yesterday's headlines in your daily newspaper."

"But the main thing," she concludes, "is to have fun. 'Carmina' is back in town. Please come and enjoy."

The performance, at the First Church on Marlborough Street in the Back Bay will feature Camerata soloists and instrumentalists, assisted by the Amherst College Madrigal Singers. Performance time is 4pm. Tickets (priced from \$22 to \$46 with a special rate for students) can be obtained via the Boston Camerata website at www.bostoncamerata.org, and further information is available at 617-262-2092