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Contact: Annie Houston, manager@bostoncamerata.org

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FRENCH GOVERNMENT HONORS ANNE AZÉMA
CAMERATA DIRECTOR RECEIVES COVETED "ARTS ET LETTRES" DECORATION

Anne Azéma, Artistic Director of the Boston Camerata, has been named Chevalier (Knight) of the Order of Arts and Letters by the French government, it was learned yesterday.

The "Arts et Lettres" decoration is awarded each year to a handful of artists and creators, both French and non-French. It is one of the principal distinctions of the French Republic.

As a singer, Anne Azéma has been widely acclaimed for her interpretations of early French music. She has also distinguished herself as a director, scholar and researcher, leading her own musical teams on a series of original programs (concerts and recordings) of medieval music. She is a co-recipient, among other rewards, of the Grand Prix du Disque. A longtime soloist with the Boston Camerata, she assumed the directorship of that eminent early music group in 2008.

The French-born Ms. Azéma has lived in the Boston area for many years. She has been an American citizen since 2004.

"We have always been enormously proud of Anne and her work," commented Ken Turino, president of the Boston Camerata board. "This wonderful decoration further confirms the contribution she makes to our community, and to the world."

Plans for an awards ceremony have not yet been confirmed.
The Boston Camerata, founded in 1954, produces an intown concert series for the Boston area and tours regularly in the US and all over the world. The ensemble performs European music of the Medieval, Renaissance and Baroque eras, and early American music, sacred and secular. Over 30 CDs and videos have been released under The Boston Camerata's name. For information regarding the upcoming 2010-2011 Boston-area season and the Camerata's work please visit www.bostoncamerata.org.