



Boston Camerata Presents *City on the Hill*, Early Hymns and Spirituals of New England

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For immediate release (Boston, MA)—[The Boston Camerata](#), America's preeminent early music ensemble, presents ***City on the Hill***, a program of early hymns and spirituals from New England. The performance will take place on Friday, April 5, 2019 at 8pm at First Church in Cambridge, 11 Garden St, Cambridge, MA.

Tickets are \$26-\$63; student tickets are \$10 with student ID. Tickets may be purchased at boston-camerata.org or by phone at 617-262-2092.

The 17th-century Europeans who arrived in North America were searching for the blessed place where they could start their lives anew. Music accompanied their quest from the beginning. Drawing on original sources, Camerata will perform songs by the religious groups who came to New England. From the Puritans to the anthem-singing Universalists of the 18th century, to the utopian Shakers whose spirituals and dance songs were central to the American dream of the Shining City, hear this powerful music performed by voices, fiddle, flute, guitar and cello.

The Camerata will perform songs for voice and instruments with works by Boston's own composer William Billings, Shaker Father James Whittaker, Jeremiah Ingalls, along with traditional English songs and psalms.

City on the Hill Cast:

Anne Azéma, mezzo-soprano, direction
Camila Parias, soprano
Deborah Rentz-Moore, alto
Daniel Hershey, tenor
Michael Barrett, tenor
Luke Scott, bass-baritone
Jesse Lepkoff, flutes, guitar
Eric Martin, violin
Reinmar Seidler, cello

About The Boston Camerata

Currently celebrating its 64th season, The Boston Camerata ranks among the world's oldest and most eminent early music ensembles. Founded in 1954, Camerata has been under the direction of French-born singer and scholar Anne Azéma since 2008. Along with its commitment to maintaining and renewing Camerata "classics," Anne Azéma and the Camerata originate many new and distinguished productions of important early repertoires spanning eight centuries of music history.

Camerata's musical performances are well known for their blending of spontaneity and emotional commitment with careful research and scholarship. With its distinguished roster of singers and

specialists in early instruments, Camerata produces an annual concert series for audiences in the Greater Boston area. The Boston Camerata also tours regularly all over the world. Anne Azéma's innovative staged production built around a medieval tournament in France, *The Night's Tale*, first presented in France and Luxembourg, was performed in Boston to great acclaim in spring 2016. The company's South American debut tour took place in Brazil in July, 2016. Further tours took place in Europe in summer 2017 and in North America— including a reprise of the *Play of Daniel*, presented with great success to Boston audiences in late 2014 and during early 2017 again in Boston and other American cities.

The Camerata is also renowned for its many concerts and recordings of early music from the New World North and South and for its bridge productions of Eastern and Western music. *A Mediterranean Christmas* and *The Sacred Bridge: Jews, Christians, and Muslims in Medieval Europe* are noted among these pioneering enterprises.

The Camerata's many recordings (Grand Prix du Disque) as well as its numerous media appearances (two prizes at FIFA Montréal, 2014; one prize at the 2014 Massachusetts Film Festival) and its many museum and educational projects (including its recent Visiting Artist residency at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology), have brought its work to audiences in every continent. Collaborations with local choirs (both children and adults) and with young professionals-in-training in both Europe and the United States are a distinctive feature of the company's recent touring seasons. Late 2018 will mark the release of the Camerata's latest CD, recorded in coordination with an international exhibit project of late Medieval artifacts (Toronto, New York, and Amsterdam).

About Anne Azéma, Artistic Director

French-born vocalist and scholar Anne Azéma directs The Boston Camerata (2008) and the French ensemble Aziman (2005). Her current discography of 35 recordings (Grand Prix du Disque; Edison Prize) includes five widely acclaimed solo CD recitals. Since assuming the directorship of The Boston Camerata in 2008, she has created a series of fourteen new productions acclaimed by press and public alike.

Ms. Azéma is in demand as a solo recitalist, presenting her original programs to audiences in North America, Europe, the Middle East and Asia. Her collaboration with the Tero Saarinen Company (Helsinki, Finland) around early American songs has been praised on three continents. In November 2014, she edited, directed and staged *The Play of Daniel* to critical and public acclaim; the production was successfully reprised in 2017 and will tour again in early 2018. Her music theater work (*The Night's Tale – Le Tournoi de Chauvency*), based on a 14th-century French narrative, was enthusiastically reviewed by the Boston press in 2016. Most recently (2016 and 2017), she reprised her role of Iseult, directed and staged Camerata's famed Medieval *Tristan & Iseult*, for summer festivals in the U.S. and Germany.

Among her teaching activities are master classes, seminars, and residencies at conservatories and universities here and abroad. She has contributed articles to scholarly and general audience publications. In 2011, Ms. Azéma was named Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres by the French Government. Ms. Azéma was the Robert M. Trotter Distinguished Visiting Professor at the University of Oregon, Eugene in 2012, has lectured at New York University, Boston University, and is currently on the faculty at the Longy School of Music of Bard College. The second film in which she appeared received two prizes at the Montréal FIFA (2014). She has been recently invited to teach at the Manitoba and Tennessee Universities, the Fondazione Cini, Venice; the Fondazione Benetton, Treviso; the Schola Cantorum, Basel. In May 2017, Ms. Azéma was the recipient of the Distinguished Artist Award of the Saint Botolph Club, Boston.

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