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NEW TRINITY BAROQUE TO GIVE A WORLD PREMIERE IN "THE ART OF THE ITALIAN MADRIGAL"

Works by a forgotten Italian master, Francesco Portinaro, will find a new life after more than 400 years since they have been performed in Renaissance Italy, together with other masterpieces by Monteverdi, Marenzio, Palestrina...

(Atlanta – Wednesday, October 24, 2007) – This November, "Atlanta's most established early music group" (AJC), New Trinity Baroque, will present the second concert in its 2007-08 Season, entitled THE ART OF THE ITALIAN MADRIGAL. Two concerts, scheduled for Saturday, November 3rd at 8 PM, at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church in Buckhead (1790 LaVista Rd NE, Atlanta, GA 30329) and Monday, November 5th at 8 PM, at Oxford College of Emory University in Oxford near Covington, will feature some of the most beautiful madrigals for four to seven voices, written by the great Italian masters of the late 16th and early 17th centuries, including Claudio Monteverdi, Giulio Caccini, Luca Marenzio, Sigismondo D'India, Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrini, Orazio Vecchi, and others.

The program will also include works by a forgotten Italian master, Francesco Portinaro, and will mark the modern world premiere of some of his most beautiful madrigals, selected from several volumes of his works. While most madrigals are still unpublished, two volumes came to life several years ago in a musicological edition by Garland Press, edited by Dr. Maria Archetto, a musicologist who is also a professor at Oxford College of Emory University. Archetto initially discovered Portinaro's neglected works while conducting research for her PhD degree at the Eastman School of Music. The idea to present a concert with his works came about through the collaboration between Archetto and Predrag Gosta, the founder and the artistic director of New Trinity Baroque. Since 2004, New Trinity Baroque has been Ensemble in Residence at Oxford College. The Portinaro project is the culmination of a three-year collaboration, which has already produced one CD with music by Giacomo Carissimi, featuring the Oxford Chorale and NTB, and which has been recently released worldwide on the Edition Lilac label.

"Portinaro's madrigals give us a glimpse into the world of Renaissance Italy, where political power and artistic sensibility were often blended," Archetto says. "These madrigals are not only beautiful music, but they represent the attempt of a provincial nobility, finding itself in political subjugation to the empire of Venice, to flex its aesthetic muscles by expressing in poetic-musical form that which they could not express by force of arms."

New Trinity Baroque, originally founded in 1998 in London, has been an active contributor to Atlanta's artistic life since that same year, after its founder and director, Predrag Gosta, moved to the U.S. to pursue graduate studies at Georgia State University. Now an established conductor, keyboardist and early music scholar, Gosta has built a reputation as one of the foremost experts in historically informed performance in the southeastern U.S. With New Trinity Baroque he has offered over 100 diverse programs in the past 10 years, featuring both known and unknown musical masterpieces, often surprising audiences with exciting and innovative interpretations.

For this occasion, Gosta created a new performing edition, presenting his view of Portinaro's music, and which will be recorded for a new CD release. Gosta and New Trinity Baroque have been following an active recording schedule since 2006, when they decided to start recording most of their projects planned for the season for a commercial release. He and New Trinity Baroque have five CDs published so far – the most recent one being released just last month. NTB is also planning to issue at least two more CDs by the end of this season, and intends to maintain the schedule of releasing three more during the next year, when the group also celebrates its 10th Anniversary.

The new edition of Portinaro's madrigals created by Gosta for this concert will also become available to a world-wide audience on Early Music Network's music edition, UrtextEditions.com, under whose patronage NTB has worked since its early stages. Most of New Trinity Baroque's performing editions have been created by NTB musicians themselves, and later they have been published on UrtextEditions.com. This all has been part of New Trinity Baroque's mission to promote early music and educate audiences in Atlanta as well as beyond the borders of Georgia.

Predrag Gosta is very excited about the project, which is a result of an initial casual, "what if," conversation two years ago with Dr. Archetto. He and Dr. Archetto worked for many months to prepare the terrain for what promises to be one of the most exciting and most invested projects of NTB's 10-year history. Gosta is happy that the realization is so close: "I am excited, as well as delighted to bring into life this forgotten music. After the audience hears it, I am confident that they will fall in love with Portinaro."

The program on November 3 and 5 will be presented by an ensemble of 14 singers and instrumentalists, including two sopranos, two countertenors, two tenors, two basses, violins, viola, cello, two viola da gambas, chitarrone, organ and harpsichord. All of the musicians have been hand-picked by Gosta's experienced hand, and will feature artists from all parts of the U.S. as well as England. Among them are sopranos Kathryn Mueller (Tucson, AZ) and Julia Matthews (Reading, PA), countertenors Terry Barber (Ft. Lauderdale, FL) and Chris Conely (Lexington, KY), tenor Steven Soph (Boston), bass Cameron Beauchamp (Boston), violinists Carrie Krause (Bozeman, MT) and Garry Clarke (England), violist William Bauer (St. Louis), cellist André Laurent O'Neil (Albany, NY), lutenist Michael Fields (England), as well as three Atlantans – gambists Martha Bishop and Susan Paterson, and Predrag Gosta who will be, beside directing it, also featured at this concert as a singer and a keyboard player (organ and harpsichord).

Beside Portinaro, the concert will feature selected madrigals by other composers. Among them Monteverdi's passionate "Lamento della Ninfa," Marenzio's remarkable "Dolorosi martir", D'India's deeply emotional "Cruda Amarili", selections from Vecchi's witty madrigal comedy "L'Amfiparnaso" and much more. "Our audience will have the opportunity to hear beautiful madrigals which once delighted the ears of the finest families of the Italian Veneto (the region around Venice including the cities of Verona, Vicenza, and Padua) in a concert by some of the finest musicians in Atlanta – New Trinity Baroque," said Maria Archetto. "Of course, the central position at the concert will be the modern world premiere of nine madrigals by Francesco Portinaro, selected from more than 100 of them, and which have not been heard in live performance for more than 400 years."

The tickets for the New Trinity Baroque concert at St. Bartholomew's are \$9 for students, \$19 for Friends of NTB (the ensemble's club of supporters), \$29 for general admission, and \$39 for premium seating. Season tickets are still available at a discount of 10 to 20%, and are available as a "full" and "pick-3" season ticket options. Tickets are available for purchase online and by phone at 770-638-7574. A limited number of tickets for the concert in Oxford are available directly through the college and may be reserved by calling 770-784-8888.

For additional information please visit New Trinity Baroque's website, newtrinitybaroque.org.

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