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Media Contact: Eric Scheider, director

Contact info: www.eemf.net, 828-545-8865, info@eemf.net



Announcing our 2010 Festival

Asheville: The EEMF is pleased to announce its 3rd wonderful season of music expanding minds in a shrinking world. This year's concerts will be held in Asheville over two weekends, March 12-14 (chamber music) and 19-20 (larger works). Musicians and audiences around the world and throughout history have been discovering surprising and unique doorways into the universal through sound and performance. The Echo Early Music Festival explores music from before the European classical period (before around 1750), presenting the immense treasures of the vast surviving historical traditions from around the world, using contextually appropriate practices and instruments as much as possible. In our performances, this music is as alive as the day it was written. Further information, story leads, advance interviews and contact info for visiting and local artists is available upon request. Press photos and audio samples are available at www.eemf.net/media.htm.

Schedule:

Weekend 1: Chamber Music with Harps

Friday, March 12, 7:30 p.m., Jubilee! Community, 46 Wall St, Asheville

Paula Fagerberg, Historical Harps

Saturday, March 13, 3:00 p.m., Jubilee! Community,

Francisca Vanherle, soprano, with Gail Schroeder viol, Barbara Weiss harpsichord, and Paula Fagerberg

Saturday, March 13, 7:30 p.m., St. Matthias Episcopal Church, 1 Max St, Asheville

Gerald Trimble, viol, with River Guerguerian percussion, John Pringle traditional Chinese lutes and harps, and Robbie Link violone/bass viol

Sunday, March 14, 3:00 p.m., Jubilee! Community

Trefoil: In the Chamber of the Harpers

Drew Minter: countertenor and harp, Mark Rimple: countertenor, lute, harp,

Marsha Young: soprano and harps

Weekend 2: Dido and Aeneas

Friday, March 19, 7:30 p.m., St. Matthias Episcopal Church, Asheville

Saturday, March 20, 7:30 p.m., Trinity Presbyterian Church, 900 Blythe St, Hendersonville

Henry Purcell's Dido and Aeneas, in concert

Amanda Gardner-Porter as Dido, Philip Haynie as Aeneas, Michael Porter conducting

Tickets for all concerts are available at the door. Suggested donation is \$15. Advance tickets, season passes, and reserved seats are available at the website and at SoliClassica, 1550 Hendersonville Rd, Asheville.

About the Programs:

Paula Fagerberg, Atlanta-based historical harpist, kicks off our chamber music weekend Friday evening, 3/12, with music for solo harp, performing selections on arpa doppia (a triple-strung chromatic instrument of the Italian Baroque). A rare treat, Paula's breadth of knowledge and virtuosic musicianship usher in this harp-themed weekend.

The wonderful Belgian soprano **Francisca Vanherle** will making her Echo debut 3/13 along with returning favorite **Muses' Delight** (Barbara Weiss harpsichord, Gail Schroeder viola da gamba, and baroque violin TBA), and Paula Fagerberg, in a program of early Italian song by the likes of Caccini, Frescobaldi, Strozzi, Castello, Carissimi, and more.

Baroque/world music artist **Gerald Trimble**, viol, returns to the festival 3/13 in collaboration with percussionist **River Guerguerian** for a program exploring the roots of Baroque and Renaissance improvisation. Guest artists include Robbie Link, violone and viol, and John Pringle, traditional Chinese lutes and harps. The evening is sure to include variations on tunes influenced by traditional styles from Celtic to Carnatic, brought to life by these world travelers on historic instruments, including a 300 year old viol.

"Guerguerian made magical sounds" -The New York Times

Closing the chamber music portion of the festival 3/14, we're fortunate to welcome the unique trio **Trefoil**, consisting of Drew Minter: countertenor and harp; Mark Rimple: countertenor, lute, harp; and Marsha Young: soprano and harps. These three exceptional and well-traveled musicians join forces for their program **In the Chamber of the Harpers: Late Medieval Music from the Iberian Peninsula**.

The New York Times: "otherworldly harmonies";

Washington Post: "both hearty and ethereal";

Metropolitan Museum of Art: "masterful and exquisite presentation"

Henry Purcell's (c. 1659 – 1695) ***Dido and Aeneas***, set to a text of Nahum Tate, was first performed in 1689 at Josias Priest's School for Young Gentlewomen. This English-language opera is based on a story from the fourth book of Virgil's *Aeneid*, of the legendary Queen of Carthage, Dido, and the Trojan refugee Aeneas. Amanda Porter ("Standing out both vocally and in [her] acting. -Classical Voice of North Carolina) as Dido brings the story to its tragic conclusion with the famous aria "When I am laid in Earth." Our cast and orchestra, performing on baroque instruments, will present a dramatic concert rendition of one of the first great English operas 3/19 and 20 in Asheville and Hendersonville.

Further program information, recordings, performer bios and more are available at www.eemf.net or by request. EEMF is a 501c3 non-profit project of Keowee Chamber Music.

Artist interviews are available upon request.