

PRESS RELEASE (12/11/08, revised 1/22/2009)

Announcing the 2009 Echo Early Music Festival:

“The Golden Age: Music of England” 1/30 - 2/28/09

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Schedule of Events:

Friday, 1/30, 7:30 p.m., Brevard, NC, Farallon Recorder Quartet Concert

Saturday, 1/31, 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Brevard, NC, Farallon Recorder Quartet **WORKSHOP** (\$30)

Saturday, 1/31, 7:30 p.m., **Asheville, NC**, Farallon Recorder Quartet Concert

Friday, 2/6, 7:30 p.m., **Asheville, NC**, Muses' Delight Concert

Saturday, 2/7, 7:30 p.m., Tryon, NC, Muses' Delight Concert

Sunday, 2/8, 3:00 p.m. Davidson, NC, Muses Delight Concert

Friday, 2/13, 7:30 p.m., **Asheville, NC**, Carolina Pro Musica Concert

Sunday, 2/15, 7:30 p.m., Davidson, NC, Carolina Pro Musica Concert

Friday, 2/20, 7:30 p.m., **Asheville, NC**, Pastyme Concert

Saturday, 2/21, 1:00 p.m., **Asheville, NC**, England Swings lecture/demo with Gerald Trimble

Saturday, 2/21, 7:30 p.m., Greenville, SC, Pastyme Concert

Sunday, 2/22, 3:00 p.m., Davidson, NC, Pastyme Concert

Monday, 2/23, 7 – 10 p.m., **Asheville, NC**, Shrove Monday Masque, and English Country Dance

Friday, 2/27, 7:30 p.m., **Asheville, NC**, Ian Howell and Tableau Baroque Concert

Saturday, 2/28, 11:00 a.m., **Asheville, NC**, The Counter Tenor Voice lecture/demo, w/ Ian Howell

All concerts are a suggested \$20 donation at the door for adults. The lectures and the Masque are a suggested donation \$10 at the door. Gift passes and our “Friends of Early Music” passes are also available. Special events are priced as listed. Venues are listed below.

Asheville, NC:

The Echo Early Music Festival is delighted to announce its second annual festival. This year, over five weekends spanning the month of February, the festival's concerts will focus on chamber music repertoire from England. Audiences will enjoy repertoire beginning in the time of Elizabeth I and Shakespeare, continuing through the following two centuries, and concluding with the music that influenced Handel's famous compositions. Several workshops by nationally renowned early music performers complement our weekly concerts in Asheville and outreach concerts around the region.

More information at www.eemf.net.

Additional press materials are available, including artist and organizer interviews, additional photos, extended biographies, and recordings of a number of the performers. The Echo Early Music Festival is a project of Keowee Chamber Music, a 501c3 non-profit.

PRESS PHOTOS FOR ALL PERFORMERS ARE AVAILABLE AT:

<http://www.eemf.net/pressmaterials/photos/>

EVENT and PERFORMER DETAILS

Farallon Recorder Quartet

The Farallon Recorder Quartet, based in the San Francisco Bay area, gives inspiring performances of a vast and varied repertoire extending across time and genre. Bach and Gershwin, Ockeghem and Serocki; sedate, wild, sublime, Farallon Recorder Quartet does it all with style, reaching out to modern audiences in an accessible and exciting manner. Farallon's debut CD, a collection of sacred and secular works by the 16th century composer Ludwig Senfl, was released in 2005. The Farallon Recorder Quartet performs on numerous types of recorder from Medieval to modern, from sopranino to contrabass, from 6 inches to 6 feet tall. While devoting much of their concert programs to Renaissance and Baroque music, Farallon Recorder Quartet is also active in performing 20th and 21st century music, both well established works, and newly composed pieces, some of which have been written for the ensemble. Members of Farallon are Letitia Berlin (current president of the American Recorder Society), Louise Carslake, Annette Bauer, and Frances Blaker. More information on the performers can be found at <http://www.farallonrecorderquartet.com/>

Concerts:

Friday, January 30, 7:30 p.m., The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Brevard, NC

Saturday, January 31, 7:30 p.m., St. Matthias Episcopal Church, Asheville, NC

Farallon is also performing in Davidson, NC 1/25/09.

Workshop

Saturday, January 31, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Brevard, NC

This workshop on recorder performance will include sections for performers at all skill levels. Registration is \$30.

Muses Delight

Muses' Delight is a Baroque ensemble specializing in the vast and beautiful repertoire for baroque violin, viola da gamba and basso continuo. Gesa Kordes, violin, performs with numerous chamber ensembles and Baroque Orchestras on both sides of the Atlantic, including the Washington Bach Consort, Ensemble Musical Offering, Opera Lafayette, Ensemble Tra i Tempi, and the Rheinisches Barockorchester Bonn. She has toured as soloist and chamber musician in the U.S., Central America, Europe, and Israel and has recorded for NPR, harmonia mundi, FONON, Dorian, and Naxos.

Gail Ann Schroder, viola da gamba, has performed extensively as soloist and with various ensembles including the Huelgas Ensemble, Capilla Flamenca, Combattimento Consort Amsterdam and the Leipzig Barockorchester. She has participated in numerous radio and television productions, and on CD recordings for such labels as DHM, Sony Classical, Ricercar and Erato.

Barabara Weiss, harpsichord, has performed at the Boston, San Antonio and Berkeley Early Music Festivals, and at Winnipeg Folk Festival. Ms. Weiss is a member of the Baroque ensemble Belladonna and has performed with the Newberry Consort, the New International Trio, King's Noyse, Apollo's Fire, The Washington Bach Consort, Piffaro and Tempesta di Mare. She has recorded on Dorian, Flying Fish and Harmonia Mundi USA. More info at www.eemf.net/musesbio.pdf

Concerts:

Friday, February 6, 7:30 p.m., Cathedral of All Souls, Asheville, NC

Saturday, February 7, 7:30 p.m., Tryon Arts Center, Tryon, NC

Sunday, February 8, 3:00 p.m., St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Davidson, NC

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Carolina Pro Musica

Carolina Pro Musica was established in 1977 to promote the performance of music written before 1800 through the use of historic instruments and/or copies and in the performance practice of the periods in which the music was written. The ensemble has maintained a concert series in the historic 1892 St. Mary's Chapel in Charlotte bringing guest artists to Charlotte as well as performing a variety of music from medieval to present day. The ensemble has performed throughout the Southeast. They have received grants from the N.C. Arts Council, the South Carolina Arts Council, the Arts and Science Council of Charlotte-Mecklenburg, the Cultural Education Collaborative (Charlotte,NC) and monies from the National Endowment for the Arts. A Christmas music compact disk with funding by the Hearst Service Center of the Hearst Corporation was available for the 1997 Holiday season. It was recorded at Belmont Abbey, Belmont, NC. Members are Karen Hite Jacob, artistic director and harpsichord; Holly Maurer, viola da gamba, continuo, flauto traverso, and recorder; Rebecca Miller Saunders, soprano; and Edward Ferrell, recoder and flauto traverso. More information on the group may be found at <http://www.carolinapromusica.org/>

Concerts:

Friday, February 13, 7:30 p.m., Cathedral of All Souls, Asheville, NC

Sunday, February 15, 3:00 p.m., St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Davidson, NC

Pastyme

Pastyme vocal octet takes its name from a madrigal written by Henry VIII, "Pastyme with Goode Companye," which extols the virtues of "all goodly sport" in passing away the hours. In keeping with this theme, Pastyme enjoys performing a wide variety of repertoire – Renaissance to rock, Bach to Broadway, sacred to secular. They are frequent performers at The Biltmore Estate, St. Lawrence Basilica and Trinity Episcopal Church in Asheville, and have appeared in numerous venues in North and South Carolina. The group made their Piccolo Spoleto debut in Charleston in May 2000 to a rave review.

The individual members of Pastyme are seasoned performers in their own right, and bring to the group an impressive background of musical experience in theater, concert stage, and church. The group has no one director; instead, all contribute to the selection, artistic interpretation, and development of each piece. Through their association, they have evolved into a band of friends as well as performers. Making music together is a delightful pastime for all of them. Pastyme members are Wendy Myers (soprano), Pamela Miller (soprano), Julie Williams (alto), Faye Burner (alto), Jeff Konz (tenor), Lee Thomas (tenor), Roberto Flores (bass), and Ken Wilson (bass). More info at <http://pastyme.home.att.net>.

Concerts

Friday, February 20, 7:30 p.m., Cathedral of All Souls, Asheville, NC

Saturday, February 21, 7:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Greenville, SC

Sunday, February 22, 3:00 p.m., St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Davidson, NC

Ian Howell, countertenor, and Tableau Baroque

Tableau is an American chamber music ensemble dedicated to bringing the music of the Baroque to life through emotionally connected, historically informed, illuminating performances. Core members Ian Howell, countertenor, and Henry Lebedinsky, early keyboards, are joined for this concert by Michael Albert, baroque violin/countertenor, and Brian Howard, baroque cello.

Praised by the New York Times for his "...clear voice and attractive timbre..." and San

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Francisco Classical Voice for his "flawless singing . . .," Ian Howell, Countertenor, has performed on major concert stages on five continents and thirty-five American states. In 2006, Mr. Howell took First Prize at the American Bach Soloists International Solo Competition with an acclaimed performance of Bach's Cantata BWV 170, *Vergnügte Ruh*, and Third Prize at the Oratorio Society of New York's Competition. This Blacksburg, VA native can be heard with the all male chamber choir [Chanticleer](#) on one DVD and seven CDs, including the GRAMMY award winning *Lamentations and Praises* and the GRAMMY award nominated *Our American Journey*. Recent roles include the alto soloist in Handel's *Messiah* at Carnegie Hall's Stern Auditorium, *Endimion* in Cavalli's *La Calisto*, and *Lichas* in Handel's *Hercules*. Mr. Howell has worked with such conductors as Kent Tritle, John Scott, Jeffrey Thomas, Neville Mariner, Simon Carrington, and James Sinclair. More info on the other group members may be found at www.tableaubaroque.org.

Concerts:

Friday, February 27, 7:30 p.m., Cathedral of All Souls, Asheville, NC
Tableu is also performing in Davidson, NC 3/1/09.

Workshops:

Saturday, February 28, 11:00 a.m., Jubilee Community, Asheville, NC, Mr. Howell and Tableau will give an informative and lively lecture demonstration about the countertenor voice.

Gerald Trimble

England Swings: The English Tradition of Improvisation in the 17th and 18th Centuries. This musical demonstration and lecture, presented by baroque/world music recording artist and performer Gerald Trimble, will focus on the rich musical heritage of improvised music in Britain during the baroque period. From roud in Africa, the middle east, and renaissance Europe, the art of extemporization on a ground bass flourished in England and Scotland through the 18th century. The particular musical style that developed was the result of a unique fusion of continental influences with Celtic songs and dance tunes, and was enriched by the confluence of many cultures that made the British Isles an artistic melting pot in this area. The importation of this musical combination to the Americas led to the birth of modern jazz and blues, when the harmonic ideas of Europe were reunited with African rhythms.

The presentation will feature numerous musical examples of actual improvisation on historical grounds, rather than replaying of transcriptions. The music will be performed on actual period instruments, particularly a c. 1715 5-string bass violin by legendary London maker Barak Norman—an instrument combining features of violoncello and viola da gamba, restored to exact English baroque specifications.

Workshops:

Saturday, February 21, 1:00 p.m., Jubilee Community, Asheville, NC

Shrove Monday Masque

This year's E.E.M.F. fund raising gala event will be held during the traditional English Shrovetide festivities, during the carnival period leading up to what is know in other areas as Mardi Gras. English dance music on authentic instruments, and the oldest know English country dances, with instructions and accessible dances included for beginners, combine with period costumes (Shakespeare anyone?). We're working on the pancake races.

Monday, February 23, 7:00 – 10:00 p.m, Jubilee Community, Asheville, NC

VENUE DETAILS

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, 22 Fisher Rd, Brevard, NC
<http://www.lutheranchurchbrevardnc.com/>

St. Matthias Episcopal Church, 1 Dundee St, Asheville, NC
<http://www.diocesewnc.org/index.php?church=saintmatthias>

Cathedral of All Souls, Biltmore Village, Asheville, NC
<http://www.allsouls cathedral.org/>

St. Alban's Episcopal Church, 301 Caldwell Ln, Davidson, NC
<http://www.saintalbans-davidson.org/>

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 1002 S Main St., Greenville, SC
<http://www.st-andrews-episcopal.org/>

Tryon Arts Center, 34 Melrose Avenue, Tryon, NC
<http://www.tryonarts.org/>

Jubilee Community, 40 Wall St, Asheville, NC
<http://www.jubileecommunity.org>