

PhilharmoniaBaroqueOrchestra

Nicholas McGegan, Music Director

PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT: Sasha Hnatkovich, Director of Marketing and Public Relations

EMAIL: sasha@philharmonia.org

PHONE: (415) 252-1288, ext. 315

DATE: June 17, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SOLD OUT CONCERTS, SUCCESSFUL EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND HONORS FOR MUSIC DIRECTOR NICHOLAS MCGEGAN HIGHLIGHT 2010 ANNUAL MEETING OF PHILHARMONIA BAROQUE ORCHESTRA

June 17, 2010 – San Francisco, CA The announcement of international honors for Music Director Nicholas McGegan, a celebration of artistic accomplishments including sold out concerts, the successful debut of new education programs, and reports from new leadership were highlights of Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra's 2010 Annual Meeting, held June 14. The meeting began with the announcement that McGegan was named an Officer of the British Empire (OBE) "for services to music overseas" in the Queen's Birthday Honors list, which was published Saturday, June 12.

Artistic accomplishments and highlights of the Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra's 2009-10 season were discussed by both President of the Board Paul Sugarman and Executive Director Peter Pastreich. Both leaders acknowledged the continued support and generosity of the San Francisco Bay Area community and thanked board members for their volunteer work and financial support during especially difficult economic circumstances.

Revenue from ticket sales was the highest in more than a decade, including two sets with sold out performances: Henry Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*, conducted by Nicholas McGegan and featuring mezzo-soprano Susan Graham, and George Frideric Handel's Water Music Suite led by guest conductor Jordi Savall. Among the 36 acclaimed Bay Area concerts, McGegan and the ensemble also played the United States premiere of historically-informed performances of works by Johannes Brahms on period instruments with violinist Viktoria Mullova. Touring included acclaimed performances at Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles and the Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts at U.C. Davis, bringing the artistic excellence of Philharmonia Baroque to a statewide audience.

The organization appointed its first-ever Director of Education, Lisa Grodin. Grodin, a member of Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra for more than 2 decades and a frequent performer as Principal Player on violin and viola, also serves as Artistic Music Director of Berkeley's acclaimed Crowden School. Under her leadership, the orchestra offered

two new series of concerts: a Student Concert Series, attended by nearly 500 students from 12 Bay Area schools, and a Family Concert Series, attended by 150 families. Members of the orchestra also presented six in-depth classroom programs to three Bay Area middle and high schools, reaching over 150 students. All of these programs introduced youth to the unique sound of period-instruments and historically-informed performance styles, as well as the historical context for Baroque and Early Classical music.

Sugarman announced five newly elected members to the Board of Directors: Adam Arthur Bier, Attorney at Law and Principal/ of Bier Legal; Kay Sprinkel Grace, Founder and Principal of Transforming Philanthropy, LLC; Randall Grahm, Winemaker and Owner of Bonny Doon Vineyard; Peter Hibbard, Engineer (retired) at Adobe Systems; and Nancy Mims, Vice President of Organizational Development at TRGarts. Also elected were former board members Steve Cassidy, Partner at Sedgwick Detert Moran & Arnold; Chris McCrum, Financial Services Executive; Fred Matteson, Managing Director of Alvarez & Marsal Business Consulting; and Jane Stuppin, Private Investor.

“The past year has been a year of great transition and growth,” said Sugarman. “Just about one year ago today we welcomed Peter Pastreich, truly the dean of American orchestra managers, as our new Executive Director. We are quite thrilled to be able to persuade Peter to serve as our chief executive. Peter has managed orchestras for nearly 50 years, and Philharmonia Baroque’s extraordinary results this past season, and plans for next season, are a testament to the experience and expertise that Peter has brought to the job.”

“2009-10 was a year of consolidation and preparation,” said Pastreich. “We spent much time and energy asking ourselves where we want our organization to go in the years ahead and how we are going to get there. We articulated our ambitions for Philharmonia Baroque – that it be the foremost period instrument orchestra in America, maintaining the highest possible performance standards; that its preeminence be recognized locally, nationally, and internationally; that it serve our Bay Area community through strong and effective performance, education and outreach programs, and by filling its halls with the large and enthusiastic audiences; and that it develop human and financial resources sufficient to sustain and support our growth on a long-term basis.”

Though final audited results are not yet available for the close of fiscal year 2010, which ends on June 31, 2010, preliminary calculations indicate that Philharmonia Baroque will end the season with a deficit of \$182,000 on a total budget of \$3.2 million. Throughout the year, Philharmonia Baroque managed its budget with pro-active and aggressive administrative expense reductions, and increased emphasis on earned income.

For further information, please contact Sasha Hnatkovich, Director of Marketing and Public Relations, (415) 252-1288, ext. 315.

###