

philharmonia
BAROQUE
Nicholas McGegan • Music Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**PHILHARMONIA BAROQUE ORCHESTRA
PRESENTS RECORDER VIRTUOSO MARION VERBRUGGEN
WITH CONDUCTOR OTTAVIO DANTONE
NOVEMBER 17-20**

San Francisco, CA--October 25, 2011–Philharmonia Baroque welcomes the return of Dutch recorder virtuoso Marion Verbruggen in four concerts this November, conducted by Italian Baroque specialist Ottavio Dantone, who will be making his Philharmonia Baroque debut. The concerts are titled “Marion Verbruggen & the Italian Baroque Recorder,” and feature recorder concertos composed by Vivaldi and Sammartini.

The *San Jose Mercury News* praised Ms. Verbruggen’s “astonishing virtuosity and nuance” during her previous appearance with Philharmonia Baroque in November 2007. Famed for her high-spirited, charismatic and technically dazzling performances, she has earned an international reputation as the leading exponent of her instrument.



Ottavio Dantone is musical director of the Accademia Bizantina Orchestra in Ravenna, Italy. Winner of two of the most prestigious harpsichord competitions in the world -- the International Competition of Paris (1985) and the International Competition of Bruges (1986) – Dantone was trained in organ and harpsichord at the Verdi Conservatory in Milan. In his Philharmonia Baroque debut, he will lead the orchestra in works by Vivaldi, Scarlatti, Corelli, Gregori, Gemigniani and Sammartini – all important composers of the Italian Baroque period.

In addition to the four subscription concerts scheduled for November, Verbruggen and Dantone will perform with Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra in the annual Family Concert on Saturday, November 19 at 4 PM at Berkeley’s First Congregational Church. Excerpts from the longer concerts will be performed with discussion by members of the orchestra, and audience members will be invited to bring their own instruments along to perform in a “grand finale” with the orchestra.

For more information, visit www.philharmonia.org or call (415) 252-1288.

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

WHO

Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra
Ottavio Dantone, *conductor*
Marion Verbruggen, *recorder*

WHAT

ARCANGELO CORELLI (1653-1713)
Concerto Grosso in F major, Op. 6 No. 2

GIOVANNI LORENZO GREGORI (1663-1745)

Concerto Grosso in A minor, Op. 2 No. 6

FRANCESCO GEMINIANI (1687-1762)

Concerto Grosso in D minor, Op. 3 No. 4

ANTONIO VIVALDI (1678-1741)

Concerto for Alto Recorder in F major, "La tempesta di mare," RV 433
Marion Verbruggen, recorder

INTERMISSION

GIUSEPPE SAMMARTINI (1695-1750)

Concerto for Soprano Recorder in F major
Marion Verbruggen, recorder

ALESSANDRO SCARLATTI (1660-1725)

Concerto Grosso No. 4 in G minor

VIVALDI

Concerto for Strings in D minor, RV 128

CORELLI

Concerto Grosso in D major, Op. 6 No. 4

WHEN/WHERE

Thursday, November 17 at 8 PM

Atherton – The Center for Performing Arts (555 Middlefield Road)

Friday, November 18 at 8 PM

San Francisco – Herbst Theatre (401 Van Ness Avenue)

Saturday, November 19 at 8 PM

Berkeley – First Congregational Church (2345 Channing Way)

Sunday, November 20 at 7:30 PM

Berkeley – First Congregational Church (2345 Channing Way)

Also:

Family Concert

Saturday, November 19 at 4 PM

Berkeley – First Congregational Church (2345 Channing Way)

TICKETS

Tickets are priced from \$25 to \$90 and are available through City Box Office at (415) 392-4400 or online at www.cityboxoffice.com. If available, student rush tickets are \$10 and go on sale one hour before the start of the concerts.

To learn more about all of Philharmonia Baroque's concerts, visit the orchestra's website at www.philharmonia.org.

ABOUT PHILHARMONIA BAROQUE ORCHESTRA

San Francisco's Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra has been dedicated to historically-informed

performance of Baroque, Classical and early-Romantic music on original instruments since its inception in 1981. Under Music Director Nicholas McGegan, Philharmonia Baroque has been named Ensemble of the Year by *Musical America*, and “an ensemble for early music as fine as any in the world today” by *Los Angeles Times* critic Alan Rich.

The orchestra performs an annual subscription series in the San Francisco Bay Area, and is regularly heard on tour in the United States and internationally. Philharmonia Baroque has its own professional chorus, the Philharmonia Chorale, directed by Bruce Lamott, and welcomes such talented guest artists as mezzo-soprano Susan Graham, countertenor David Daniels, conductor Jordi Savall, violinist Monica Huggett, recorder player Marion Verbruggen and soprano Isabel Bayrakdarian.

The orchestra has had numerous successful collaborations with celebrated musicians, composers and choreographers. Philharmonia Baroque premiered its first commissioned work, a one-act opera by Jake Heggie entitled *To Hell and Back*, in November 2006. In collaboration with the Mark Morris Dance Group, Philharmonia Baroque gave the U.S. premieres of Morris’ highly acclaimed productions of Henry Purcell’s *King Arthur* and Jean-Philippe Rameau’s ballet-opera *Platée*.

Among the most-recorded period-instrument orchestras in the United States or in Europe, Philharmonia Baroque has made thirty-two highly praised recordings - including its *Gramophone* award-winning recording of Handel’s *Susanna* - for harmonia mundi, Reference Recordings and BMG. In 2011, the orchestra launched its own label, Philharmonia Baroque Productions, with an acclaimed recording of Berlioz’ *Les Nuits d’été* and Handel arias featuring mezzo-soprano Lorraine Hunt Lieberson.

Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra was founded by harpsichordist and early music pioneer Laurette Goldberg. Additional information is available at www.philharmonia.org.

ABOUT MARION VERBRUGGEN

Amsterdam-born recorder virtuoso Marion Verbruggen is one of the most extraordinary artists of her generation. Famed for her high-spirited, charismatic and technically dazzling performances, she has earned an international reputation as the leading exponent of her instrument. She gives concerts throughout North America, Europe, Africa, Israel, Japan and Australia.

Marion Verbruggen has been a regular concerto soloist with such ensembles as Musica Antiqua Köln, Akademie für Ancient Musik Berlin, The Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra, The Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, Tafelmusik Orchestra and Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra. She collaborates in chamber music ensembles with other renowned early music artists including harpsichordists Gustav Leonhardt, Bob Van Asperen and Ton Koopman. In addition, Marion Verbruggen gives solo recitals throughout the world.

Enamored of the recorder from an early age, Marion Verbruggen studied at the Amsterdam Conservatory and the Royal Conservatory in The Hague with Frans Brüggem. Upon receiving her diplomas cum laude, she was invited to join the faculty at the Royal Conservatory.

Marion Verbruggen guest teaches at the Royal Conservatory in The Hague and gives master classes and workshops throughout the world. Her diverse discography includes music ranging from 17th century Spanish songs and theatre music to her own transcriptions of the JS Bach Cello Suites. She has recorded for BMG, EMI Erato, harmonia mundi usa, Ricercar, Sony, Titanic and Accent.

ABOUT OTTAVIO DANTONE

Graduated in organ and harpsichord at the “Giuseppe Verdi” Conservatory in Milan, Ottavio Dantone started a successful concert career at a young age, concentrating on ancient music. He was the first Italian performer to obtain the first prize in two of the most important harpsichord competitions in the world: the International Competition of Paris (1985) and the International Competition of Bruges (1986).

In 1996 he was appointed musical director of the Accademia Bizantina Orchestra, based in Ravenna. He also works with other orchestras (using both ancient and modern instruments) such as the the WDR Orchester in Cologne, the Orchestra dell’Accademia di Santa Cecilia di Roma, the Orchestra of the Teatro Real de Madrid, the Orchestra del Teatro alla Scala and the Orchestra del Teatro La Fenice di Venezia.

With the Accademia Bizantina he has led acclaimed performances in such concert halls as Barbican Center in London, Konzerthaus in Vienna, Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, Cité de la Musique de Paris, Théâtre des Champs Elysées in Paris, Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia in Rome, Metropolitan Museum in New York, Ravenna Festival and Bologna Festival.

In March 1999 he made his successful operatic debut conducting the world première of *Giulio Sabino* by Giuseppe Sarti at the Teatro Alighieri di Ravenna (with the Accademia Bizantina).

He has frequently appeared on radio and television in Italy and abroad. His CD releases (as soloist and as conductor) have won several international awards. Since 2003 he regularly records for both Decca and Naïve.

PRESS AND MEDIA RELATIONS CONTACT

Karen Ames Communications:

Karen Ames or Brenden Guy

(415) 641-7474

karen@karenames.com

brenden@karenames.com

John Tavenner, Director of Marketing and Public Relations, Philharmonia Baroque

(415) 252-1288

jtavenner@philharmonia.org

For a complete biography, visit www.philharmonia.org/about/history/.

Press photos are available at www.philharmonia.org/press-room/resources.

###