

PhilharmoniaBaroqueOrchestra

Nicholas McGegan, Music Director

PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT: Sasha Hnatkovich, Director of Marketing and Public Relations

EMAIL: sasha@philharmonia.org

PHONE: (415) 252-1288 x315

DATE: December 18, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PHILHARMONIA BAROQUE ORCHESTRA AND MUSIC DIRECTOR NICHOLAS MCGEGAN ANNOUNCE THE 17TH ANNUAL *WINTER GALA & AUCTION*

A Benefit Evening for Philharmonia Baroque's Artistic and Education Programs St. Regis Hotel, San Francisco – February 6, 2010

SAN FRANCISCO – Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra is pleased to announce its 17th Annual *Winter Gala & Auction*, which will take place on Saturday, February 6, 2010, at the St. Regis Hotel in downtown San Francisco. Proceeds from the evening will benefit the orchestra's many artistic and education programs.

The evening will unfold with an elegant cocktail hour and Silent Auction on the Yerba Buena Terrace of the St. Regis, where guests will enjoy champagne by Henriot, wines by Bonny Doon, and delicious hors d'oeuvres. Following the silent auction, guests will proceed to the Ballroom for a first-time-ever musical presentation featuring Music Director Nicholas McGegan and members of the Orchestra. Following the performance, guests will be served a delectable dinner prepared by Executive Chef Romualo Feger, as legendary auctioneer John Gallo leads the Live Auction, featuring one-of-a-kind packages including unique European vacations in private homes, exclusive dinners with celebrity chefs, intimate concerts with world-class musicians, Robert Parker 100-rated wines, and more. The evening concludes with a strolling dessert buffet and live music in the Grand Foyer.

Now in its 29th season, Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra and its Chorale has been lauded as “the country's leading early music orchestra” by *New York Times*, “the most exciting American period-instrument ensemble” by the *Wall Street Journal*, and “the nation's liveliest purveyor of period performances” by Musical America. Under the direction of Music Director Nicholas McGegan since 1985, the ensemble has led the field in historically-informed performances of music from the Baroque, Classical and early-Romantic periods. Drawing on musicians from all over the United States and abroad, Philharmonia Baroque performs seven concert programs in four Bay Area cities each season and tours the U.S. and internationally. The group has its own professional chorus, has commissioned new music for period instruments, and has collaborated with the Mark Morris Dance Group among others. PBO's 24 recordings have won or been nominated for numerous awards.

– MORE –

Philharmonia Baroque is also committed to providing musical experiences for Bay Area children and students. In addition to its ongoing outreach programs, Philharmonia Baroque is proud to announce the inaugural concerts of its two new series aimed at students and families with children. In March 2010, Philharmonia will present the *Young People's Concert Series* and the *Family Concert Series*, led by viola di gambist Jordi Savall and narrated by KQED host Rachael Myrow.

Tickets and Information:

Tickets for *Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra Winter Gala & Auction* begin at \$300 per person; tables begin at \$3,000 (seating for 10).

To purchase a ticket or request more information, contact the Development Department at 415-252-1288 or mweiss@philharmonia.org. To preview items, visit www.philharmonia.org/gala.

For more information about Philharmonia Baroque's programs and to hear music by the Orchestra and Chorale, visit www.philharmonia.org.

###