



## PHILHARMONIA BAROQUE ORCHESTRA LAUNCHES NEW RECORD LABEL

### Live Archival Recording with Lorraine Hunt Lieberson Featured on First Release

**San Francisco – January 11, 2011** – In conjunction with the Orchestra’s 30th Anniversary Season, Music Director Nicholas McGegan and Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra announce the launch of the

ensemble’s own recording label, **Philharmonia Baroque Productions**. The first release, scheduled for March 8, 2011, will showcase the late **Lorraine Hunt Lieberson** in a live 1995 recording of Berlioz’s *Les Nuits d’été* in addition to a live 1991 recording of arias from Handel’s *Giulio Cesare*, *Ottone*, *Arianna*, *Radamisto*, and *Agrippina*. Ms. Hunt Lieberson had a long and fruitful relationship with McGegan and Philharmonia Baroque. The Berlioz is the last of seven acclaimed recordings she made with the orchestra and the first time she ever sang the full Berlioz song cycle in performance. McGegan can still recall the experience of performing Berlioz’s *Les Nuits d’été*. “There are certain musical performances you always remember,” he says. “And I can remember exactly what it felt like standing there next to her for the Berlioz. It was thrilling. You don’t forget that. Her artistry shines through on this recording.”

Philharmonia Baroque Productions will release a total of three recordings in 2011. In conjunction with the April performances of Haydn’s epic oratorio *Creation* in April of 2011, the ensemble will release a recording of Haydn symphonies including Nos. 88, 101 and 104 “London” performed in concert over the last several years. An all-Vivaldi disc, featuring violinist Elizabeth Blumenstock, was recorded in December 2010 at Lucasfilm’s Skywalker Ranch in Marin County and will be released in September in conjunction with the opening of the 2011/2012 season. In addition to *Le Quattro stagioni* (The Four Seasons), Op. 8, Nos. 1-4, the recording will include Vivaldi’s Concerto for violin, in E minor, RV 277 “Il favorito;” Concerto for violin in E major, RV 271 “L’amoroso;” and Concerto for violin in B-flat major, RV 375.

All recordings are being engineered and produced by David v.R. Bowles, a former cellist with Philharmonia Baroque who began producing its records in 1996. Bowles received Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees in violoncello from the Juilliard School and played with Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra for several years. After an injury forced him to stop playing, he moved to recording and, to date, has engineered more than sixty projects for commercial release for a variety of ensembles.

“Philharmonia Baroque has issued over thirty recordings in its thirty years existence, including several that set the standard for period instrument recordings,” says Executive Director Peter Pastreich. “We have not issued significant recordings with national and international distribution in the last half-dozen years, and recognize that the orchestra’s standing as America’s leading period instrument ensemble can only be maintained if we do so once again, and tour nationally and internationally as well.”

The new recordings will be distributed by Harmonia Mundi USA and will be available on

iTunes, Amazon and other online outlets. Over the last three decades, McGegan and Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra have made dozens of highly regarded recordings for Harmonia Mundi, BMG and other labels. They include the Grammy-nominated 1990 recording of Handel's oratorio *Susanna* with Hunt Lieberson – then a soprano named Lorraine Hunt – which won the prestigious *Gramophone* Award for best Baroque vocal album in 1991. The new releases on the Philharmonia label will be the first the orchestra has put out since 2007, when it self-released live recordings of Jake Heggie's *To Hell and Back* and Beethoven's Symphony No. 9. Media consultant David Kuehn, BMG's former vice-president for classical music, who helped the San Francisco Symphony develop its label, is working with Philharmonia Baroque on the new recording venture.

**Release Date: March 8, 2011**

Nicholas McGegan  
Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra  
Lorraine Hunt Lieberson  
Berlioz and Handel  
Berlioz, *Les Nuits d'été*

Handel, "Figlio non è...L'angue offeso mai riposa" from *Giulio Cesare*\_Handel, "Ben a raggion...Vieni, o figlio e mi consola" from *Ottone*\_Handel, "Mirami altero in volto" from *Arianna*\_Handel, "La giustizia ha già sull'arco" from *Giulio Cesare*\_Handel, "Ombra cara di mia sposa" from *Radamisto*\_Handel, "Ogni vento, che al porto lo spinga" from *Agrippina*\_Handel, Encore: "Qual nave smarrita" from *Radamisto*

**ABOUT PHILHARMONIA BAROQUE ORCHESTRA**

Celebrating its 30th Anniversary Season in 2010/11, San Francisco's Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra is dedicated to historically-informed performance of Baroque, Classical and early Romantic music on period instruments. Led by Music Director Nicholas McGegan since 1985, Philharmonia Baroque is recognized as one of the finest chamber orchestras, as well as one of the most exciting period-instrument ensembles in the country. Drawing on musicians from all over the United States and abroad, Philharmonia Baroque performs eight concert programs in four Bay Area cities each season and regularly tours the U.S. and internationally. Attracting such talented guest artists as mezzo-soprano Susan Graham, conductor Jordi Savall, violinist Monica Huggett, recorder player Marion Verbruggen and soprano Isabel Bayrakdarian, the group has its own professional chorus, has commissioned new music for period instruments, and has collaborated with the Mark Morris Dance Group, Alonzo King LINES Ballet and Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco among others. Philharmonia Baroque's 32 recordings have won or been nominated for numerous awards.

**Press and Media Relations Contact:**

Karen Ames Communications: 415-641-7474  
Karen Ames: [Karen@karenames.com](mailto:Karen@karenames.com)  
Brenden Guy: [Brenden@karenames.com](mailto:Brenden@karenames.com)