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Coro Allegro Presents “Baroque Gems”

Sunday, June 1, 3pm at Church of the Covenant

[May 23, 2014] (Boston, MA) — Coro Allegro, Boston’s award-winning classical chorus for members, friends, and allies of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community, and Artistic Director David Hodgkins present “Baroque Gems” at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 1, at Church of the Covenant, 67 Newbury Street, Boston.

Concert Description

For its final concert of the 2013-2014 season, Coro Allegro partners with the internationally renowned ensemble La Donna Musicale and innovative Baroque-Latino fusion group RUMBARROCO to present a garland of Baroque treasures by J.S. Bach and other composers of the era. Coro Allegro performs Bach’s timeless masterwork “Jesu Meine Freude,” as well as Jan Dismas Zelenka’s “Dixit Dominus” in a new edition by former Coro member Michael Driscoll. A prominent composer during his lifetime (1679-1745), Zelenka was admired by many, including Bach.

Widening the program’s perspectives, special guest La Donna Musicale, an ensemble devoted to the discovery, preservation, and promotion of music by women composers of the Baroque era, will perform works by Anna Bon (known in her time as “the virtuosa of Venice”) and Maria Teresa Agnesi. In addition, Latino-Baroque fusion group RUMBARROCO will offer selections from its unique repertoire. Both ensembles were founded and are led by Laury Gutiérrez, who will be honored at the event with the Daniel Pinkham Award, given annually to a major contributor to Boston’s classical-music and LGBT communities.

Guest Artists

La Donna Musicale (www.ladm.org) is a non-profit research, education, and performance organization devoted exclusively to the discovery, preservation, and promotion of sacred and secular music by women composers. The ensemble uses period instruments and historical performance practices.

RUMBARROCO (www.rumbarroco.org) demonstrates through its performances how European Classical music was, and can be, revitalized by adding indigenous and African rhythms and instruments.

Ticket Information

Tickets to “Baroque Gems” are \$22, \$34, and \$46 and can be purchased online at www.CoroAllegro.org; by calling 617-236-4011; or at the event venue.

Concert Details

“Baroque Gems”

J.S. Bach, “Jesu meine freude,” BWV 227

Anna Bon: Offertorium, *Ardete amore*

Jan Dismas Zelenka: *Dixit Dominus*, ZWV 66

Maria Teresa Agnesi: Overture II from *Ulisse in Campania*

Plus selections of Latin-Baroque fusion

Special Guests:

La Donna Musicale and RUMBARROCO

Laury Gutiérrez, Artistic Director

Featuring:

Elizabeth Nelson, soprano

Daniela Tošić, mezzo-soprano

Jason McStoots, tenor

Harris Ipock, baritone

Artist Biographies

David Hodgkins, Artistic Director

Artistic Director David Hodgkins has delighted audiences in the greater Boston area for over 20 years with "creative programs, sung with enthusiasm and tonal beauty" (Ed Tapper, Bay Windows). Mr. Hodgkins is the Artistic Director of Coro Allegro in Boston, which Boston Globe critic Michael Manning deemed "one of Boston's most accomplished choruses," Artistic Director of The New England Classical Singers in Andover, Director of Music at The Commonwealth School in Boston, advanced conducting instructor at the Kodály Music Institute, and serves on the advisory boards of The Boston City Singers and the UMass/Amherst Music Department.

Mr. Hodgkins has performed with Coro Allegro at the ACDA and GALA music festivals, served as guest conductor with Chorus Pro Musica, Masterworks Chorale, and Emmanuel Music, and has made numerous festival appearances as guest conductor and clinician. His ensembles have collaborated with the Boston Celebrity Series, Boston Cecilia, Handel and Haydn Society, Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra, The New England String Ensemble, and the Boston Landmarks Orchestra.

Mr. Hodgkins has conducted numerous world and Boston premiere performances of works ranging from Marianne Martinez to Arvo Pärt. Mr. Hodgkins with Coro Allegro received the 2012 Chorus America Alice Parker/ASCAP Award for their collaborative premiere performance of Kareem Roustom's oratorio *Son of*

Man, with The United Parish Church of Brookline and Music Director Susan DeSelms, a work commissioned by United Parish. That same year, Mr. Hodgkins with Coro Allegro released the critically acclaimed CDs *Awakenings* and *In Paradisum* on the Navona label, which feature contemporary composers Robert Stern, Ronald Perera, and Patricia Van Ness and soloists Sanford Sylvan and Ruth Cunningham. Gramophone magazine noted of *Awakenings* that "Coro Allegro, led by David Hodgkins, performs each score with fine balance and interplay."

Mr. Hodgkins has been featured in Choral Director Magazine, The Voice of Chorus America, UMass Amherst Magazine, and Haverhill Life. He has served as producer for three award-winning CDs by La Donna Musicale, Laury Gutiérrez, Artistic Director, *In the Style of...* for Terry Everson, trumpet, and Shiela Kibbe, piano on Albany Records, and a CD of trumpet concerti for the Boston University Wind Ensemble and Terry Everson, directed by David Martins.

David Hodgkins received his Bachelor of Music in voice, piano, and harpsichord from UMass/Amherst, a Masters in Choral Conducting from Temple University, and fellowships in choral and orchestral conducting at the Aspen and Sandpoint music festivals. His mentors include Wayne Abercrombie, Fiora Contino, Alan Harler, James Roth, Gunther Schuller, and Paul Vermet. Mr. Hodgkins has served on the faculties of the New England Conservatory, UMass/Amherst, Temple University, and Clark University.

Laury Gutiérrez, Artistic Director of La Donna Musicale and RUMBARROCO

As founder and Music Director of La Donna Musicale, Laury Gutiérrez has become an integral part of Boston's very active early music scene by bringing to light extraordinary works of 17th- and 18th- century women composers through rigorous scholarship, exquisite live performances, and critically acclaimed recordings. Her many honors and awards include the Gran Mariscal de Ayacucho, Venezuela's most prestigious award for study abroad, and being named as a 2009 Fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University.

In addition to her ongoing work with La Donna, Ms. Gutiérrez is a resident Scholar at the Women's Studies Research Center at Brandeis University, and has been a featured guest artist-lecturer at Northeastern University, Harvard University, Brandeis University, and The University of Rhode Island.

Praised as a "first rate" instrumentalist by the Boston Globe, Ms. Gutiérrez has spearheaded numerous recordings with La Donna Musicale, while archiving a rich treasure trove of music by women composers for future generations. She has made the retrieval of this music her life's mission, and with the support of her partner Elsa, continues to re-write music history by bringing new and exciting works by women composers to life through performance, recordings, and the publication of these rediscovered scores.

Elizabeth Nelson, soprano

Elizabeth Nelson, soprano, is a young, vibrant, emerging singer whose work spans a diverse range of repertoire, including art song, opera, and oratorio. Recent operatic roles have included Mademoiselle Silberklang in *Der Schauspieldirektor*, Papagena in *Die Zauberflöte*, and Sarah Good in *The Crucible*. Elizabeth's affinity for early music has also led her to frequent collaborations with the University of Northern Iowa School of Music early music ensemble, Cantorei, on various cantatas of J.S. Bach. Elizabeth recently graduated from the University of Northern Iowa with her bachelor and Masters degrees in vocal performance,

and was frequently showcased in the UNI Opera Ensemble. Ms. Nelson is part of La Donna Musicale's "Passing The Baton" program that invites young musicians to perform with the ensemble.

Daniela Tošić, mezzo-soprano

Mezzo-soprano Daniela Tošić, a native of Belgrade, Yugoslavia, is a soloist and chamber musician who specializes in early, contemporary, and world music repertoires. She has performed in concerts throughout the U.S., Europe, and South America. Ms. Tosic is a founding member of the internationally renowned vocal ensemble Tapestry, winners of the Echo Klassik and Chamber Music America Recording of the Year. She is also a founding member of the medieval-world fusion ensemble HourGlass. Ms. Tosic has premiered numerous new works and performed Steve Reich's *Tehillim* with the Colorado Symphony and Cabrillo Festival Orchestra conducted by Marin Alsop. Recent appearances include the role of Story Woman in Steven Jobe's opera *Melusine*, the role of Yangchen in Sheila Silver's *The White Rooster* (a dramatic cantata for Tibetan singing bowls, percussion, and four treble voices), and Humilitas in Capella Clausura's production of Hildegard's *Ordo Virtutum*. Ms. Tosic has recorded for Telarc, MDG, and several independent labels.

Jason McStoots, tenor

Described by critics as "a gifted young tenor with wonderful comedic talents," an "alluring tenor voice," and "bright, clear and fully-fledged tenor sonority," Jason McStoots has performed around the world and the US. His recent appearances include the role of Tabarco in the Boston Early Music Festival's production of Handel's *Almira*, his European debut in Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* and a Japanese tour of the *St. Matthew Passion*, both under the direction of Joshua Rifkin, Monteverdi's 1610 Vespers in New York City and Cambridge with the Green Mountain Project, and in Seattle and Portland under Stephen Stubbs, and Mozart's *Abduction from the Seraglio*. He has also performed with Boston Lyric Opera, Pacific MusicWorks, Boston Camerata, New Haven Symphony, Tragicomedia, and the Tanglewood Music Center. He joined Blue Heron in 2005 and can be heard on all of the ensemble's CDs, as well as on the Grammy-nominated recording of Lully's *Psyché* and on discs of Charpentier, Blow, and Handel with the Boston Early Music Festival, on the CPO label.

Harris Ipock, baritone

Harris Ipock, baritone, currently serves as Resident Conductor of the Harvard Glee Club at Harvard University, where he also teaches private voice. He is currently finishing a doctoral degree in choral conducting from the Eastman School of Music. Harris enjoys an active career as a soloist and professional chorister. He currently is a member of Conspirare, a five-time Grammy-nominated ensemble conducted by Craig Hella Johnson. He has also performed with Santa Fe Desert Chorale, Spire Chamber Ensemble, Publick Musick, Voices, Vox Lumine, Virginia Chorale, Norfolk Chamber Consort, TodiSingers, and the North Carolina Symphony Baroque Choir. His recent credits as a soloist include Bach's *St. John* and *St. Matthew Passions*, Haydn's *Die Schöpfung*, Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle*, Mozart's *Requiem*, and Handel's *Messiah*. His operatic roles include Almoviva in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Céphale in *Céphale et Procris*, Corcoran in *HMS Pinafore*, Sharpless in *Madama Butterfly*, and John Sorel in *The Consul*. Harris holds M.M. degrees in choral conducting and vocal performance from East Carolina University, and B.M. and B.A. degrees in vocal performance and economics from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

About Coro Allegro

Founded in 1990, Coro Allegro is a chorus for members, friends, and allies of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities that strengthens and enriches the lives of its members and the greater Boston community through its performances of outstanding classical choral repertoire and recordings. It is dedicated to its mission to provide broad audiences access to choral music and perform works by diverse composers. It serves as a model of a successful and valued LGBT community group through artistic excellence and visibility, and it creates an affirming, welcoming, and supportive environment for its membership. An advocate of contemporary music, Coro Allegro was the recipient of the 2012 Chorus America/ASCAP Alice Parker Award for exposing its audience to brand new works. With Artistic Director David Hodgkins, Coro Allegro has released four critically acclaimed commercial recordings: *In Paradisum* and *Awakenings* on the Navona Records label, as well as *In the Clearing* and *somewhere i have never traveled*.

The Daniel Pinkham Award

Coro Allegro established the Daniel Pinkham Award in 2008 in memory of Daniel Pinkham and in recognition of outstanding contributors to classical choral music and the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities. During his lifetime, Daniel Pinkham featured prominently in Boston's classical music scene as a sought-after composer, faculty member at New England Conservatory, conductor, organist, and Director of Music at King's Chapel. Past recipients include Artistic Director David Hodgkins, conductor Donald Teeters, composer Patricia Van Ness, flutist Fenwick Smith, baritone Sanford Sylvan, and the Rt. Rev. Gene Robinson, Episcopal Bishop of New Hampshire.

Coro Allegro is supported in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

For more information, electronic images, and interviews, please contact:
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