

# EARLY MUSIC FOUNDATION

*Frederick Renz, Director*

NEWSLETTER • FALL 2005

Early Music Foundation's 2004-2005 season was characterized by both continuity and change. The completion of the season marked a milestone: 30 years of continuous service to early music lovers of the metropolitan area, making EMF one of the longest-sustaining early music organizations in New York City, and the introduction of the New York Early Music Celebration.

The Foundation's activities encompass several areas:

- presentation of a performing ensemble, EARLY MUSIC NEW YORK (EMNY) under the direction of Frederick Renz in an annual New York City subscription series and on tour
- production of recordings on the *Ex cathedra Records* label
- provision of administrative services to other, early music enterprises in New York
- organization and management of the newly-conceived bi-annual New York Early Music Celebration

## EARLY MUSIC NEW YORK – 2004-2005 SEASON IN REVIEW

Nearly one thousand people crowded the vast sanctuary of St. Ignatius Loyola Church on Park Avenue at 84<sup>th</sup> Street on October 1, 2004, to see the simultaneous premiere of EMNY's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary season and the inauguration of the first New York Early Music Celebration. Frederick Renz with EMNY's Orchestra of Original Instruments treated the audience to a sublime performance of George Friedrich Handel's *Water Musick* and *Royal Fireworks* suites, the first in New York City to use a full complement of period instruments for these suites based upon the composer's original orchestrations. Allan Kozinn of *The New York Times* wrote that "*the purely visceral thrill of the sound was hard to resist.*"



At intermission, Councilwoman Gale Brewer presented Mr. Renz with a special citation from Mayor Michael Bloomberg commending Renz's thirty years of service to New York's cultural life.

For the remainder of its subscription series, EMNY presented nine performances at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, and two more at its east-side location at the newly renovated St. James' Church.

On November 13th and 14th, Frederick Renz led the EMNY Women's Ensemble in an exploration of Renaissance polyphony entitled *Renaissance Women: Emergence of Women as Composers*. Women began to be recognized as composers and patrons of music during the second half of the sixteenth century, especially in Italy, the cradle of the Baroque style. The program highlighted works by two remarkable Italian women, Barbara Strozzi (1619-1677), and Isabella Leonarda (1620-1704).

For EMNY's annual Christmas concerts in December, Renz devised a program both "revolutionary" and traditional: *A Colonial Christmas*, an evening of music of colonial America. The EMNY Men's Vocal Ensemble sang 18th-century New England shape-note anthems and hymns; a selection of lilting and lively fiddle tunes from the notebook of one Captain George Bush, an officer in George Washington's army, and popular country dance tunes performed by an ensemble of fiddle, flute and bass rounded out the engaging program. Following the event, audience members and artists enjoyed EMNY's annual, and now traditional Wassail reception together.

EMNY was proud this past season to become a part of a fine tradition of music-making at St. James' Church, a nearly 200-year-old parish on Madison Avenue at 71st Street. St. James' new renovation has enhanced the acoustics and accessibility of the sanctuary, where EMNY's Orchestra of Original Instruments presented two performances. On March 12, noted harpsichordist Bradley Brookshire joined concertmaster Robert Mealy and the EMNY Orchestra of Original Instruments in Bach's *Orchestra*, a program of Johann Sebastian's harpsichord concerti and suites for orchestra. On May 14, EMNY presented a program of works by Vivaldi, as was performed in the composer's day—by an all-woman orchestra. Concertmistress Julie Andrijeski led a first rate ensemble, whose featured soloists included Daphna Mor (recorder) and Abigail Fischer (alto).

*"Beautifully performed by an all-female ensemble... another jewel in the crown of excellent performance for which Early Music New York is noted. Frederick Renz, conducting from the keyboard, saw to it that his players supported [Vivaldi's] inventiveness with skillful and accurate performance. The audience shouted its approval."* – New York Stringer, June 2005

## EMF'S MISSION

To enhance public knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of music and music-drama from the 11th through the 18th centuries. EMF seeks to accomplish its mission through:

- The presentation of historically-informed performances of the highest artistic quality and scholarship,
- The preservation of this repertory through recording and other media, and
- The provision of administrative services to performing ensembles and other organizations whose missions are compatible with the Foundation.

**NY EARLY MUSIC CELEBRATION** – *"At last, New York gets to brag!"* – The New York Times, Dec. 2004



As part of its 30th anniversary year, the Early Music Foundation expanded its services to the field (supporting historical performance in NYC) by organizing the first New York Early Music Celebration. Over 60 concerts were presented by more than 40 NYC groups from October 1-10, 2004 and reached in excess of 8,000 listeners. The goal of the Celebration was to draw increased attention to the variety and artistic and technical excellence of New York-area early music musicians, and the non-traditional architectural landmarks in which they perform. The Celebration was featured in articles in *The Wall Street Journal*, *Newsday*, and *TimeOut New York*. 10 reviews appeared in *The New York Times*, and Allan Kozinn selected the Celebration as a highlight in his end-of-year wrap-up. The Robert Sterling Clark Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts provided major Celebration support.

## EX CATHEDRA RECORDINGS



EMF has added two new studio recordings to its catalog: *A Colonial Christmas* includes all the repertoire performed at EMNY's December, 2004 Christmas concerts. Released last season, The St. Louis Post-Dispatch (12/05/05) had this to say about *A Colonial Christmas*: "a winning mixture of fasola (shape-note) and hymn tunes, liberally mixed with various kinds of dance tunes." Similarly, *A Bohemian Christmas* offers this season's Christmas concert program from medieval Czech lands. Both recordings, and all prior titles, are available on the website: [www.EarlyMusicNY.org](http://www.EarlyMusicNY.org) or by calling 212-749-6600.

## NEW BOX OFFICE TICKETING SYSTEM

Last spring, EMF moved its ticketing operation to its administrative offices, following several years in which ticketing sales were handled by the Cathedral of St. John the Divine box office. In August, an in-house computerized box office management system was installed. These changes will result in vastly improved services to our patrons: consistent, personalized information about upcoming events, better seating for loyal subscribers, and prompt processing of ticket orders.

## MEDIEVAL DRAMA, "DANIEL AND THE LIONS" TO TOUR

Presenters in four cities in Tennessee have booked EMNY's celebrated production of "Daniel and the Lions" for next spring. Dates include March 2, 2006 in Knoxville, March 3 in Nashville, and March 6 in Chattanooga. EMNY has given more than 250 performances of "Daniel" in the United States and abroad, including the Spoleto (Italy) Festival.

## NEW BOARD MEMBER

We are pleased to welcome Paul Krieger to EMF's Board. Paul is a physician and professor at the NYU Medical Center. He is also a serious amateur musician with an extensive knowledge of early music and a significant instrument collection. We welcome his informed participation.



## FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

We extended ourselves this past season presenting EMF's 30th anniversary gala concert and sponsoring the first New York Early Music Celebration in addition to our regular concert series and annual recording project. Profuse thanks to our Board members, especially President Audrey Boughton, who contributed their time, wisdom, and financial support to make it all possible, and to our many contributors and loyal concert-goers. We will continue to build on our successes by highlighting the spring orchestral concerts, continuing Ex cathedra Records annual CD production, organizing the second bi-annual New York Early Music Celebration in the fall of 2006, and offering additional services to the early music field, including collaborative marketing efforts and a centralized ticketing service.

*Gene Murrow*

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The work of the Early Music Foundation is made possible by the generous grants and donations by the following governmental organizations, foundation, and individual donors. We invite you to join them!

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*"The purely visceral thrill of the sound... hard to resist."* – *The New York Times*, Fall 2004

### 2005 FALL CONCERT SEASON

#### I. 15th-CENTURY BURGUNDY

Saturday, November 19, 2005 at 8 PM  
Sunday, November 20, 2005 at 3 PM  
Cathedral of Saint John the Divine  
Amsterdam Avenue at 112th Street

The EMNY women's ensemble of singers and instrumentalists explore the unique repertoire of sacred motets and secular love chansons by the great Burgundian masters of polyphony – Dufay, Binchois and Josquin. Prior to the 16th century, before women composers were celebrated, cloistered nuns sang the sacred offices and, less formally, religious texts in non-liturgical settings.

Secular women at court were active in occasions of private music entertainment as iconography profusely attests. Continuing their annual appearances, the EMNY women will grace the intimate and acoustically superb St. James Chapel with sweet, soaring treble voices, elucidating early Renaissance music-making by the fair sex.



#### II. A BOHEMIAN CHRISTMAS

Saturday, December 10, 2005 at 8 PM  
Saturday, December 17, 2005 at 8 PM  
Sunday, December 18, 2005 at 3 PM  
Sunday, December 25, 2005 at 3 PM and 8 PM

Cathedral of Saint John the Divine  
Amsterdam Avenue at 112th Street

(St. Vaclave) and Poland's St. Stanislas. Political songs by native composers extol the 'fatherland,' while carols during the time of Jan Hus and motets from the Codex "Specialnik" celebrate the Nativity and honor the Virgin Mary. Hear the uniquely famous "Messe de Notre Dame" by esteemed French poet/composer Guillaume de Machaut, Secretary to the King of Bohemia, and the only extant medieval dance from Czech lands, with the colorful title 'Czaldy Waldy.' Research and preparation of this program was made possible by a generous gift from the Jarvis and Constance Doctorow Family Foundation.

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR MORE 2005 - 2006 CONCERT PROGRAMS

## 2006 SPRING CONCERTS

EMNY's ORCHESTRA of ORIGINAL INSTRUMENTS traces the history of the orchestra with two concert programs elucidating the bridge from the baroque to the classical eras:

### III. BACH'S PROGENY

Saturday, March 18, 2006 at 8 PM  
St. James' Church  
Madison Avenue at 71st Street



EMNY's Orchestra of Original Instruments performs the symphonic works of Johann Sebastian Bach's celebrated sons – the oldest, Wilhelm Friedemann, dubbed the 'bohemian' Bach; Carl Phillip Emmanuel, court composer to King Frederick the Great and godson of Georg Philip Telemann; John Christian, the English Bach; and the youngest, Johann Friedrich, known as the German Bach. Thoroughly trained and steeped in the waning baroque style by their

accomplished father, J. S.'s sons were nonetheless products of their time, taking to the latest musical vogue during the Age of Enlightenment and composing exquisitely in the *empfindsamer Stil* – the style of natural expression.

### IV. RAMEAU'S ORCHESTRA

Saturday, May 20, 2006 at 8 pm  
St. James' Church  
Madison Avenue at 71st Street

The foremost French musician in the eighteenth century, Jean Philip Rameau (1683-1764) was a master of orchestration, utilizing winds and strings in a full palette of textures and devices – the zenith of the high baroque. He attracted attention first as a music theorist and only afterward as a composer in the genres of opera and ballet. Attacked as an innovator, he was assailed later in his career by his peers as a reactionary, though always in high favor with the French Court. Colorfully descriptive orchestral music was an integral element in Rameau's operas and ballets from which maestro Renz extracts a choice sampling of dance suites and incidental *bon bons*.



ORDER TICKETS by PHONE: 212-280-0330 – WEB: [www.EarlyMusicNY.org](http://www.EarlyMusicNY.org) – or MAIL the order form.

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| Saturday, Dec. 10 at 8 PM (Cathedral Synod House)   | _____    |  |
| Saturday, Dec. 17 at 8 PM (Cathedral Synod House)   | _____    |  |
| Sunday, Dec. 18 at 3 PM (Cathedral Synod House)     | _____    |  |
| Sunday, Dec. 25 at 3 PM (Cathedral Chapel)          | _____    |  |
| Sunday, Dec. 25 at 8 PM (Cathedral Chapel)          | _____    |  |
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| Saturday, March 18 at 8 PM (St. James' Church)      | _____    |  |
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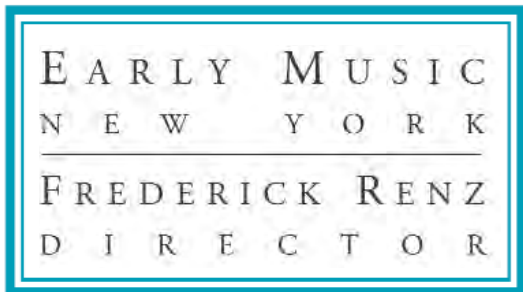
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