

EARLY MUSIC FOUNDATION
10 West 68th Street, New York, NY 10023

2019 – 2020 SEASON REPORT
45TH SEASON

I. SUMMARY

The 45th season of **Early Music Foundation** (EMF) included the following projects, as part of its mission to enhance public knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of music and music drama of 11th through the 18th centuries:

- A four-program (a total of eight performances) New York City subscription concert series by Early Music New York (EM/NY): Scandinavian works for chamber orchestra; Medieval and Renaissance Noels and Dances with a mixed vocal & instrumental ensemble; late classical orchestra works; and baroque chamber orchestra works by J.S. Bach and members of his extended family. (This last concert could not be performed due to Covid-19.) Performances took place at the First Church of Christ, Scientist and at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, reaching an audience of 1,507 patrons and engaging forty-seven New York musicians.
- A city-wide festival: “New York Early Music Celebration 2019 - *Ex borealis.*”
- Continuation of the Foundation’s other 501(c)(3) service-to-the-field projects for the historical performance community – “New York Early Music Central” (NYEMC), and instrument loans to associate musicians.

The graphic is a light blue rectangular box with a thin black border. At the top, the text 'EARLY MUSIC NEW YORK' is written in a large, serif font, with 'EARLY MUSIC' in orange and 'NEW YORK' in dark blue. Below this, 'FREDERICK RENZ' is written in dark blue, followed by 'FOUNDING DIRECTOR' in a smaller dark blue font. The next line reads 'An Astronomical' in dark blue, followed by '45th SUBSCRIPTION SEASON ~ 2019 - 2020' in a smaller dark blue font. Below that is '~ HARMONY of the SPHERES ~' in a decorative, italicized dark blue font. The graphic then lists four concert programs, each with its title in orange, the venue in dark blue, and the date and time in dark blue. The programs are: 'NORDIC ACCORD' at the First Church of Christ, Scientist on Saturday, October 26 at 7:30 PM; 'NOVA, NOVA' at the First Church of Christ, Scientist on Saturday, December 14 at 7:30 PM; a series of three performances on Sundays, December 15 & 22 at 2:00 PM and Wednesday, December 25 at 2:00 & 5:00 PM, at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine; and 'CLASSICAL CORONA' at the First Church of Christ, Scientist on Saturday, March 7 at 7:30 PM. The final program is 'BACH COUSINS' at the First Church of Christ, Scientist on Saturday, May 2 at 7:30 PM. At the bottom of the graphic, the website 'EarlyMusicNY.org' and the phone number '212-280-0330' are listed in dark blue.

EARLY MUSIC
NEW YORK
FREDERICK RENZ
FOUNDING DIRECTOR

An Astronomical
45th SUBSCRIPTION SEASON ~ 2019 - 2020

~ HARMONY of the SPHERES ~

NORDIC ACCORD Saturday, October 26 at 7:30 PM
First Church of Christ, Scientist Central Park West & 68th Street

NOVA, NOVA Saturday, December 14 at 7:30 PM
First Church of Christ, Scientist Central Park West & 68th Street

~ & ~
Sundays, December 15 & 22 at 2:00 PM
Wednesday, December 25 at 2:00 & 5:00 PM
Cathedral of St. John the Divine Amsterdam Avenue & 112th Street

CLASSICAL CORONA Saturday, March 7 at 7:30 PM
First Church of Christ, Scientist

BACH COUSINS Saturday, May 2 at 7:30 PM
First Church of Christ, Scientist

EarlyMusicNY.org 212-280-0330

II. MUSIC PERFORMANCES AND RECORDINGS

EARLY MUSIC NEW YORK (EM/NY) SUBSCRIPTION SERIES 2019-2020

EMF's annual core offering is a subscription series of concerts featuring its performance ensemble Early Music New York – Frederick Renz, Director (EM/NY). The season was entitled "Harmony of the Spheres," inspired by such celestial phenomena as the aurora borealis, the Christmas star, and composer William Herschel, who traded a career in music for one as an internationally heralded astronomer.

Early Music New York's FY20 events were listed on numerous cultural calendars and websites, including AARP, ABC7 Community Calendar, Backtrack, Brahmsy, Cadenza.org, CityGuideNY, Early Music America, Harlem One Stop, Metro US, Musical America, New York Classical Review, New York Cool, and West Side Spirit.

"Nordic Accord: 18th-Century Scandinavia"

Performance date: October 26, 2019

Venue: First Church of Christ, Scientist, NYC

Attendance: 141

EM/NY's first concert of the season also served as the keynote event of the seventh New York Early Music Celebration: *Ex Borealis*. The program contained symphonic works by composers from and affiliated with Scandinavia: Johan Helmich Roman, Georg Philipp Telemann, Johan Joachim Agrell, Johan Daniel Berlin, Johann Adolph Scheibe and Joseph Martin Kraus. EM/NY's chamber orchestra of eighteen instrumentalists (strings, 2 oboes, bassoon, 2 horns and theorbo/guitar) was joined by two guest artists: Alexandra Opsahl, cornetto (from Norway) and Bolette Roed, recorder (from Denmark).

"The series provided a breadth [of] quality Scandinavian music rarely heard, or even known, outside of Scandinavia...I was especially grateful to see and hear the unusual instruments embraced in the evening's performance, especially the recorder, cornetto, and theorbo, a long necked lute...One can only wonder why not more of this music is heard in our concert halls." (Review, *Norwegian American*)

"Nova - Nova: Medieval and Renaissance Noels and Dances"

Performance dates: December 14, 15, 22, 25 (2 performances), 2019

Venue: First Church of Christ, Scientist, NYC (December 14); The Cathedral of St. John the Divine (December 15, 22, 25)

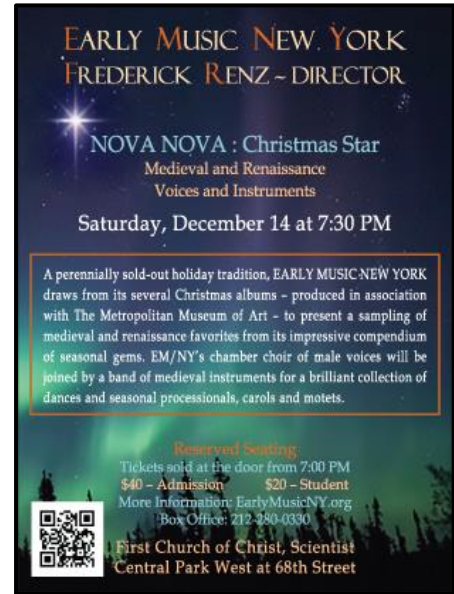
Attendance: 1,042

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EM/NY's Chamber Ensemble—10 singers and 3 instrumentalists (vielle, recorders and winds) offered carols, motets and dances from the Middle Ages and Renaissance. Works by such composers as Hildegard von Bingen, Neidhart von Reuenthal, Henry VIII, Palestrina and Praetorius resounded in the intimate arches of the Chapel of Saint James within the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine. Three of the five holiday performances were sold out.

“Utterly magnificent - this concert made my holiday!” (Audience member comment, December 14 concert)

The performances at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine were in compliance with the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).



“Symphonic Zenith: Eclipsing the 18th Century”

Performance date: March 7, 2020
Venue: First Church of Christ, Scientist, NYC
Attendance: 179

This classical orchestra program of symphonies, dances and divertimentos featured works by William Herschel, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Christoph Willibald Gluck, Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach, Joseph Martin Kraus and, in a rare venture for EM/NY into the 19th century, Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy. The EM/NY orchestra consisted of 17 players (strings, 2 flutes, bassoon, 2 horns).

“What a phenomenal concert! I had to write and tell you - I was moved to tears at several points...” (Audience member comment)

“Bach Cousins: Luminous Dynasty”

Performance date: May 2, 2020
Venue: First Church of Christ, Scientist, NYC

CONCERT POSTPONED TO NEXT SEASON DUE TO COVID-19

Family members from Johann Sebastian Bach's generation and earlier produced works that not only stand on their own merits, but provide perspective on the legacy of one of western music's most revered composers. In addition to J.S., works by Heinrich, Johann Michael, Johann Christoph, Johann Ludwig and Johann Bernhard Bach were on the program. EM/NY's chamber orchestra for this concert includes 16 instrumentalists (strings, bassoon, theorbo & keyboards), with a countertenor vocal soloist.

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EARLY MUSIC NEW YORK IN THE PRESS

“Nordic Accord: 18th-century Scandinavian music resounds with Early Music New York,” Victoria Hofmo, *The Norwegian American*, November 29, 2019

<https://www.norwegianamerican.com/nordic-accord/>

RECORDINGS

EM/NY Featured on WQXR

Excerpts of EM/NY’s recordings were aired throughout the FY20 season on New York City’s premier classical music radio station, WQXR.

Ex cathedra CD Catalog

The *Ex cathedra* Records catalog (EMF’s in-house label) lists eleven CDs; nine of these titles were produced in association with The Metropolitan Museum of Art (MMA). Two titles – *Istanpitta!*, and *Istanpitta II* – were previously released on the Lyrichord Early Music Series label. CDs are available via the MMA’s gift shops, direct sales at EM/NY concerts, on the Internet through the Early Music Foundation’s website (www.EarlyMusicNY.org), and commercial sites including Amazon.com, CDBaby.com, iTunes.com, Spotify and Google Music Store. During the 2019-2020 season more than 280 CDs were sold, in addition to numerous individual track downloads.

EARLY MUSIC NEW YORK’S DISCOGRAPHY: <i>Ex Cathedra</i> Records	
Music of Medieval Love	A Medieval Christmas
Music of Renaissance Love	A Renaissance Christmas
Music of Venice	A Baroque Christmas
Colonial Capers	A Colonial Christmas
Troped Apostolic Mass for Saint Martial, 1029, Adémar de Chabannes, (989-1034)	A Bohemian Christmas
Istanpitta! A Medieval Dance Band	A Dutch Christmas
	Istanpitta II, Medieval Dances



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III. OTHER ACTIVITIES

SERVICES TO THE FIELD

New York Early Music Celebration 2019: Ex Borealis – The Nordic and Baltic Regions



Early Music Foundation organized the New York Early Music Celebration 2019: “Ex Borealis – The Nordic and Baltic Regions,” which took place city-wide from October 5 through 26, 2019. This seventh festival (since 2004) focused on Nordic and Baltic historical repertoire. An EMF Service-to-the-Field project, these ‘Celebrations’ are designed to showcase New York’s ‘historically-informed-performance’ artists, ensembles and presenters.

This event, as in 2004, 2007, 2013, 2015 and 2017, was open to all NYC historical performance artists and presenters, and included participation of select guest artists: Copenhagen Camerata (ensemble from Denmark, directed by Sofia Söderberg, from Sweden), Heinavanker (ensemble from Estonia), Lydia & Andrea Scandinavian Fiddle Duo (Lydia Ievins, nyckelharpa and Andrea Larson, fiddle); Bolette Roed, recorder player from Denmark; and Alexandra Opsahl, cornetto player from Norway. In all, there were 23 events – including concert performances and workshops – with a collective audience of more than 3,000.

Early Music New York (EMF’s performing arm) produced the keynote event on October 26, 2019, “Nordic Accord: 18th-Century Scandinavia,” which included repertoire for chamber orchestra by Swedes Joseph Martin Kraus, Johan Joachim Agrell and Johan Helmich Roman, alongside Norwegian Johan Daniel Berlin and Danish-related works of Johann Adolph Scheibe and Georg Philip Telemann. Soloists Bolette Roed and Alexandra Opsahl performed on this program.

Partners for this festival edition were the American-Scandinavian Foundation, Consulate General of Denmark in New York, Norwegian Consulate, Consulate General of Sweden in New York, and the Consulate General of Estonia in New York. Presenters included: Music Before 1800, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Early Music Foundation, and GEMS (Gotham Early Music Scene). This project was made possible in part with support from the National Endowment for the Arts, New York State Council on the Arts, and Celebration consulate and foundation partners. All events were listed on the dedicated Celebration website: <http://nyemc.com/central>.

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EMF Presentations During NYEMC 2019

To augment Early Music New York's four-concert season, EMF's Founding Director, Frederick Renz, curated three extraordinary performances by gifted artists from abroad and the U.S. as part of New York Early Music Celebration 2019: *Ex Borealis*.

1) COPENHAGEN CAMERATA – Chamber Choir from Denmark

Performance date: October 17, 2019

Venue: First Church of Christ, Scientist, NYC

This diverse and highly-acclaimed Scandinavian ensemble journeyed across the lengths of Nordic song, from the first recorded score known in Scandinavia through the centuries to today.

“Beautiful sound – interesting humming drone to the early music – controlled and precise performance.” (Audience member comment)

2) LYDIA & ANDREA – Scandinavian Fiddle Duo

Performance date: October 17, 2019

Venue: Church of Sweden in New York

Andrea Larson and Lydia Ievins have been playing Swedish-style fiddle together for the past decade. They presented an energetic and engaging program of early traditional Swedish folk music from the handwritten notebooks, representing central regions of Sweden, with a smattering of Norway, Denmark and beyond, and their original compositions.

3) BOLETTE ROED

Performance date: October 24, 2019

Venue: First Church of Christ, Scientist, NYC

Danish recorder virtuoso Bolette Roed performed transcriptions of J.S. Bach violin sonatas, partitas, and suites for solo recorder. Ms. Roed is co-founder of Denmark's largest baroque music festival, Midsommerbarok, at Frederiksberg, Copenhagen, and head of the Early Music Department at the Royal Danish Academy of Music since 2009. An all-embracing musician, she works not only with the classical repertoire for recorder, but also with improvisation, folk and world music.

“This was a completely delightful event, wonderful music, a charming and beautiful performer, a unique experience with the recorder.” (Audience member comment)



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New York Early Music Central (NYEMC) Staging Calendar

Historical performance is a specialized field and EMF is the leading NYC-based organization to provide services to promote this infrequently performed body of music through the NYEMC. The early music community is close-knit; performers commonly appear in more than one ensemble. Therefore, communication among directors regarding coordination of rehearsals and concert dates is essential. In order to facilitate these arrangements, EMF has maintained (since January 2008) a planning calendar on a dedicated website (NYEMC.com), in order to best avoid conflicting activity.

Instrument Loan Program

As a service-to-the-field project, EMF loaned two of its David Ohannesian renaissance recorders to Tricia van Oers for the Nova, Nova Christmas concerts; and Margo Andrea continues to use an EMF-owned vielle in concerts by the Alba Consort.

MARKETING and PUBLIC RELATIONS

EARLY MUSIC
NEW YORK
FREDERICK RENZ
FOUNDING DIRECTOR

HARMONY of the SPHERES
An Astronomical
45th Anniversary Season

Nova, Nova
December 14
Medieval & Renaissance
Seasonal Carols & Motets

Classical Corona
March 7
Chamber Orchestra
Mendelssohn & Gluck

Bach Cousins
May 2
J. Sebastian • J. Bernard
J. Nikolaus • J. Christoph

EarlyMusicNY.org
212-280-0330

2019-2020 banner for First Church, Christ Scientist

Early Music Foundation (EMF) continues to perform all promotion activities and public relations endeavors in-house with a small staff and with marketing budget constraints. In the fall of 2019, more than 7,300 season brochures were mailed to a list of ticket buyers including the many loyal supporters that EMF has garnered through the years. Postcards for the 2019-2020 Season, the NYEMC 2019 *Ex Borealis* Visiting Artist series and the December *Nova, Nova* program were also distributed locally. A large banner outside the First Church of Christ, Scientist announced season programs. EMF sends periodic “e-blasts” to potential ticket-buyers. Prior to concerts, press releases are sent to a list consisting of the metropolitan area’s local classical music reviewers, as well as to broadcast announcers and program directors. EMF also lists performances on numerous online cultural calendars.

New York
EARLY MUSIC
CELEBRATION
2019
EX BOREALIS
MUSICA NORDICA

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST
SCIENTIST

OCTOBER

THURSDAY 17 AT 7:30 pm
COPENHAGEN CAMERA TA

THURSDAY 24 AT 7:30 pm
BOLETTE ROED - RECORDER

SATURDAY 26 AT 6:30 pm
PRE CONCERT LECTURE
DR BERTIL VAN BOER
AT 7:30 pm

EARLY MUSIC NEW YORK
FREDERICK RENZ • DIRECTOR
18th-CENTURY SCANDINAVIA

NYEMC.ORG
212-280-0330

EMF PRESENTS nyemc A TRADEMARK PROJECT OF THE EARLY MUSIC FOUNDATION

2019-2020 banner for NYEMC

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NEW WEBSITE

In August 2019, two decades after having established a presence on the Internet, Early Music Foundation launched its redesigned website. Keeping the same web location (<https://www.earlymusicny.org/>), the new site is brighter, and easier to read and navigate; smartphone “friendly”; and offers previously unavailable features, including a “Meet the Artists” section and a program note archive. As before, concert tickets and CDs can be purchased, and contributions accepted. For coming seasons, additional features are being prepared to encourage interactivity with the early music community.

FUNDRAISING AND SUPPORT

The work of the Early Music Foundation is made possible, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, and the New York State Council on the Arts. Additional funding is provided by the American Endowment Foundation, Appleby Foundation, Scott B. and Annie P. Appleby Charitable Trust, Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation, Doctorow Family Foundation, Max & Victoria Dreyfus Foundation, The Gilder Foundation, The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, Jewish Communal Fund, E. Nakamichi Foundation, Mattina R. Proctor Foundation, Pyewacket Fund, Reed Foundation, Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, Shelter Rock Foundation, and the Janet Yaseen Foundation. Unrestricted individual contributions by EMF patrons and supporters of EMF exceeded \$42,600.

EMF’s Board organized a modest fundraising appeal in the spring of 2020.

IV. BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Edward B. Whitney, President
Pamela Morton, Secretary
Peter deL. Swords, Treasurer
Audrey Boughton, Trustee
Marsha Palanci, Trustee
Hoyt Spelman, III, Trustee
Frederick Renz, *Ex officio*

V. STAFF

Frederick Renz – Founding Director
Aaron Smith – Operations Manager
Dorothy Olsson – Development Consultant (July 1, 2019 through January 24, 2020)
Michael Gordon – Fiscal Consultant
Padraic Costello – Public Relations (July 1, 2019 through January 10, 2020)
Daniel Guss – Public Relations and Development Manager (January 16 through June 30, 2020)

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VI. FINANCIALS

Unaudited financial summary for 2019-2020:

Total Income: \$249,170

*Total Expenses: \$197,780

*(includes Administrative expenses, \$31,510, and
Fundraising expenses \$25,773)

Ending net assets: \$84,633

Prepared by Daniel Guss, Public Relations and Development Manager, September 28, 2020.