Sunday, May 1, 2011, 3pm
Zellerbach Hall

Les Violons du Roy
Bernard Labadie, music director
Ian Bostridge, tenor

PROGRAM

George Frideric Handel (1685–1759)
Suite from Alcina (1735)
    Ouverture
    Musette
    Menuet
    Gavotte
    Menuet
    Gavotte
    Entrée des Songes agréables
    Entrée des Songes funestes
    Entrée des Songes agréables effrayés/
    Le combat des Songes funestes et agréables

Handel
    Forte e lieto, from Tamerlano, HWV 18 (1724)

Francesco Gasparini (1661–1727)
    Forte e lieto, from Tamerlano (1710)

Handel
    Concerto Grosso in F major, Op. 3, No. 4, HWV 315 (1716)
    Andante — Allegro — Andante
    Andante
    Allegro
    Minueto: Allegro

Antonio Caldara (1671–1736)
    Lo so, con periglio, from Joaz (1726)

Handel
    Scorta siate a passi miei, from Giulio Cesare, HWV 17

INTERMISSION

Francesco Geminiani (1687–1762)
    Concerto Grosso No. 12 in D minor, after Corelli’s Violin Sonata in D minor, Op. 5, No. 12, “La Folia” (1727)

Antonio Vivaldi (1678–1741)
    Sazierò col mio morir, from Ipermestra, R. 722 (1726)

Vivaldi
    La tiranna, from Arisilda, Regina di Ponto, R. 700 (1716)

Handel
    D’un barbaro scortese, from Poro, HWV 28 (1730–1731)

William Boyce (1711–1770)
    Symphony in B-flat major, Op. 2, No. 1
    Allegro
    Moderato e dolce
    Allegro

Handel
    From Celestial Seats Descending, from Hercules, HWV 60 (1744)

Handel
    Where Congeal’d the Northern Streams, from Hercules, HWV 60

Les Violons du Roy would like to thank its partners,
Conseil des Arts et des Lettres Québec and Fondation des Violons du Roy.

Cal Performances’ 2010–2011 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.
Tuesday, May 3, 2011, 8pm
Zellerbach Hall

Les Violons du Roy
Bernard Labadie, music director
Alexander Weimann, harpsichord

PROGRAM

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)
Selections from The Art of Fugue, BWV 1080
(1748–1749)
Contrapunctus I
Contrapunctus IV
Contrapunctus IX
Bach Harpsichord Concerto in D minor, BWV 1052
(c. 1730)
Allegro
Adagio
Allegro

INTERMISSION

Bach Contrapunctus XIV from The Art of Fugue
(completed by Bernard Labadie after Davitt Moroney)
Bach Sinfonia from the Cantata Am Abend aber deselbigen Sabbaths, BWV 42 (1725)
Bach Orchestral Suite No. 1 in C major, BWV 1066
Ouverture
Courante
Gavotte
Forlane
Menuets I and II
Bourrées I and II
Passepieds I and II

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ABOUT THE ARTISTS

The chamber orchestra Les Violons du Roy borrows its name from the renowned string orchestra of the court of the French kings. The group, which has a core membership of 15 players, was brought together in 1984 by music director Bernard Labadie and specializes in the vast repertoire of music for chamber orchestra, performed in the stylistic manner most appropriate to each era. Although the ensemble plays on modern instruments, its approach to the works of the Baroque and Classical periods has been strongly influenced by current research into performance practice in the 17th and early 18th centuries; in this repertoire, Les Violons du Roy uses copies of period bows. The orchestra has been widely acclaimed for the exceptional energy, brilliance and vitality of its performances. In recent seasons, under the leadership of first guest conductor Jean-Marie Zeitouni, the orchestra has begun to explore 19th- and 20th-century repertoire in greater depth.

Les Violons du Roy is at the heart of the music scene in Québec City, where it has been in residence at the Palais Montcalm since 2004, the association with the Québec label Atma has led to six CDs, including Illuminations with soprano Karina Gauvin, also directed by Jean-Marie Zeitouni and winner of a Félix Award in 2008 for classical album, orchestra and large ensemble, Piazzolla, conducted by Jean-Marie Zeitouni and winner of a Juno Award in 2006 for classical album of the year—solo or chamber ensemble, and Britten’s Les Illuminations with soprano Karina Gauvin, also directed by Jean-Marie Zeitouni and released in summer 2010. The CDBonjour, also on Atma label, was released in fall 2010. The group’s first collaboration with the multinational Virgin Classics label led to the release in fall 2006 of a CD of cantata arias by Handel and Hasse with mezzo-soprano Vivica Genaux. Two other collaborations have been made with Virgin Classics, featuring C.P.E. Bach’s cello concertos with the Norwegian cellist Truls Mørk and J.S. Bach's Harpsichord Concerto in D minor, BWV 1052.
October 2010 marked conductor Bernard Labadie’s 26th year at the head of Les Violons du Roy, the chamber orchestra he frequently conducts at leading venues in North America and Europe, in addition to being a key member of the orchestra’s regular seasons in Quebec City and Montréal. To celebrate this anniversary, Mr. Labadie conducted Les Violons du Roy and La Chapelle de Québec in Handel’s Messiah and Bach’s Christmas Oratorio at Carnegie Hall in New York and Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles in December 2009 to remarkably positive reviews.

Under his leadership, Les Violons du Roy and La Chapelle de Québec have recorded over 15 albums for the Dorian, Arma and Virgin Classics labels, winning two Juno awards and one Félix award. Two other collaborations have been made with Virgin Classics, featuring C.P.E. Bach’s cello concertos with the Norwegian cellist Truls Mørk and J. S. Bach’s keyboard concertos with the French pianist Alexandre Tharaud. The most recent recording, presenting arias by Mozart, Haydn, Gluck and Graun with the contralto Marie-Nicole Lemieux, was produced for Naïve label.

Mr. Labadie’s reputation has traveled well beyond North America. In March 2010, he conducted the Concertgebouw Orchestra in Amsterdam for the first time in Bach’s St. Matthew Passion. In coming seasons, he will debut with the Icelandic Symphony and the Tampere Philharmonic (Finland), and will return to lead the Northern Sinfonia (Newcastle, UK), the North German Radio Symphony Orchestra (Hanover), and the Musikkollegium Winterthur (Switzerland). He led the Malaysian Philharmonic in November 2009 and will lead the Melbourne Symphony in 2011 and 2012.

Mr. Labadie is also becoming a favorite with European period-instrument groups. After a brilliant debut with the Orchestra of Collegium Vocale Ghent in 2008, he recorded an album in November 2009 with The English Concert and British tenor Ian Bostridge for EMI in London. He also conducts the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment in a touring production of Mozart’s The Abduction from the Seraglio in 2010, and will appear for the first time with the Academy of Ancient Music in London in 2011.

As a leading ambassador for music in his native city of Québec, Mr. Labadie was made an Officer of the Order of Canada in 2005 and a knight of the Ordre national du Québec in 2006. In 2008, he received the Banff Centre’s National Arts Award for his contribution to the development of the arts in Canada, as well as an honorary doctorate from Laval University.

Mr. Labadie has become one of the most sought-after guest conductors in North America. In September 2009 he made his debut appearance with the Metropolitan Opera in New York in Mozart’s The Magic Flute. In 2009–2010, he appeared for the first time with the Cleveland Orchestra and returned to conduct the Philadelphia Orchestra and the Chicago, Houston and Colorado symphony orchestras, and during coming seasons will complete guest engagements with the New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony and St. Louis Symphony.

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Mr. Weimann was born in 1965 in Munich, Germany, where he studied organ, church music, musicology, theater theory, medieval Latin and jazz piano. From 1990 to 1995, he taught music theory, improvisation and jazz at the Munich Musikhochschule. Since 1998, he has been giving numerous master classes in harpsichord and early music performance at several institutions, including Lunds University in Malmö, Sweden; the Bremen Musikhochschule, Germany; UC Berkeley, Dartmouth College (New Hampshire) and Mount Allison University (New Brunswick). He also coaches voice and instrumental students at the Université de Montréal.

In recent years Mr. Weimann has returned to his youth love jazz. He currently lives in Montréal.

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Music Director
Bernard Labadie

First Violin
Nicole Trotier
Noëlla Bouchard
Pascale Gagnon
Maud Langlois

Second Violin
Pascale Giguère
Michelle Seto
Angélique Duguay
Annie Guénette

Viola
Jean-Louis Blouin
Annie Morrier
Véronique Potvin

Cello
Benoit Loiselle
Raphaël Dubé

Double Bass
Raphaël McNabney

Oboe
Diane Lacelle
Marjorie Tremblay

Bassoon
Nadina Mackie Jackson

Archlute
Sylvain Bergeron

Harpichord
Alexander Weimann

Les Violons du Roy