

**THE "OVERWHELMING STYLISHNESS...SUPREME VIRTUOSITY"* OF
IL GIARDINO ARMONICO
AT CAL PERFORMANCES SATURDAY, APRIL 16 AT 8:00 P.M.**

**PROGRAM FEATURES WORKS BY VIVALDI AND OTHER 17TH-CENTURY MASTERS AT THE
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

BERKELEY, March 14, 2005—The sensational Baroque music ensemble, **Il Giardino Armonico** (The Harmonic Garden) is returning to Cal Performances on **Saturday, April 16 at 8:00 p.m.** Those who missed the Grammy Award-winning group's sold-out 2003 engagement in Berkeley are hereby advised to expect the expected—gorgeous early music compositions played with awe-inspiring virtuosity—but to also be prepared for a gutsy, physical performance replete with wildly inventive improvisation, fiery solos and exuberant ensemble work, all played with tireless enthusiasm and occasional out-and-out raucous humor.

The program, *From the North Sea to the Gulf of Naples: a Musical Journey*, features pieces by familiar and lesser-known Italian and German Baroque composers. The ensemble—considered to be among the foremost contemporary interpreters of the works of **Antonio Vivaldi**—will perform two of the master's pieces, **Concert in F major**, and **Concert in C minor**. The group will also perform **Sonata in G minor** by an earlier Venetian, **Pietro A. Ziani**, as well as compositions by two of Vivaldi's Neapolitan contemporaries, **Concert in E minor** by **Francesco Mancini**, and **Concert for flute, 3 violins, viola, and B.C.** by **Nicola Fiorenza**. The ensemble will also present compositions by two seminal 17th-century German composers: **Sonata XI** by **Johann Rosenmüller**, a key figure in bringing Italian styles to the north; and **Canzon a 5 sopra la Bergamasca** and **Battaglia a 5** by **Samuel Scheidt**, one of the first generation of German Baroque composers.

Il Giardino Armonico was founded in Milan in 1985, and comprises a number of graduates from some of Europe's leading colleges of music. The group has enthralled audiences worldwide with performances on authentic early instruments, using gut strings instead of nylon for violins, for example, lute instead of guitar, and recorder instead of flute. The ensemble

recaptures the original sound and technical complexity of Baroque music, which is key to Il Giardino's widespread appeal. Although the group has been called adventurous and even audacious, conductor **Giovanni Antonini** insists that he and his fellow virtuosi really aren't doing anything new. They simply play as the composers intended—with, as Mr. Antonini says, a “Baroque affectation” that demands a huge dynamic range, much daring improvisation and an unapologetic desire to please, engage and even provoke their listeners.

Depending on the program, the group fields from three to 30 musicians. The May 16 performance will feature Mr. Antonini, one of Il Giardino Armonico's founders and the group's principal soloist on flute and recorder, **Enrico Onofri** and **Marco Bianchi** on violin, **Stefano Barneschi** and **Riccardo Minasi** on violin and viola, **Paolo Beschi** on cello, **Luca Pianca** on theorbo (a type of lute), and **Riccardo Doni** on harpsichord.

The ensemble is regularly invited to the most important festivals all over the world and has performed in many concert halls, such as Wigmore Hall in London, Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, Musikverein and Konzerthaus in Vienna, Théâtre des Champs-Élysées and Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris, Tonhalle in Zurich, Victoria Hall in Geneva, Alte Oper in Frankfurt, Staatsoper unter den Linden in Berlin, Philharmonic Hall in St. Petersburg, Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow, Konserthus in Oslo, Palais des Beaux-Arts in Brussels, Auditorio Nacional in Madrid, Oji Hall in Tokyo, Library of Congress in Washington, Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center in New York, Sydney Opera House, and many more.

Il Giardino Armonico has recorded exclusively for TELDEC Classics for a number of years (although in 1999 they accompanied Cecilia Bartoli on her acclaimed *Vivaldi Album* for Decca, a huge commercial and critical success which won a Grammy Award). The group's many recordings of works by Vivaldi and other 17th-century composers have met with widespread acclaim and have received several major awards. *Il Proteo*, their recording of several of Vivaldi's double and triple concertos for cello and orchestra, with Christophe Coin as guest soloist, received coveted awards from music magazines *Gramophone* and *Diapason*. Their recording of *The Brandenburg Concertos* received the Echo-Preis for 1998 and their CD featuring works by M. Locke and H.I.F. Biber won the Diapason d'Or in 1999. Both 2000's

Viaggio Musicale and 2001's *Musica Barocca* won the prestigious French distinction 10 de Répertoire. In December 2002, Teldec released another recording by the group as part of its Artist Portrait series.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Il Giardino Armonico** on **Saturday, April 16** at **8:00 p.m.** in First Congregational Church are priced at **\$42.00**. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu; and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens and other students receive a \$2 discount, and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$3 discount (Special Events excluded). For more information, call Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988, or visit the Cal Performances web site at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu.

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CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Saturday, April 16 at 8:00 p.m.

First Congregational Church
2345 Channing Way, Berkeley

Music Before 1850

Il Giardino Armonico

Giovanni Antonini, flute and artistic director

Enrico Onofri, violin

Marco Bianchi, violin

Stefano Barneschi, violin and viola

Riccardo Minasi, violin and viola

Paolo Beschi, cello

Luca Pianca, theorbo

Riccardo Doni, harpsichord

Program:

Samuel Scheidt/ Canzon a 5 sopra la Bergamasca and Battaglia a 5

Pietro A. Ziani/ Sonata in G minor for two violins, two violas and B.C.

Johann Rosenmüller/ Sonata XI for two violins, two violas and B.C.

Antonio Vivaldi/ Concert in C minor RV 441 for flute, strings and B.C.; Concert in F major RV
551 for 3 violins, viola and B.C.

Francesco Mancini/ Concert in E minor for flute, 2 solo violins, 2 “ripieno” violins, and B.C.

Nicola Fiorenza/ Concert for flute, 3 violins, viola, and B.C.

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