



VIVALDI: FOUR SEASONS LA SERENISSIMA

The Four Seasons remains the most popular piece of classical music of all time. To celebrate their 21st anniversary year, La Serenissima will be presenting a programme of these fabulous concertos, performed using a new edition made by violinist Adrian Chandler from parts which are in the hand of Vivaldi's father, Giovanni Battista; this source is housed in the Henry Watson Library, Manchester, and represents the only surviving manuscript version of these pieces. The performance will incorporate Adrian Chandler's latest research into the genre of *The Seasons* made popular by Theocritus and Virgil, whose pastoral and Arcadian writings had such a major influence on the neo-Platonists at the court of the Medici; this movement in turn influenced Vivaldi's own sonnets written to accompany the concertos.

A true renaissance man, Vivaldi was at the forefront of baroque innovation and was keen to experiment with new textures and sound worlds. To reflect this, *The Four Seasons* are accompanied by works for bassoon including the famous *La Notte* concerto and another written for Wenzel von Morzin, the Bohemian count to whom was dedicated the published set of concertos containing *The Four Seasons*. In addition, for the first time since the eighteenth century, La Serenissima will perform two of Vivaldi's concertos for 'prepared violin', the violin *in tromba marina*. Adrian Chandler, luthier David Rattray and Vivaldi expert Michael Talbot have teamed up to recreate this curious and loud instrument from evidence surviving in the archives of the Ospedale della Pietà, the famous founding institution with which Vivaldi was associated for much of his career.

SATURDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2015, 7.30pm
GREAT ST MARY'S CHURCH, CAMBRIDGE, CB2 3PQ

Box office: Cambridge Early Music

www.CambridgeEarlyMusic.org

Tel: 0333 666 3366 (TicketSource)

Tickets: £23, £18 (concessions), £5 student-standby and FREE under-18s

Please note booking fees apply for online and telephone bookings.

ENDS

Contact:

Christopher Roberts

Tel: 0844 808 2412

Email: info@CambridgeEarlyMusic.org

www.CambridgeEarlyMusic.org

www.facebook.com/CambridgeEarlyMusic

Twitter: @CambsEarlyMusic

Notes to Editors:

La Serenissima was formed in 1994 for a performance of Antonio Vivaldi's *La Sena festeggiante* and has now firmly established itself as one of the leading exponents of the music of Antonio Vivaldi and his Italian contemporaries.

Since its first CD release in 2003, La Serenissima has been universally applauded by publications including Gramophone Magazine, The Sunday Times, BBC Music Magazine, Diapason, Fanfare Magazine, American Record Guide, The Independent, The Strad, Falstaff Magazine, La Stampa, Gaudisc, Goldberg Magazine and The Evening Standard for its performances on the Avie Label. Their eighth release – *Vivaldi: The French Connection* – was awarded the Gramophone Award for the Best Baroque Instrumental CD in October 2010 (following nominations in 2008 and 2009 for previous releases). This album was recently included in an elite Forbes List (2013). Its follow-up – *Vivaldi: The French Connection 2* – was released in 2011 and was described by critics as 'an eye-opening, ear-flattering delight from start to finish.' This disc was nominated for a Gramophone Award in 2012. Their next recording – *Venice by Night* – made the Top 10 of the UK Classical Charts in 2012. Their latest disc – *Vivaldi: A Tale of Two Seasons* – is scheduled to be released in July 2013.

Whilst works such as *The Four Seasons* form an important part of La Serenissima's repertoire, the ensemble prides itself on bringing seldom-heard works to the concert platform, including Vivaldi's operas *Ottone in villa*, *Giustino*, *Tito Manlio*, *La Fida Ninfa*, *Catone in Utica* and *L'Olimpiade* as well as a host of instrumental rarities, many of which have been committed to disc. Works by other composers feature too such as Albinoni's *Il nascimento dell'Aurora* and sacred vocal works by Caldara.

La Serenissima has appeared at many of the UK's leading venues and festivals including the Beverley, South Bank, and York Early Music Festivals, the Bath Bach, Bath International, Buxton, Cambridge Summer, Chelsea, Cheltenham, Lichfield and Warwick Festivals and St George's Bristol, Snape Maltings, Cadogan Hall, Queen Elizabeth Hall and Wigmore Hall. The group has also appeared in Belgium, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Malta, Mexico and Spain to great acclaim.

Nearly the entire repertoire of La Serenissima is edited by Director Adrian Chandler from manuscript or contemporary printed sources, a testament to its commitment and passion for rare and exciting Italian music which makes it unique amongst other baroque ensembles.

Performances in 2012 included a Wigmore Hall performance and performances of their first staged opera – *L'Olimpiade* – which took place in Bath, Buxton, London and Israel as well as a live radio broadcast from Madrid; highlights in 2013 included the UK premiere staging of Vivaldi's *Ottone in villa* at the Buxton Festival, as well as tours of their new programme *Vivaldi – A Tale of Two Seasons*. Forthcoming highlights in their 20th anniversary year include concerts in Estonia, Germany and Italy as well as a tour of their new orchestral programme *Vivaldi – The Red Priest*. Visit <http://laserenissima.co.uk> for more information.

Cambridge Early Music is a registered charity, no. 1127932, which runs international summer schools and concerts of Medieval, Renaissance and Baroque music in Cambridge, UK. Charity Trustees: Mary Archer, John Bickley, Martin Darling, Peter Holman, Annabel Malton, David McKitterick and Mark Williams

High-resolution photos are available on request from info@CambridgeEarlyMusic.org

Complimentary press tickets are available on request from info@CambridgeEarlyMusic.org