

For Immediate Release

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COURTESY OF SFEMS

## **ELLEN HARGIS & PAUL O'DETTE PRESENT "THE POWER OF LOVE" AS PART OF PEAK PERFORMANCES, FEBRUARY 5 AT 3PM**

Soprano Ellen Hargis and lute/theorbo player Paul O'Dette will celebrate "The Power of Love" in a program comprised of 17<sup>th</sup> century English love songs by Nicholas Lanier, Henry Lawes, and John Wilson on February 5 at Peak Performances. The songs tell tales of heroes and lovers tangling with the vagaries, trials and tribulations of love, proving that nothing has changed in Cupid's capers.

### **ABOUT THE ARTISTS**

Soprano **Ellen Hargis** is one of America's premier early music singers, specializing in repertoire ranging from ballads to opera and oratorio. She has performed with many of the foremost period music conductors of the world, including Andrew Parrott, Gustav Leonhardt, Paul Goodwin, Jane Glover, Simon Preston, Nicholas Kraemer, Daniel Harding, Paul Hillier, Harry Bicket, Craig Smith and Jeffrey Thomas. She has performed with the

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## “THE POWER OF LOVE”/ADD ONE

Estonian National Symphony Orchestra, Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, Virginia Symphony, Washington Choral Arts Society, Long Beach Opera, CBC Radio Orchestra, Freiburg Baroque Orchestra, Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, Music of the Baroque, Teatro Lirico, Tragicomedia, New York Collegium, The Mozartean Players, Fretwork, Seattle Baroque, Portland Baroque Orchestra, Emmanuel Music and the Mark Morris Dance Group. She has appeared at many of the world's leading festivals, including the Adelaide Festival (Australia), Utrecht Festival (Holland), Resonanzen Festival (Vienna), MusicFest Vancouver. Tanglewood, The Monadnock Festival, Berkeley Festival and New Music America Festival. She was featured in successive seasons of the Boston Early Music Festival in such roles as Aegle in Lully's Thésée, the title role in Luigi Rossi's L'Orfeo, Queen Pasiphae in Conradi's Ariadne and Irina in Johann Mattheson's 1710 opera, Boris Goudenow. Lully's Thésée and Conradi's Ariadne were recorded for CPO and were nominated respectively for 2007 and 2006 Grammys.

Recent engagements include a recital of French Baroque cantatas and a performance of the Monteverdi Vespers for MusicFest in Vancouver, the title role in Purcell's Dido and Aeneas in St. Paul, Minnesota, Bach's St. John Passion with The American Bach Soloists in California, and performances in Raleigh-Durham, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, and Providence. This season's highlights include a return to Vancouver for a program of Bach cantatas in the Chan Centre, recitals with Paul O'Dette in San Francisco, Chicago, and North Carolina, a concert of solo cantatas with Musica Angelica in Los Angeles, a program of music of Steffani with Tragicomedia at the Boston Early Music Festival and guest appearances with the chamber ensembles Piffaro and Musica Pacifica.

Ellen Hargis is also featured on a dozen Harmonia Mundi recordings, including a critically acclaimed solo recital disc of music by Jacopo Peri, and in Arvo Pärt's Berlin Mass with Theatre of Voices. She appears on a recording of Handel solo cantatas with the Seattle Baroque Orchestra on Wild Boar, the premiere recording of the Bonporti motets for soprano on Dorian, two recital discs with Paul O'Dette and other recordings on BMG Classics, Vanguard Classics, Virgin Classics, Erato, Dorian Classics and Berlin Classics. Her recording of Tristan et Iseult with The Boston Camerata was winner of the Grand Prix du Disque.

In addition to performing, Ms. Hargis is Co-Director of the Newberry Consort, and is a highly respected teacher. She teaches voice at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, and is Artist-in-Residence with the Newberry Consort at the University of Chicago and Northwestern University. Ms. Hargis teaches the annual Vancouver Baroque Vocal Programme: The Compleat Singer each August. She has directed Baroque Opera in period stagings, and is the Assistant Stage Director to Gilbert Blin for the Boston Early Music Festival.

**Paul O'Dette** has been called "the clearest case of genius ever to touch his instrument." (Toronto Globe and Mail) His performances at major international festivals are often singled out as the highlight concert, including festivals in Boston, Berkeley, Los Angeles, Vancouver, London, Bath, Paris, Montpellier, Amsterdam, Utrecht, Berlin, Munich, Bremen, Dresden, Vienna, Prague, Milan, Florence, Geneva, Madrid, Barcelona, Copenhagen, Oslo, Cordoba, St. Petersburg, Montevideo, Buenos Aires, Melbourne, Tokyo, etc. Best known for his recitals and recordings of virtuoso solo lute music, O'Dette also maintains an active international career as an ensemble musician, performing with William Christie, Nikolaus Harnoncourt, Christopher Hogwood, Gustav Leonhardt, Nicholas McGegan, Sylvia McNair, Andrew Parrott, Nigel Rogers, Jordi Savall, Tafelmusik and The Parley of Instruments, and is a member of the acclaimed ensemble Tragicomedia. Paul O'Dette has directed Baroque orchestras on both sides of the Atlantic including the Portland Baroque Orchestra, Tafelmusik, Apollo's Fire, Chatham Baroque, Ensemble Arion and Corona Artis. He has conducted Baroque operas at Tanglewood, the Boston and Utrecht Early Music Festivals, the Drottningholm Court Theatre and Festival Vancouver. Paul O'Dette can be heard on over 100 CDs, and his solo recordings have won prizes and rave reviews. He has been Director of Early Music at the Eastman School of Music since 1976 and is Artistic Director of the Boston Early Music Festival.

To learn more about Ellen Hargis & Paul O'Dette, please visit [www.guitarsint.com/concert\\_bio.cfm/artistid/52](http://www.guitarsint.com/concert_bio.cfm/artistid/52).

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**TICKET, TRANSPORTATION AND DINING INFORMATION**

**Performance time:** February 5 at 3pm

All tickets are \$15 and are available at the Alexander Kasser Theater Box Office, by calling 973-655-5112 or online at <http://www.peakperfs.org>.

Charter bus service is provided from New York City's Port Authority Bus Terminal – arcade on 41<sup>st</sup> Street between 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Avenues – to the Alexander Kasser Theater (\$10 per person, roundtrip) for all Saturday and Sunday performances. Bus reservations may be made by calling 973-655-5112 or by visiting <http://www.peakperfs.org>.

For restaurants close to the Alexander Kasser Theater, visit <http://www.destinationmontclair.com>

**Montclair State University is located at 1 Normal Avenue, Montclair, New Jersey 07043.**

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Programs in Peak Performances' 2011/2012 season are made possible in part by funds from the Association of Performing Arts Presenters; the National Endowment for the Arts; the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Dept. of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts; New England Foundation for the Arts; Discover Jersey Arts; Alison and James T. Cirenza; and The Honorable Mary Mochary.

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