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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 17, 2006

WHAT: Center Series presents: English Concert
WHEN: Wednesday, November 8 at 7:30pm, 2006
WHERE: Concert Hall
University of Massachusetts Amherst
Call 1-800-999-UMAS or 545-2511 for tickets or
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(LEADING BRITISH ENSEMBLE BREATHES NEW LIFE INTO PERIOD MUSIC FOR THEIR CONCERT AT THE UMASS CONCERT HALL)

The English Concert performs a concert of works from a pivotal time in European music, Wednesday, November 8 in the UMass Fine Arts Center Concert Hall at 7:30pm. The evening's program will include Bach's Orchestra-Symphony no.1 in D major and three works by Mozart including Violin concerto in G major, Adagio in E major and Symphony in G minor. Director Andrew Manze will share his love and rich understanding of this music in a pre-performance talk at 6:30pm in the University Gallery. All are welcome to attend.

English Concert was founded in 1973 and quickly earned a place among the world's leading period instrument groups. With an exceptional combination of sheer enjoyment in music-making and technical brilliance both on concert platforms and in over 100 recordings—many of which still enjoy benchmark status—the orchestra became worldwide ambassadors for British performing arts.

In 2003 violinist Andrew Manze succeeded Trevor Pinnock as only the second artistic director in the orchestra's history. Called "the first modern superstar of the baroque violin" by the San Francisco Examiner, Manze's unique energy and enthusiasm have already forged an exciting partnership, causing *The Times* of London to exclaim "The English Concert and its new leader do indeed appear to be under a magic spell...playing with the kind of panache that makes your spirits sing."

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Through his work as conductor, violinist and broadcaster, Andrew Manze has become known for the energy and insight he brings to a remarkable range of music. As a conductor, he is in demand with orchestras around the world in baroque, classical and increasingly nineteenth and twentieth century repertoire. As a violinist he specializes in music from 1610 to 1830. He also teaches edits and writes about music, as well as broadcasting regularly on radio and television. Manze is a fellow of the Royal Academy of Music and a Visiting Professor at the Royal College of Music, London and has contributed to new editions of sonatas and concertos by Mozart and Bach published by Bärenreiter and Breitkopf and Härtel.

In November 2005 Manze was announced as Principal Conductor of the Helsingborg Symphony Orchestra, Sweden. He will take up this role in autumn 2006. As a guest conductor, Manze regularly directs symphonic repertoire and large scale oratorios throughout Europe and the USA. He is also Artist-in-residence at the Swedish Chamber Orchestra.

The English Concert remains in great demand at home and abroad, performing regularly throughout Europe, Japan, Australia, and North and South America. Their 2004 and 2005 North American tours under Andrew Manze were universally praised, and their fall 2006 tour will bring them to Berkeley, Costa Mesa, Denver, Atlanta, Omaha, Tucson, Davis, CA, Lincoln, NE, Overland Park, KS, Urbana, IL, Athens, GA, Amherst, MA, and Gainesville, FL.

Tickets are \$40, \$30, \$15; Youth 17 and under are \$12; and Five College Students are \$15, \$10, and \$7. For tickets and information, call the Fine Arts Center Box Office at 413-545-2511 or 1-800-999-UMAS, or tickets may be safely purchased online at www.fineartscenter.com.

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PROGRAM NOTES

The concert will feature the music of Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach (1714 - 1788) and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756 – 1791). Bach, the second son of Johann Sebastian, has been described as the last great baroque composer who was admired by contemporary musicians like Mozart and Beethoven. Called “The Famous Bach” Carl Philipp made a profound and lasting impression on the young Mozart. The work to be performed, Orchestra-Symphony no.1 in D major, Wq.183, 1 is written in Bach’s favorite style of writing known as *Empfindsamkeit* - ultra-sensitivity.

After Carl Philipp’s death, Mozart was so moved that he conducted a commemorative performance of Bach’s greatest oratorio, *The Resurrection and Ascension of Christ*. Mozart is reported to have said of Bach, “He is the father, we are the children. Those of us who do anything right, learned it from him. Whoever does not own to this is a scoundrel.” Mozart then spent a summer of white hot inspiration committing some of the greatest works ever written to paper, including *Symphony in G minor* also to be performed. For many music-lovers, this consummate piece of Classicism also represents the first stirrings of Romanticism.

The evening continues with Mozart’s *Adagio in E major, K.261*. We owe this beautiful piece of music to Mozart’s boss at the time, Antonio Brunetti, Salzburg concertmaster, for he forced Mozart to rework his original *Adagio K.219* after complaining that it was “too studied.” Mozart, who regarded Brunetti as “a thoroughly ill-bred fellow” begrudgingly, complied with the demand and we are fortunate to hear the results of this employer – employee conflict.

Finishing the evening is Mozart’s *Symphony in G minor, K.550*. Written during a flurry of creative activity, this symphony is a substantial four-movement symphony but it is without the conventional trumpets and drums and it is written in a minor key, one of only two minor key symphonies by Mozart which survive. It has been described as a piece of chamber music parading as a symphony.