

NEWS RELEASE

UMass Amherst Fine Arts Center

www.fineartscenter.com

CONTACT: Shawn Farley at 413-545-4159 or sfarley@admin.umass.edu



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 1, 2008

**WHAT: UMass FINE ARTS CENTER Center Series
Academy of Ancient Music, Richard Egarr, director and harpsichord**

WHEN: Saturday, February 23 at 8pm

**WHERE: Fine Arts Center Concert Hall
University of Massachusetts Amherst
Call 1-800-999-UMAS or 545-2511 for tickets or
go online to www.fineartscenter.com/tickets**

**IMAGES: To download images relating to this press release please go online to
<http://www.umass.edu/fac/centerseries/pressreleases/photo.html>**

(Academy of Ancient Music Performs Concert of Bach, Handel and Telemann at UMass)

With trademark brilliance and virtuosity, the Academy of Ancient Music vividly brings Baroque masterpieces to life. Performing on period instruments, Britain's foremost early music ensemble takes on some of the most fiery and unforgettable period concerti ever written, demonstrating how much fun composers and performers have had with this medium. The ensemble will make a stop at the UMass Fine Arts Center Concert Hall while on its North American tour on Saturday, February 23 at 8pm. The program, a baroque music lover's dream, will include Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No.5 in D major and Concerto No.7 in G minor for harpsichord, Handel's Concerto Grosso in A minor Op.6 No.4 and Sonata à 5 in B flat major, Telemann's Concertos in D major for flute and Concerto in A major for flute, violin & obbligato cello.

Concerts across six continents and over 250 recordings since its formation by Christopher Hogwood in 1973 demonstrate the AAM's pre-eminence in music of the Baroque and Classical periods. Richard Egarr succeeded Hogwood as Music Director in September 2006, and his inaugural season has won glowing praise from critics and audiences alike. His first tour of the USA as AAM Music Director in April 2007 included a critically acclaimed debut with the orchestra at Carnegie Hall. His first recording directing the AAM – Handel's Opus 3 sonatas – won warm praise on both sides of the Atlantic and was awarded the 2007 Gramophone Award for baroque instrumental music.

-MORE-

Performances with Egarr in 2007-08 showcase the full scope of the AAM's capabilities, from major choral works to Handel's intimate Opus 1 sonatas; from Bach's landmark Brandenburg Concertos to little-known masterpieces by Marini and Muffat. Highlights will include the next four recordings in an ongoing AAM series for Harmonia Mundi, performances of Handel's *Messiah* around Europe with the newly-formed Choir of the AAM and numerous projects in the UK.

Richard Egarr is one of the most versatile musicians performing today. He has worked with all types of keyboards and performed repertoire ranging from fifteenth-century organ intabulations to Dussek and Chopin on early pianos and Berg and Maxwell Davies on modern piano. He is in great demand as a soloist and chamber musician as well as a conductor.

In addition to the numerous Decca releases, further projects have resulted in recordings for EMI, Chandos, Erato and Harmonia Mundi. These include discs of Bach, Handel, Vivaldi and Purcell with the Choir of King's College Cambridge, Pergolesi, English coronation music and Handel's *Messiah* with the Choir of New College Oxford, and several discs for Harmonia Mundi of music from Bach to Tavener under Goodwin, Egarr and Andrew Manze. The AAM is Orchestra-in-Residence at the University of Cambridge.

Tickets for *the Academy of Ancient Music* are \$35, \$25, and \$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 go online to www.fineartscenter.com. There will be a Global Gourmet, prix fixe menu at the University Club prior to this performance with seating beginning at 5pm. Call the box office for menu and reservations. This performance is supported by the Vidda Foundation.

-END-