



Musicians of the Old Post Road

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Musicians of the Old Post Road Announces 2009-10 Season

Daniel Ryan and Suzanne Stumpf, Artistic Directors of the award-winning ensemble Musicians of the Old Post Road, announce the ensemble's 2009-2010 season of chamber music concerts. The ensemble's unique concert series brings period instrument performances of music of the seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth centuries to beautiful historic buildings along the path of New England's fabled Old Post Road. The group's programming offers a fascinating mix of newly-discovered works alongside established masterpieces. For this twenty-first season, concerts will be presented at venues in Boston, Cambridge, Wellesley, Wayland, Sudbury, and Worcester. Children will be offered free admission when accompanied by an adult at nearly all venues.

Described as "one of the discoveries" of the 2001 early music festival in Regensburg, Germany, Musicians of the Old Post Road has been captivating audiences in the US and abroad with its exciting programming and virtuoso performances. As a chamber ensemble specializing in the period instrument performance of music from the Baroque, Classical, and early Romantic periods, the ensemble offers a dynamic and diverse repertory that includes rediscovered works that have been lost to audiences for centuries.

The season's opening program, **A Haydn Celebration**, honors the composer's 200th anniversary year with lively and expressive works from Haydn's London period, including the Piano Trio No. 30 in F Major, the Cantata *Arianna a Naxos*, and his charming settings of Scottish and Welsh folk songs, with mezzo-soprano, Pamela Dellal. During intermission, the audience will be invited to participate in Haydn's Musical Dice Game. Performances take place on **Friday, October 23**, 8 pm at Christ Church in Cambridge and **Saturday, October 24**, 8 pm at First Parish in Sudbury.

December brings a **Mediterranean Baroque Christmas** to celebrate the holiday season with ebullient and festive instrumental and vocal works from Spain, France, and Italy. Featuring soprano Barbara Kilduff and mezzo-soprano Pamela Dellal, the program will include lively French Noël settings by Michel Corrette, a Christmas concerto by Giuseppe Valentini, a cantata by Antonia Bembo, and the regional premiere of *Con pace si bella*, a Christmas cantata by Francesco Mancini. Performances will take place on **Saturday, December 19**, 3 pm at Old South Church in Boston; and on **Sunday, December 20**, 4 pm at First Unitarian Church in Worcester.

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An evocative evening of intimate chamber music brings warmth to the February chill with **From the Romantic Salon**. The program will include pieces for guitar, flute, violin, and cello by Schubert, Paganini, and others. Guest instrumentalist Olav Chris Henriksen will perform using an authentic 19th-century guitar that has been in his family for centuries. Performances will take place on **Friday, February 5**, 8 pm at First Parish Wayland and **Saturday February 6**, 8 pm at Harvard Epworth Church in Cambridge.

In March, the ensemble presents **Virtuosi Italiani**, a program of brilliant vocal and instrumental works, including motets and cantatas for solo soprano and strings by Vivaldi, a flute concerto by Nardini, and a string sinfonia by Locatelli. Joining the ensemble will be soprano Kristen Watson, who made her Old Post Road debut in December 2008 to critical and audience acclaim. Performances will take place on **Saturday, March 27**, 8 pm at Emmanuel Church in Boston and **Sunday, March 28**, 4 pm at First Unitarian Church in Worcester.

Old Post Road closes its twenty-first season with a special collaboration with The Concert Series at Wellesley College presenting **Conversations Galantes: Music of the French Baroque**. The program will include one of Rameau's *Pièces de clavecin en concert*, a Paris quartet of Telemann, a quartet by Guillemain, and a French cantata. The ensemble will be joined by Laura Jeppeson, viola da gamba, and tenor Aaron Sheehan, from the Wellesley College faculty. The performance will take place on **Saturday, April 24**, 8 pm at the Houghton Chapel on the campus of Wellesley College.

Affordable and flexible three- four- and five-concert subscriptions are available, offering patrons substantial savings off single ticket prices. Single ticket prices range from \$20 to \$25 general admission with discounted rates for students and senior citizens. Children ages 7-17 will be admitted free to most concerts when accompanied by an adult. Old Post Road concert sites are wheelchair accessible.

For tickets and additional information, contact Musicians of the Old Post Road, 318 Bear Hill Road, Suite 9, Waltham, MA 02451, telephone (781) 466-6694, or visit OPR's website at **www.oldpostroad.org**. Musicians of the Old Post Road's concert series is sponsored, in part, by The Furumoto Research Foundation, Margaret E. Sherman Trust, The Bear Foundation, and the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

About the Ensemble

Winner of the 1998 Noah Greenberg Award from the American Musicological Society, Musicians of the Old Post Road has also received programming awards from Chamber Music America and the US Mexico Fund for Culture. The ensemble has toured in Germany, Austria, Mexico, and has appeared at festivals and on concert series in the U.S., including the Indianapolis Early Music Festival, the Boston Early Music Festival Concert Series, the Castle Hill Festival, and the Artists Series at Mercer University in Macon, Georgia. The ensemble was in residence at Dartmouth College in April, 2005. In 2006, the ensemble was featured on WCBV television's *Chronicle* program in a segment which focused on the history of the old Boston Post Road.

The ensemble's discography includes five recordings that have each been praised in the US and abroad. They include *The Virtuoso Double Bass* (Titanic, 1994), *Trios and Scottish Song Settings* of J. N. Hummel (Meridian, 1999), *Galant with an Attitude: Music of Juan and JosØPla* (Meridian, 2000), *Quartets of Telemann and Bodinus* (Meridian, 2004) and *Feliz Navidad: Christmas in Spain and New Spain* (Meridian, 2008).

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Musicians of the Old Post Road

2009-2010 Concert Series

A Haydn Celebration

Lively and expressive works from Haydn's London period, including his Piano Trio No. 30 in F Major, the Cantata *Arianna a Naxos*, and his charming settings of Scottish and Welsh folk songs for voice and multiple instruments. At intermission, the audience will be invited to participate in Haydn's Musical Dice Game.

Friday, October 23, 8 pm, Christ Church, Cambridge

Saturday, October 24, 8 pm, First Parish, Sudbury

Mediterranean Baroque Christmas

Ebullient and festive instrumental and vocal works from Spain, France, and Italy, including cantatas, villancicos, and the regional premiere of a cantata by the Italian Baroque composer Francesco Mancini.

Saturday December 19, 3 pm, Old South Church, Boston

Sunday December 20, 4 pm, First Unitarian, Worcester

From the Romantic Salon

An evocative evening of intimate chamber music with guitar, flute, viola, and cello by Schubert, Paganini, and others.

Friday, February 5, 8 pm, First Parish, Wayland

Saturday, February 6, 8 pm, Harvard Epworth Church, Cambridge

Virtuosi Italiani

Brilliant vocal and instrumental works, including motets and cantatas for solo soprano and strings by Vivaldi, a flute concerto by Nardini, and a string sinfonia by Locatelli. The ensemble will be joined by soprano Kristen Watson, who made her OPR debut last December to critical and audience acclaim.

- Saturday, March 27, 8 pm, Emmanuel Church, Boston
- Sunday, March 28, 4 pm, First Unitarian Church, Worcester

Special Collaboration with the Wellesley College Concert Series

Conversations Galantes: Music of the French Baroque

Program will include one of Rameau's *Pièces de clavecin en concerts*, a Paris quartet of Telemann, a quartet by Guillemain, and a French cantata. Featuring Wellesley College faculty Laura Jeppessen, viola da gamba, and OPR's co-Artistic Director Suzanne Stumpf, traverso. *With guest baritone Aaron Engebretson.*

April 24, 8 pm, Wellesley College Chapel

Programs, dates, and locations are subject to change.