

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 30, 2018

Early Music Vancouver Opens 49th Season with Antonio Vivaldi's Virtuoso Collection of Concertos – *L'Estro Armonico*

***Performed by Vancouver's Pacific Baroque Orchestra,
led by guest conductor and violinist Enrico Onofri***

Vancouver, BC – Early Music Vancouver (EMV) presents *Vivaldi – L'Estro Armonico*, on September 29, 2018 at 7:30 pm at Christ Church Cathedral in downtown Vancouver for the first concert of the 49th season. *L'Estro Armonico* (the harmonic inspiration) is a stunning collection of violin concertos written by the Baroque master, Antonio Vivaldi. They will be performed by the Juno-nominated Pacific Baroque Orchestra and led by internationally-acclaimed Italian baroque violinist and musical director Enrico Onofri.

"It is a great honour and pleasure to open Early Music Vancouver's 49th season," says Onofri. "I am very eager to perform with the Pacific Baroque Orchestra. In recent years, I have played together with concertmaster Chloe Meyers in many projects in Montreal so there is already a strong personal connection. Though it has been twenty years since I last performed in Vancouver, I still fondly remember the beautiful city and warm audience."

Onofri was born in Ravenna, Italy. His career took off when he was still a student and was invited to be concertmaster of La Capella Reial de Catalunya by the revered early music pioneer Jordi Savall. That became the gateway to the rest of Europe, with Onofri quickly gaining a reputation as both a formidable solo violinist and music director. From 1987 to 2010 he was concertmaster and soloist of Il Giardino Armonico. He has performed as soloist and musical director in the world's most famous concert halls including the Musikverein and Konzerthaus in Vienna, Philharmonie and Unter den Linden Opera in Berlin, Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, Teatro San Carlo in Naples, Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center in New York, the Wigmore Hall and Barbican in London, Théâtre des Champs-Élysées and Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris alongside artists like Nikolaus Harnoncourt, Gustav Leonhardt, Christophe Coin, and Cecilia Bartoli. He has been praised by the Telegraph as "a magician on the violin."

Published in 1711, *L'Estro Armonico* is considered one of the most influential collections of instrumental music from the 18th century. It was one of the most reprinted collections during Vivaldi's lifetime and was even more popular at the time than his now ubiquitous *Four Seasons*. These concertos were an important part of defining the genre of the modern violin concerto and had an important influence on the music of Johann Sebastian Bach who both studied and admired these seminal works.

"*L'Estro Armonico* was probably the most innovative collection of concertos released at that time," explains Onofri. "It represents a kind of meeting place between the established musical language of the 17th century and the new spirit brought by the incoming Age of Enlightenment. It was a real shock for many composers, including Bach. Despite the many magnificent collections of concertos written by Vivaldi, *L'Estro Armonico* is probably my favorite."

L'Estro Armonico is most often translated as "harmonic inspiration" but it is also sometimes translated as "harmonic fire" or "harmonic frenzy". This is because these concertos are full of fire and fantasy and challenged the technical limits of violin playing at the time. Vivaldi himself was a virtuoso and wrote breathtakingly difficult passages for the soloist. He was also a natural storyteller who knew how to keep his audience in suspense through the use of unpredictable and exciting harmonic shifts. These concertos are an opportunity for joyous and exuberant music making - an appropriate repertoire to mark the beginning of

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another season of fabulous music for EMV and the Pacific Baroque Orchestra.

ABOUT EARLY MUSIC VANCOUVER (earlymusic.bc.ca)

For close to 50 years, Early Music Vancouver (EMV) has dedicated itself to fostering an understanding and appreciation of musical treasures from the Renaissance, Baroque, and Classical periods. Currently under the leadership of Matthew White – renowned countertenor and founding director of the Québec-based ensemble *Les Voix Baroques* – EMV continues to garner international acclaim as the largest presenter of early music in Canada, and as one of the most active and innovative organizations in its field in North America. EMV is proud of its educational outreach initiatives that include its popular annual summer Vancouver Bach Festival; Baroque Mentorship Orchestra; community lectures; and instrument instruction and preservation.

LISTING INFORMATION

**Early Music Vancouver presents *L'Estro Armonico*
With the Pacific Baroque Orchestra and Enrico Onofri**

Date: Saturday, September 29, 2018 at 7:30pm

Pre-Concert Talk: 6:45pm with Enrico Onofri hosted by EMV's Executive & Artistic Director Matthew White

Address: Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver
690 Burrard St, Vancouver, BC V6C 2L1

Ticket prices: From \$18

Box Office: earlymusic.bc.ca or 604-822-2697

Website: earlymusic.bc.ca

For further media information, contact Laina Tanahara at:

staff@earlymusic.bc.ca

604.732.1610

WWW.EARLYMUSIC.BC.CA