

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 8, 2019

Orlando Consort Gives Voice to Silent Film, *La Passion de Jeanne d’Arc*

***Carl Theodore Dreyer’s 1928 Masterpiece will be Accompanied by Choral Music
from Joan of Arc’s Own Era***

Vancouver, BC – EMV proudly presents the imaginative **Film in Concert: The Passion of Joan of Arc**, featuring the **Orlando Consort on January 11, 7:30PM at Christ Church Cathedral**. Carl Theodore Dreyer’s 1928 film, *The Passion of Joan of Arc (Le Passion de Jeanne d’Arc)*, will be screened with live choral accompaniment sung and curated by the Orlando Consort. The concert features vocal works from the early 15th century composed during Joan of Arc’s lifetime, providing historical context to the film as well as a new soundtrack. The Guardian reviewed the live multimedia performance as “an exceptional achievement”.

“What attracted me to the idea was that we as a group know a great deal of music written and performed during the lifetime of Joan of Arc,” explains Donald Greig, founding member of the consort. “The more I thought about it, the more I realised that there were further overlaps – Joan hears voices, we sing and the film concerns her trial by clerics while a lot of the music that has survived from this period is sacred music. I also have a background as a lecturer in film studies, so it brought together two of my interests: medieval music and cinema.”

The Passion of Joan of Arc is based on the actual record of the trial of Joan of Arc, depicting her time as a captive of England, her subsequent trial and execution. Dreyer’s direction and Renée Jeanne Falconetti’s performance as Joan are revered amongst film scholars and cinephiles. Roger Ebert praised the film, singling out Falconetti’s performance by stating, “You cannot know the history of silent film unless you know the face of Renée Falconetti.”

Upon its premiere, the film was mired in controversy. French nationalists believed that Dreyer, who was Danish, could not accurately portray one of France’s most revered icons. Several cuts to the film ordered by the Archbishop of Paris and by government censors over which Dreyer had no control, and it was banned in Britain for its portrayal of English soldiers. Despite this, the film was an immediate critical success and remains consistently ranked as one of the top ten films ever made by critics’ lists.

Formed in 1988, the Orlando Consort rapidly achieved a reputation as one of Europe’s most expert and consistently challenging groups performing repertoire from the years 1050 to 1550. Their work successfully combines captivating entertainment and fresh scholarly insight; the unique imagination and originality of their programming together with their superb vocal skills has marked the Consort out as the outstanding leaders of their field. They have made 27 recordings to much critical acclaim, including a Gramophone Award for ‘Best Early Music CD of the Year’ and are currently pursuing an epic project to record all the songs of Guillaume de Machaut for the Hyperion Label. The New York Times calls the Orlando Consort “models of focused intonation and textural transparency,” with their blend of voices sounding “solid and rich.”

ABOUT EARLY MUSIC VANCOUVER (earlymusic.bc.ca)

For 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 festival at UBC's School of Music; a new Baroque Mentorship Orchestra; community lectures; and instrument instruction and preservation.

LISTING INFORMATION

**EMV presents *Film in Concert: The Passion of Joan of Arc*,
featuring the Orlando Consort**

Date: Friday, January 31 at Christ Church Cathedral

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

Ticket prices: From \$18

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

Website: earlymusic.bc.ca

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