35th ANNIVERSARY SEASON
2009 - 2010

EARLY MUSIC FOUNDATION
TEN WEST SIXTY-EIGHTH STREET
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10023-6053
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NEWSLETTER ENCLOSED

EARLY MUSIC NEW YORK
FREDERICK RENZ DIRECTOR
"vital, beautifully sculptured performances"
The New York Times, 2009

"a revered institution" The New York Times

The Venues:
The Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine
On Amsterdam Avenue at 112th Street, the Cathedral is easily reached by public transportation: Buses M4, M11, and M104, Subway #1 to 110th Street. Parking is available in several nearby garages.

The Cathedral Church of Saint James at the Divine
Located on Madison Avenue and 71st Street, Saint James' Church is accessible via the M72 cross-town bus and M1, M3.

Saint James' parking is available on Madison and Lexington Avenues with space usually available on Madison and Lexington Avenues. Please see the picture of the Cathedral and Saint James' Church for a visual.
English is the Anglo-American Composers of the 18th Century

II. A RENAISSANCE CHRISTMAS

Traditional Christmas carols and popular secular songs from Spain and the Colonial Latin America

III. GERMANIA - AMERICA

Chamber Ensembles of the 18th Century in Europe and America
Reviewing the Season Past  
(2008-2009)  
~ EARLY MUSIC FOUNDATION PRESENTS ~  
EARLY MUSIC NEW YORK (EM/NY)

"Even in a corner of the music world where ensembles are typically flexible, Early Music New York has made shape shifting an art form. Its founder and director, Frederick Renz, named the group in a way that allows an expansive sense of mission, touching on six centuries of music. For one concert the group might be a medieval quartet, for another it might be a vocal ensemble, and for the next a Baroque orchestra."


Chamber concerts in residence, Cathedral of St. John the Divine - EM/NY, as Cathedral Resident Artists, performed two fall presentations at St. John the Divine and drew record audiences. The opening event, "Colonial Capers" proved an eye-opener to those who assumed early American repertoire consisted only of simple, puritanical hymns. Far from it, the music selected by Frederick Renz, both vocal and instrumental, proved to be accomplished and vivacious, displaying a scope of moods and composition techniques that shed light on the complex, creative lives of our forefathers.

A compact disc of "Colonial Capers" is in the final edit stages and will be released by Ex cathedra Records in the fall. The recording project was underwritten by the Reed Foundation and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Coinciding with rededication ceremonies of the fully refurbished Cathedral, six performances of "A Baroque Christmas" sold out in record time; disappointed latecomers had to be turned away at the door. It's an EM/NY tradition to cycle its six seasonal programs, each recorded on CD in association with the Met Museum of Art ("A Medieval...", "A Renaissance...", "A Baroque...", "A Colonial...", "A Bohemian...", and "A Dutch Christmas.") For several years, EM/NY has had the pleasure of performing its holiday programs for the Howland Friends of Chamber Music headquartered in Beacon, New York.

Orchestra of Original Instruments, St. James' Church - The first EM/NY Orchestra program of the spring season highlighted expressive and virtuosic 17th-century programmatic repertoire reflecting the tastes of the imperial Hapsburg court.

Frederick Renz, once again, found and polished off provocative works, shedding light on these seldom heard, dazzling orchestra gems.

"Mr. Renz's ensemble ... gave these works vital, beautifully sculptured performances."

- The New York Times, spring 2009

The second orchestra program and the final event of the 2008-2009 season, entitled "Concerts Spirituels," focused on lesser known 18th-century concerto composers.

In addition to being consummate team players, select members of the EM/NY Orchestra displayed their soloist 'chops' with delightfully virtuosic French concertos, each, for cello, flute, and oboe.

A trademark of his presentations, Renz balances concert programs by including well-known composers as well as bringing unheard repertoire to the fore. In addition to the lesser know concerti, a colorful dance suite by Jean Philippe Rameau proved the affair to be perhaps more "spirited" than "spiritual."

UPCOMING:  
Sunday, December 6th, 2009  
at 4:00 PM, EM/NY will present "A Renaissance Christmas" at St. Mary-in-the-Highlands Episcopal Church, Cold Spring, NY. For details about this upcoming appearance: www.howlandmusic.org

UPCOMING:  
Saturday, October 10 at 8 PM, EM/NY will present "El Nuevo Mundo" for the Catskill Mtn. Fdn, Hunter, NY. For details: www.catskillmtn.org
Medieval Echoes from The Cloisters - As has been the case every year since its inception, EM/NY appeared at The Cloisters, performing in the chapels and outdoor cloistered gardens. This past year, EM/NY musicians were invited to serenade indoors in winter and, again, in the open air to welcome the spring. While musicians performed simultaneously from multiple locations within The Cloisters, strains from EM/NY CDs could be heard wafting from the Museum gift shop wing!

EM/NY RECORDINGS

In the fall, “Music of Renaissance Love” was released in association with The Metropolitan Museum of Art for the exhibition, “Art and Love in Renaissance Italy.” Representing more than a dozen Italian composers including Monteverdi, Gabrieli, Gesualdo, Arcadelt, and Palestrina, this EM/NY album on the Ex cathedra Records label is a sumptuous compendium of secular love songs from highly chromatic madrigals expressing love’s anguish, to lighthearted, sometimes salacious, dance songs extolling Cupid’s folly. This recording was partially funded by the Jarvis and Constance Doctorow Family Foundation and serves as the vocal counterpart to EM/NY’s previous all-instrumental release entitled “Music of Venice.”

A DVD/CD entitled “Choirs of Angels,” produced for EMF by Robert Elder, and in collaboration with The Metropolitan Museum of Art, was also released in time for the winter holiday season. The widescreen DVD features more than forty images from the Museum’s superb collection of Italian Renaissance paintings and cuttings from choral manuscripts. Contemporary music performed by EM/NY (also on a separate 60-minute CD) complements the almost 60-minute gallery tour of illuminations.

With these most recent releases, the Ex cathedra Records catalog totals nine titles produced in association with The Metropolitan Museum of Art. In the 2008-2009 season, more than 4,000 EM/NY CDs were sold.

~ EMF BOARD OF TRUSTEES ~
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~ EMF SERVICE TO THE FIELD ~

New York Early Music Central (NYEMC)

Staging Calendar - Historical performance is a specialized field and EMF is the leading NYC-based organization to provide services to promote this special body of music through NYEMC. The early music community is close-knit; performers commonly appear in more than one ensemble. Coordinating rehearsal and concert dates among directors/managers is essential. In order to facilitate communications, EMF launched and maintains a website, planning calendar (www.NYEMC.org) as free-access a resource to best avoid conflicting activity in the City. A vast improvement over prior years, no major conflicts of NYC early music activity occurred this past season.

Lecture/Demo Series Planned for this Season - Through a matching ‘consortium’ grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, EMF (NYEMC) will organize and curate a series of six Lecture/Demonstrations explaining and illustrating historical performance practices (AKA ‘early music’) for the lay-listener. Scheduled for spring 2010, dates, venue, lecturers, performers and topics will be announced in January.

~ EMF SUPPORT ~

The mission of the Early Music Foundation is made possible, in part, by public funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, New York State Council on the Arts and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. Additional private support is provided by the Achellis Foundation, Appleby Foundation, Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation, Jarvis and Constance Doctorow Family Foundation, Max and Victoria Dreyfus Foundation, Gilder Foundation, Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation, Merrill G. & Emilia E. Hastings Foundation, Jewish Communal Fund, Reed Foundation, Fan Fox & Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, Ernst C. Stiefel Foundation, and many loyal, individual Friends of the EMF.

‘Stimulus’ - EMF was advised by the National Endowment for the Arts that it will receive a Federal ‘stimulus’ (ARRA) award insuring the stability of its administrative staff through the current economic downturn. EMF is one of a select group of arts organizations nationwide to receive this coveted support.

To inquire about contributing to EMF, please call our administrative office at 212-749-6600 or visit www.EarlyMusicNY.org