



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The **Guelph Chamber Choir** presents *High Renaissance from Down Under* with noted chamber choir **Ensemble Gombert** from Melbourne, Australia

Guelph, Ontario – September 10, 2009 – “How shall we sing the Lord’s song in a strange land?” is the question posed by William Byrd’s mesmerizing motet. To discover how a celebrated chamber choir from a far corner of the globe answers this compelling question and to hear this and other sublime works of music, the **Guelph Chamber Choir** is excited to present **Ensemble Gombert** from Melbourne, Australia, on **September 26, 2009 at 8 pm at St. George’s Anglican Church** in Guelph, Ontario.

Exacting standards, trained vocal ability and a historically informed approach to choral sound and musical style have made **Ensemble Gombert** Melbourne’s premiere chamber choir specializing in a *capella* performance of Franco-Flemish music of the High Renaissance. Composer **Nicolas Gombert** falls between Josquin Desprez and Giovanni Palestrina and represents the pinnacle of the complex polyphonic style of the 16th century where independent melodic vocal lines interweave to breath-taking effect.

John O’Donnell, founder and conductor of **Ensemble Gombert**, enjoys an international reputation as a keyboard artist, choral director, and musicologist. He is the first person ever to perform Bach’s complete keyboard works in public and tours Europe annually to great acclaim.

This special event will feature exquisite works from **Josquin Desprez, Thomas Tallis, Nicolas Gombert**, and **William Byrd** alongside more recent works by Canadian **Healey Willan** and American **Morten Lauridsen**.

Gerald Neufeld, conductor of the **Guelph Chamber Choir** notes, “I am so pleased we can host **Ensemble Gombert** here in Guelph as part of a whirlwind North American itinerary with performances in **San Francisco, Toronto** and **New York City** as well as appearances at **Stanford** and **Western Universities**. My singers are excited to join the Ensemble for two selections as South meets North over our shared European bonds.”

The **Guelph Chamber Choir** presents this concert as a special pre-season bonus event to our celebratory **30th Anniversary Subscription Season** which includes a **Gala Anniversary Concert** featuring the **Guelph Youth Singers** and **Dancetheatre David Earle, Handel’s Messiah**, a joint concert with the **Orpheus Choir of Toronto** and a rare performance of **Monteverdi’s Vespers of 1610** at **Church of Our Lady**.

Tickets to this concert are **FREE with the purchase of a subscription to our full series at only \$100 each!** Individual tickets are **\$20 each** with tickets at **\$10 for students** and **\$5 eyeGo** available from the **River Run Centre** at **519-763-3000** or online at **riverrun.ca**. Seating is by general admission – plan to arrive early.

Available tickets may also be purchased at the door on September 26 before 8 pm at **St. George’s Anglican Church** in downtown Guelph – a space that is as beautiful to the ear as it is to the eye.

To discover more, please visit **www.guelphchamberchoir.ca** or **www.ensemlegombert.com.au**

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