



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The glorious voices of the **Guelph Chamber Choir**
will fill Guelph's magnificent **Church of Our Lady**
in a 2010 recreation of Monteverdi's masterpiece, ***Vespers of 1610***

Guelph, Ontario – March 15, 2010 – The **Guelph Chamber Choir** brings its celebratory 30th anniversary season to a climax with a rare performance of Monteverdi's glorious ***Vespers of 1610*** at the very heart of Guelph, the **Church of Our Lady** on **Saturday, May 1, 2010 at 8 pm.**

A work of monumental proportions, the ***Vespers*** features eight skilled soloists and demands a choir adept enough to cover up to ten simultaneous vocal parts, fully supported by an orchestral array of early Baroque strings, cornetti, sackbuts, recorders, and more.

Immense in scale, Monteverdi's ***Vespers of 1610*** was the most ambitious work of sacred music before Bach. Bridging the spiritual traditions of Renaissance music with the more humanist values of the Baroque age, the work is a marvel of creative genius. Monteverdi seamlessly integrates Renaissance traditions of polyphonic music with new operatic ideals in a marvellous musical architecture that includes polyphonic psalm settings, vocal concertos, hymns, motets, and a virtuosic instrumental sonata, all bound together by Gregorian chant, creating an enduring masterpiece of spiritual and emotional depth.

Conductor **Gerald Neufeld** has once again drawn from the impressive vocal talents of our community with an outstanding line-up of local and national soloists including **Daniel Cabena, Rebecca Collett, Chris Fischer, Marcus Kramer, Stephanie Kramer, Neil McLaren, Jennifer Enns Modolo, and Geoffrey Sirett.**

Dr. Neufeld commented, "It is a privilege to perform a work of this magnitude and historical significance the way it might have been performed in San Marco in Venice. The **Church of Our Lady** is an ideal venue to recreate a work with so much colour and imagination as a final concert for our 30th anniversary season."

The **Guelph Chamber Choir** is pleased to be presenting this work at Guelph's core, the visually and acoustically splendid **Church of Our Lady**. When John Galt founded Guelph in 1827, he announced that "on this hill would one day rise a church to rival St. Peter's in Rome." The current building is the third church to stand on this site, whose prominent sight lines across the city are protected by city law. It is Canadian architect **Joseph Connolly's** undisputed masterwork, built of local limestone in the Gothic Revival style. Construction started in 1877, but took more than 50 years to complete. It is a perfect venue for this towering work of Renaissance art.

Join us for a special **PodiumTalk!** on **Early Instruments** immediately before the performance at 7 pm. Hear and see how instrumentalists of the 17th century work to produce such sublimely expressive music with live interactions with our musicians.

Tickets are available through the **River Run Centre** by calling **519-763-3000**, online at **riverrun.ca** or at the door at **Church of Our Lady**. Choir and board members will be pleased to sell tickets as well. Tickets are affordable to all at **only \$25** each (students and **eyeGO**: \$10 and \$5).

Special thanks to our community engaged concert sponsors: **Deloitte, Linamar, Homewood Corporation, and TD Canada Trust** as well as soloist sponsors **Stantec Consulting and Weiler & Company.**

To discover more, please visit our website at **www.guelphchamberchoir.ca** or call **519-836-5103.**

Submitted by **Stephen Pierce: 519-836-8867 | info@guelphchamberchoir.ca**

For more information contact **Dr. Gerald Neufeld: 519-661-2111 Ext: 85338 | gneufeld@uwo.ca**

PO Box 513 | Guelph, Ontario | N1H 6K9 | 519-836-5103

www.guelphchamberchoir.ca