

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Belgian medieval chant ensemble Psallentes to perform works from illuminated manuscript in Halifax

Halifax, Nova Scotia (September 12, 2017): Cecilia Concerts in partnership with the Fountain School of the Performing Arts at Dalhousie University, Saint Mary's University, and the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia presents Belgian-based medieval vocal ensemble Psallentes on stage in Halifax, Saturday, September 23, 8:00pm at St. Mary's Basilica, 5221 Spring Garden Road.

Psallentes is known internationally for their performance of plainchant. The ensemble, which has released more than 25 recordings, focuses on late Medieval and Renaissance plainsong and related polyphony. From careful investigation and extensive use of original manuscripts, Psallentes gather evidence on how this music was performed. For this special Halifax concert, the chant ensemble performs works from the Salzinnes Antiphonal (1554-1555), which is an illuminated choir book originating from the Cistercian Abbey of Salzinnes on the outskirts of Namur (present-day Belgium). It made its way to Halifax in the 19th century and was rediscovered in 1998. After years of research, analysis, and conservation treatment the brilliant book is celebrating its first public display at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia. The exhibition offers a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see a unique 16th-century artifact that transitioned from use in its European setting to a new life across the Atlantic. The exhibition runs until Oct 29. More information on the exhibition is available on the AGNS website: goo.gl/Zm0ZhB

Tickets for this rare concert are available online (\$30 Adult, \$20 Senior, \$15 Student, \$10 Child) at ceciliaconcerts.ca, by phone at 902-423-0143, and also at the door.

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About Cecilia Concerts

Cecilia Concerts presents local, national and international classical music in a series of concerts throughout the year. For more than a quarter century, they have presented the best in classical music experiences for Halifax audiences in a welcoming atmosphere, and at accessible ticket prices. They have supported and presented works by many emerging and established artists over the years including: Grammy Award-winning soprano Suzie LeBlanc, tenor Ben Heppner, Violinist Philippe Djokic and pianist Lynn Stodola; Pianist/Composer/Conductor Dinuk Wijeratne; Composer/Musician/Broadcaster Peter Togni; Composer/Pianist Peter Allen; flautist Marina Piccinini, Grammy Award-winning composer Paul Halley; YAS Quartet with violinist Artem Kolesov; and opera/musical theatre star Rebecca Caine.

Cecilia Concerts operates with support from the Department of Canadian Heritage, Arts Nova Scotia, the Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage, Support4Culture, the city of Halifax, ArtsVest – Business for the Arts, and Music Nova Scotia. Season Sponsors include Scotiabank, Premier Suites Atlantic, Jules Chamberlain of Red Door Realty and The Craig Foundation. Cecilia Concerts also operates with the support of many generous donors and partners.

About Fountain School of Performing Arts, Dalhousie University

The Fountain School of Performing Arts offers programs in various areas of the performing arts including costume studies, music performance, technical scenography, dramaturgy, musicology, directing, composing, playwriting, acting and film. Performing arts faculty members are an exciting mixture of academic researchers, professional performers, composers, craftspeople and designers, who actively contribute to academic knowledge and cultural enrichment.

About Saint Mary's University

Saint Mary's University is located in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. The school is best known for having nationally leading programs in business and chemistry, as well as one of the best Canadian women's basketball programs.

About the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia

With locations in downtown Halifax and Yarmouth, the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia is the largest art museum in Atlantic Canada. Since 1908, the Gallery has been a gateway for the visual arts in Atlantic Canada by engaging people with art. It is committed to this mission as an agency of the Province of Nova Scotia and one of the premier arts institutions in Canada. The Gallery is also responsible for acquiring, preserving and exhibiting works of art, and for providing education in the visual arts. The Gallery's Permanent Collection currently holds over 17,000 works.

For further information or to book an artist interview or media appearance (French or English) please contact:

Greg Morris

Interim Executive Director

Cecilia Concerts | [902.423-0143](tel:902.423-0143) | music@ceciliaconcerts.ca

For high-resolution artist photography please visit: ceciliaconcerts.ca/media

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