



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, November 09, 2010

BAROQUE HEROINES TRAGIC AND TRIUMPHANT

LONDON – Orchestra London’s **Cathedral series** presents **Baroque Heroines Tragic and Triumphant**, on **November 17, 8 pm** at **St. Paul’s Cathedral**. Mezzo-soprano **Sophie Louise Roland** and Concertmaster **Joseph Lanza** honour the Baroque heroine, presenting a charming program of scenes from beloved Baroque operas.

The term “Baroque” has been widely used since the nineteenth century to describe the period in Western European music from about 1600 to 1750. **Mr. Lanza** characterizes Baroque Opera as, “A series of short pieces. The vocal ones are very expressive in nature and with a very particular mood. They are intermingled with instrumental dance pieces, often with very striking rhythm.

“In this concert, there will be suites of the instrumental music and a few short but critical scenes in which we will explore the **action and dilemmas** of the mezzo-soprano (who is) sometimes the star, sometimes not. **Sophie Roland** will, in two instances, sing music of more than one character in the opera.”

Regarding the piquant title of the concert “Baroque Heroines Tragic and Triumphant”, **Mr. Lanza** says, “In the first half of the concert, we will explore how forces beyond the control of the characters, Dido and Phaedra, shape their fate. Both are tragic figures, but Phaedra’s fate seems even sadder because she loves someone that she should not and dies by her own hand.

“There will be a small choir making a few cameos to enhance the drama of both plots. In both cases, **Ms. Roland** will tell the story from the point of view of a lesser character in the opera but in each case she returns later as the **tragic heroine**.

“**In the second half**, Sophie will sing some of the most exciting and ravishing baroque music written for her voice, by Handel. And I will be playing some very ‘operatic’ violin music - one of the really great violin concertos by Antonio Vivaldi!”

Mr. Lanza encourages lovers of romance and opera to come out for a great evening of music. He says, “It’s going to be a real show and I’m very excited about it!”

CONCERT SUMMARY

Who:

Joseph Lanza – Conductor
Sophie Louise Roland – Mezzo-Soprano

Thames Scholars – Baroque chorus

What:

Cathedral series: **Baroque Heroines Tragic & Triumphant**
Selections include music from *Dido & Aeneas*, by **Purcell**; *Suite from Hippolyte et Aricie*, by **Rameau**; and *L'aura che spira* from *Giulio Cesare* by **Handel**.

When:

Wednesday, November 17, 2010

Where:

St. Paul's Cathedral
472 Richmond St., London

Prices:

Adults: \$50-\$55
Subscriptions: For 7 concerts, starting at \$199.99

For Tickets or More Information:

Orchestra London Box Office (519) 679-8778
609 Wellington St. (at Central)
www.orchestralondon.ca

*Orchestra London's 2010-2011 Season is sponsored by: **Pacific & Western Bank of Canada***

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