



Jeffrey Thomas, Music Director
The finest music. The finest interpretation.

For Immediate Release

Monteverdi's Vespers of 1610

*Celebrating the 400th anniversary of the publication of Monteverdi's *Vespro della Beata Vergine**

Soloists: Jennifer Ellis (soprano), Abigail Haynes Lennox (soprano), and Derek Chester (tenor)

Belvedere (January 29), Berkeley (January 30), San Francisco (January 31)

Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts, UC Davis (February 1)

(January 11, 2010 – San Francisco, CA) Fresh from sold-out performances of Handel's MESSIAH over the holidays, American Bach Soloists step forward with their interpretation of an extraordinary work of art - **Monteverdi's VESPERS OF 1610**.

This masterwork is of particular significance as 2010 marks the 400th anniversary of the publication of Monteverdi's *Vespro della Beata Vergine*, a work that displays Monteverdi's brilliant assimilation of styles – old and new, sacred and secular – and his command of a wide palette of musical structures including psalm settings, sacred concertos, hymns, motets, and sonatas, all bound together by Gregorian chant.

Monteverdi's splendid music from the Venetian school will be performed by ABS, the American Bach Choir and three soloists: **Jennifer Ellis**, soprano; **Abigail Haynes Lennox**, soprano; and **Derek Chester**, tenor.

In keeping with ABS' commitment to education, free pre-concert lectures – INSIGHTS – will be presented by **Corey Jamason** beginning one hour prior to each performance. Performances of THE VESPERS OF 1610 are generously sponsored by Hugh Davies and Kaneez Munjee.

Founded in 1989, the American Bach Soloists (ABS) continue to introduce audiences to the masterworks of Bach and his contemporaries – as well as little-known gems from the Baroque and early-Classical eras – through historically informed performances using period instruments and leading vocal interpreters of Baroque music. Under the leadership of Co-founder and Music Director Jeffrey Thomas the ensemble has become a veritable “Who's Who” of early music specialists and has been called “superbly musical,” and “a breath of fresh air.” ABS' virtuoso performances with the “sounds of remarkable transparency and body” have earned ABS recognition as “the best American specialists in early music.”

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The 2009/2010 season will continue with Bach's St. John Passion (February 26-March 1); and Bach, Handel, and Vivaldi (April 16-19).

In July 2010, American Bach Soloists will inaugurate North America's newest annual professional training program for young professionals and accomplished students of Historically Informed Performance Practice. Drawing on their distinguished roster of performers, American Bach Soloists' ACADEMY (July 5- 18, 2010) will offer unique opportunities for emerging professionals, and advanced conservatory-level singers and instrumentalists to study Baroque music in a multi-disciplinary learning environment. During the course of the program, faculty and students will present concerts including a three night SUMMERFEST of chamber music on the first weekend; a concert-version Baroque opera; and a performance of Bach's MASS IN B MINOR.

The American Bach Soloists are recipients of major grants from Grants for the Arts/San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund, The William & Flora Hewlett Foundation, the James Irvine Foundation, the Marin Community Foundation, the Charles Hosmer Morse Foundation, the E. Nakamichi Foundation, The William E. & Aenid R. Weisgerber Foundation, The Wallis Foundation, and the Phyllis C. Wattis Foundation.

CALENDAR

What: **Monteverdi's VESPERS OF 1610**

Who: **American Bach Soloists**

Jeffrey Thomas, Conductor

Guest vocalists: **Jennifer Ellis** (soprano), **Abigail Haynes Lennox** (soprano),

Derek Chester (tenor)

Date (1): **Friday, Jan. 29, 2009 @ 8:00pm** (Pre-Concert Lecture, at 7pm)

Venue (1): St. Stephen's Church (3 Bayview Avenue at Golden Gate in **Belvedere**)

Date (2): **Saturday, Jan. 30, 2009 @ 8:00pm** (Pre-Concert Lecture at 7pm)

Venue (2): First Congregational Church (2345 Channing Way @ Dana Street in **Berkeley**)

Date (3): **Sunday, Jan. 31, 2009 @ 7:00pm** (Pre-Concert Lecture at 6pm)

Venue (3): St. Mark's Lutheran Church (1111 O'Farrell Street @ Franklin in **San Francisco**)

Tickets (Belvedere, Berkeley, San Francisco): \$20 - \$45 general; \$18 - \$40 for students, seniors, children

Box Office (Belvedere, Berkeley, San Francisco): (415) 621-7900 and americanbach.org

Date (4): **Monday, Feb. 1 @ 8:00pm** (pre-concert lecture at 7pm)

Venue (4): Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts (Mrak Hall Drive @ Old Davis Road) UC **Davis**

Davis Tickets: \$20 - \$45 general; \$18 - \$40 for students, seniors and children

Box Office: Mondavi box office (503) 754- ARTS and americanbach.org

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