

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Zenith Ensemble Presents Monteverdi's Magnificent *Vespers of 1610*

[Keene, NH] — Zenith Ensemble invites audiences to experience one of the most breathtaking works in the choral canon: Claudio Monteverdi's *Vespers of 1610*. This landmark performance will showcase the brilliance, drama, and spiritual grandeur of Monteverdi's masterpiece through an ambitious collaboration of professional artists and dedicated community musicians.

This special performance also marks the return of Artistic Director Dr. Matthew Leese from New Zealand to conduct the project. Known for his passionate and insightful interpretations of choral masterworks, Dr. Leese will reunite with Zenith Ensemble to lead this ambitious and deeply moving production.

The performance will feature period instruments and historically informed performance practices, offering audiences a rare opportunity to hear this revolutionary work in a style that reflects the rich sound world of early seventeenth-century Italy.

Composed at the pivotal moment in music history bridging the Renaissance and Baroque, *Vespers of 1610* blends soaring choral movements, virtuosic solo writing, and instrumental brilliance into a deeply moving and celebratory musical experience. Widely regarded as one of the greatest sacred works ever written, Monteverdi's *Vespers* continues to captivate audiences more than 400 years after its creation.

Zenith Ensemble is especially excited to welcome some of the most acclaimed early music specialists from around the USA, featuring Marika Holmqvist as concertmaster. An accomplished violinist and specialist in historically informed performance, Holmqvist will lead the instrumental ensemble of rare baroque instruments like the Cornetto, Sackbut and Theorbo with artistry, precision, and stylistic insight central to bringing Monteverdi's visionary work to life.

The vocal forces for this project include professional artists renowned for their combined solo and ensemble prowess, plus a Zenith student scholar, and an auditioned choir of local singers who combine to become the *Ripieno* (full/complete) choir in single, double and multi-choir textures, capitalizing upon the superb acoustic of St Bernard Church.

"This project represents the kind of bold and inspiring artistic collaboration that lies at the heart of Zenith Ensemble's mission," said Dr. Leese. "We are thrilled to bring together exceptional musicians to share in what is essentially community music-making at its most extraordinary."

The performance will feature reserved seating, and audiences are encouraged to purchase tickets early.

Concert Details:
Saturday, June 27th
7PM

St. Bernard - 185 Main Street in Keene

www.thezenithensemble.com

Zenith Ensemble is dedicated to presenting transformative performances of vocal and instrumental masterworks while fostering collaboration between professional and community musicians. Through innovative programming and historically informed performance, the ensemble seeks to create meaningful musical experiences that inspire audiences and performers alike.

For more information, tickets, or sponsorship opportunities, please visit

www.thezenithensemble.com or contact us at 603-513-8818