

Boston Early Music Festival

INTERNATIONAL BAROQUE OPERA • CELEBRATED CONCERTS • WORLD-FAMOUS EXHIBITION

Boston Early Music Festival
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Boston Early Music Festival wins its first GRAMMY® Award for Best Opera Recording for Charpentier's *La Descente d'Orphée aux Enfers* and *La Couronne de Fleurs*

Cambridge, MA – The Boston Early Music Festival recording of **Marc-Antoine Charpentier's *La Descente d'Orphée aux Enfers* and *La Couronne de Fleurs*** for CPO (Classic Produktion Osnabrück) has won a 2015 GRAMMY® Award in the category of **Best Opera Recording**. This was BEMF's fourth GRAMMY® nomination for its series of Baroque Opera recordings and its first win following nods in the same category for Conradi's *Ariadne* in 2006, Lully's *Thésée* in 2007, and Lully's *Psyché* in 2008. The award is shared by BEMF Artistic Directors **Paul O'Dette** and **Stephen Stubbs**, Producer **Renate Wolter-SeEVERS**, who collaborated on all four BEMF nominated recordings, and principal soloist on the recording, tenor **Aaron Sheehan**.

CHARPENTIER'S *LA DESCENTE D'ORPHÉE AUX ENFERS* AND *LA COURONNE DE FLEURS*

Only days after the conclusion of BEMF's June 2013 Festival, members of BEMF's **Vocal and Chamber Ensembles** travelled to the acoustically brilliant Sendesaal Studio in Bremen, Germany to make a recording of Charpentier's *La Descente d'Orphée aux Enfers* and *La Couronne de Fleurs* for CPO (Classic Produktion Osnabrück). BEMF Artistic Directors **Paul O'Dette** and **Stephen Stubbs** led the recording, which features eleven singers from the **BEMF Vocal Ensemble**. BEMF Orchestra Director **Robert Mealy** served as concertmaster of the ten-member **BEMF Chamber Ensemble** and BEMF Opera Director **Gilbert Blin** served as Drama Coach. This recording was released in March 2014, to coincide with BEMF's North American tour of the same repertoire. The *Vancouver Observer* hailed the production for "exceptional performances – the kind that open up your mind in ways you didn't know were possible."

ABOUT THE BOSTON EARLY MUSIC FESTIVAL:

Recognized as the preeminent early music presenter and Baroque opera producer in North America, the **Boston Early Music Festival (BEMF)** has been credited with securing Boston's reputation as "America's early music capital" (*The Boston Globe*). Founded in 1981, BEMF offers diverse programs and activities, including one GRAMMY® Award-winning and three GRAMMY® Award-nominated opera recordings, an annual concert series that brings early music's brightest stars to the Boston and New York concert stages, and a biennial week-long Festival and Exhibition recognized as the "world's leading festival of early music" (*The Times*, London). The 18th Boston Early Music Festival will take place from June 7–14, 2015, and will be highlighted by Claudio Monteverdi's trilogy of operas: *Orfeo*, *Il Ritorno d'Ulisse in Patria*, and *L'Incoronazione di Poppea*. BEMF's Artistic Leadership includes Artistic Directors **Paul O'Dette** and **Stephen Stubbs**, Opera Director **Gilbert Blin**, and Orchestra Director **Robert Mealy**.

For more information, images, press tickets, or to schedule an interview, please contact Kathleen Fay at 617-661-1812 or email kathy@bemf.org.

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