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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-Seevs, 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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