FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 17, 2020

Boston Early Music Festival presents viol superstar Jordi Savall with La Capella Reial de Catalunya & Hespèrion XXI – Friday, February 7, in Harvard Square

ARTISTS: Jordi Savall, director
La Capella Reial de Catalunya
Hespèrion XXI

Elia Casanova, soprano; Lixsania Regla Fernandez, mezzo-soprano; Victor Sordo, tenor; Victor Torres, baritone; Jordi Savall, treble viol; David Sagastume, tenor viol; Juan Manuel Quintana, bass viol; Xavier Puertas, violone; Xavier Días-Latorre, guitar & vihuela; Andrew Lawrence-King, triple harp; David Mayoral, percussion

WHEN: Friday, February 7 at 8pm
Sanders Theatre at Harvard University, 45 Quincy Street, Cambridge, MA

PROGRAM: Splendor of the Iberian Baroque

Pedro Guerrero: La Moresca
Manuel Machado: Afuera, afuera que sale
Francisco Correa de Arrauxo: Batalla de Morales
Juan Blas de Castro: Desde las torres del alma
Pedro de San Lorenzo: Folia Obra no. 10
Anonymous/Lope de Vega: Oh que bien que baila Gil
Anonymous/Antonio Martin y Coll: El Villano
Juan Arañés: A la vida bona
Sebastián aquilera de Heredia: Tiento de Batalla
Anonymous/Lope de Vega: Ya es tiempo de recoger
Improvised Canarios
Anonymous: De tu vista celoso
Antonio Martin y Coll: Danza del Hacha
Anonymous: Todo el mundo en general
Francisco Correa de Arrauxo: Glosas sobre Todo el mundo en general
Anonymous: No hay que decirle el primor
Sebastián Aguilera de Heredia: Ensalada
Mateo Romero: Calise de un Espino
Codex Trujillo del Perú/Improvisations: Cachua Serranita
Maestro Capitán: A la dulce risa del alva
Joan Cabanilles: Obertura/Corrente italiana
Juan Hidalgo/Calderón de la barca: Quedito pasito
Antonio Valente: Galliarda Napolitana
Juan Garcia de Zéspedes: Ay que me abraso ay

**TICKETS:** Tickets are priced at $25, $45, $55, $75, and $125 each, and can be purchased at [BEMF.org](http://BEMF.org) and 617-661-1812; a $5 discount for students, seniors, and groups is available by calling 617-661-1812. Subscription discounts are available with the purchase of three or more programs on the 2019-2020 Season.

**ABOUT THE PROGRAM:** In the 16th and 17th centuries, art and culture flourished in a “Golden Century” across the cultural melting pot of the Iberian Peninsula. Painting, literature, architecture, and music all thrived during this period of political and cultural ascendancy. This is the age of Cervantes, of painters Velázquez and El Greco, and of poet and playwright Lope de Vega, whose innovative dramas drew on history and folklore to depict all classes of society. One of the world’s most endurably gifted artists, viol legend Jordi Savall showcases the musical splendor of his Iberian homeland. Featuring his GRAMMY-winning vocal ensemble, La Capella Reial de Catalunya, and his famous consort of virtuoso instrumentalists, Hespèrion XXI, Savall leads a vibrant celebration of this spectacular music, including folias, canarios, romances of Lope de Vega, and Juan Arañés’s toe-tapping Chacona, A la vida bona – to the good life!

**ASSOCIATED EVENTS:** There will be a pre-concert talk by Jordi Savall at 7pm, moderated by Laury Gutiérrez, founding director of La Donna Musical / RUMBARROCO.

**ABOUT THE ARTISTS:** For more than 50 years, Jordi Savall, one of the most versatile musical personalities of his generation, has rescued musical gems from obscurity and given them back for all to enjoy. His activities as a performer, conductor, teacher, researcher, and creator of new musical and cultural projects have made him a leading figure in the reappraisal of historical music. Together with Montserrat Figueras, he founded the ensembles Hespèrion XXI (1974), La Capella Reial de Catalunya (1987), and Le Concert des Nations (1989), with whom he explores and creates a world of emotion and beauty shared with millions of early music enthusiasts around the world. Jordi Savall has proved not only that early music does not have to be elitist, but that it can appeal to increasingly diverse and numerous audiences. His vast concert and recording career has been described as “not simply a matter of revival, but of imaginative reanimation” ([The New York Times](http://The New York Times)).

Founded in 1974 by Jordi Savall and Montserrat Figueras, Hespèrion XXI is central to the understanding of music between the Middle Ages and the Baroque. Their labors to recover scores, instruments, and other documents have incalculable value. Their research provides new understanding of the period, and their exquisite performances enables people to enjoy the aesthetic and spiritual delicacy of the time. With a repertoire that encompasses the 10th through the 18th centuries, Hespèrion XXI searches continuously for new points of union between East and West, with a desire for integration and the recovery of an international musical heritage. Thanks to the outstanding work of numerous collaborators, Hespèrion XXI plays a key role in the recovery and reappraisal of their musical heritage, one that has great
resonance across the globe. The group has produced more than 60 CDs and performs concerts for the whole world, appearing regularly at the great international festivals of ancient music.

In 1987, Following the model of the famous Medieval “royal chapels,” Montserrat Figueras and Jordi Savall founded La Capella Reial, one of the first vocal groups devoted to the performance of Golden Age music on historical principles and consisting exclusively of Hispanic and Latin voices. In 1990, when the ensemble received the regular patronage of the Generalitat de Catalunya, it changed its name to La Capella Reial de Catalunya. La Capella Reial de Catalunya shares with Hespèrion XXI the same artistic outlook and goals, rooted in respect for the profoundly spiritual and artistic dimension of each work, combining quality and authenticity regarding the style of the period with a careful attention to the declamation and expressive projection of the poetic text. The ensemble’s extensive repertory ranges from the Medieval music of the various cultures of the Mediterranean to the great masters of the Renaissance and the Baroque. The group has distinguished itself in various Baroque and Classical opera repertories, as well as in contemporary works by Arvo Pärt.

RESOURCES:

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 four 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 21st Boston Early Music Festival – themed A Celebration of Women – will take place from June 6–13, 2021, and feature the fully staged North American premiere of Henry Desmarest’s Circé. BEMF’s Artistic Leadership includes Artistic Directors Paul O’Dette and Stephen Stubbs, Opera Director Gilbert Blin, Orchestra Director Robert Mealy, and Dance Director Melinda Sullivan.

The 2019-2020 Boston Early Music Festival Concert Series is presented with support from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, National Endowment for the Arts, Constellation Charitable Foundation, and WGBH Radio Boston, as well as a number of generous foundations and individuals from around the world.

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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