FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Boston Early Music Festival presents the Venice Baroque Orchestra and mezzo-soprano Ann Hallenberg – Friday, February 28, in Boston

ARTISTS:  
Ann Hallenberg, mezzo-soprano  
Venice Baroque Orchestra  
Gianpiero Zanocco, concertmaster

Giorgio Baldan, Giuseppe Cabrio, Lovato Francesco, Pro Gabriele, Russo Valentina, Nicola Mansutti, & Mauro Spinazzè, violin; Alessandra Di Vincenzo & Meri Skejic, viola; Massimo Raccanelli & Federico Toffano, violoncello; Alessandro Pivelli, double bass; Rossella Policardo, harpsichord; Ivano Zanenjgi, lute; Stefano Meloni, bassoon

WHEN:  
Friday, February 28 at 8pm  
Emmanuel Church, 15 Newbury Street, Boston

PROGRAM: The Swedish Nightingale: Arias of Vivaldi, Handel, Torri, and Broschi

Antonio Vivaldi: Sinfonia in B minor for strings and basso continuo, RV 168  
George Frideric Handel: Dopo L’orrore from Ottone  
Pietro Torri: Quando il flebile usignolo from L’Ippolito  
Vivaldi: Concerto in D minor for two violins, RV 514  
Vivaldi: Gelido in ogni vena from Il Farnace  
Vivaldi: Armatae face et angibus from Juditha triumphans  
Vivaldi: Concerto in D major for strings and basso continuo, RV 121  
Handel: Crude Furie from Serse  
Handel: Vieni, o figlio from Ottone  
Vivaldi: Concerto in C major for strings and basso continuo, RV 119  
Handel: Scherza infida from Ariodante  
Carlo Broschi: Son qual nave from Artaserse

TICKETS:  
Tickets are priced at $20, $39, $51, and $70 each, and can be purchased at 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 1850, the famed showman P. T. Barnum arranged for an American tour of the most famous opera singer of Europe—the Swedish Nightingale, Jenny Lind. Now, 170 years later, fellow Swede and leading mezzo-soprano Ann Hallenberg follows in her footsteps with a triumphant program of gorgeously passionate Baroque arias by Vivaldi, Handel, and others. She makes her BEMF concert stage début appearing with “one of the world’s most adventurous and dramatic period instrument ensembles” (NPR) and frequent guests of BEMF, the Venice Baroque Orchestra, for this thrillingly energetic and profoundly theatrical repertoire from these Baroque masters.

ASSOCIATED EVENTS:
There will be a pre-concert talk at 7pm.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS:
Swedish mezzo-soprano Ann Hallenberg rose to fame in 2003 when she replaced Cecilia Bartoli on one day’s notice in Handel’s Il trionfo del Tempo e del Disinganno at the Opernhaus Zürich. She is now established as one of the world’s leading mezzo-sopranos, appearing in opera houses such as Teatro alla Scala Milan, Teatro la Fenice Venice, Teatro Real Madrid, Theater an der Wien, Opernhaus Zürich, Opéra National Paris, Théâtre des Champs-Elysées Paris, Bayerische Staatsoper München, and the Staatsoper Berlin. Her operatic repertoire includes roles by Rossini, Mozart, Gluck, Handel, Vivaldi, Monteverdi, Purcell, Bizet, and Massenet. She is also highly sought after as a concert singer throughout Europe and North America, with a repertoire that spans music from the early 17th century through the 20th century. At the International Opera Awards in London in 2016 her solo-CD Agrippina won the award for Best Operatic Recital, her second win in the category.

Founded in 1997 by Baroque scholar and harpsichordist Andrea Marcon, the Venice Baroque Orchestra is recognized as one of the very finest period instrument ensembles. Committed to the rediscovery of 17th- and 18th-century masterpieces, under Mr. Marcon’s leadership VBO has given the modern-day premieres of operas of Cavalli, Vivaldi, Marcello, and Boccherini. Recent seasons have included performances of Vivaldi’s Juditha triumphans at Carnegie Hall, London’s Barbican Centre, and Brussels’ Palais des Beaux-Arts, marking the 300th anniversary of the oratorio’s premiere in Venice; performances with violinist Viktoria Mullova at Vienna’s Musikverein and in Budapest; an 18-city tour of the US featuring violinist Nicola Benedetti; and a tour of Japan with mandolinist Avi Avital. The Orchestra has also been honored with the Choc du Monde de la Musique, Diapason d’Or, Echo Award, the Edison Award, and a GRAMMY nomination. The Venice Baroque Orchestra is supported by Fondazione Cassamarca in Treviso.

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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