

Early Music Now

*Offering the mature expressions of established artists
alongside the delight and promise of ensembles new to the early music scene.*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – December 12 – *Anonymous 4*

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Across Borders – Across Time

Before there were borders, there was music. Even before Time, there was music.

A Christmas Celebration with *Anonymous 4*

Milwaukee's *Early Music Now* series brings *Anonymous 4* back to Milwaukee for a presentation of their newest program, *The Cherry Tree*, at 5:00 on Saturday, December 12th, in the Chapel of St. Joseph Center at 1501 South Layton Boulevard (South 27th Street at Greenfield Avenue). The program is named for the miracle ballad of Joseph and Mary, the earliest text of which dates back to a Coventry Play from 13th century England. The Cherry Tree story persisted in many forms, making its way into medieval British carols of the mid-15th century, and much later became popular as a traditional American ballad from the Appalachian Mountains. (anonymous4.com)

The 75-minute program (presented without intermission so that the audience can join the artists for a Wassail Reception and CD signing) includes Medieval English Christmas carols in glorious Middle English - many of them not previously recorded by *Anonymous 4*, old favorites from their "On Yoolis Night" program, and American music for Christmas, including their own arrangement of *The Cherry Tree Carol*.

Originally formed in 1986 to experiment with the sound of medieval chant and polyphony as sung by higher voices, the four women of *Anonymous 4* have become renowned for their astonishing vocal blend and technical virtuosity. They combine musical, literary, and historical scholarship with creative programming to bring the tantalizing sounds of the past to 20th-century audiences. *Anonymous 4* has performed to critical acclaim on music series throughout North America, and has appeared on a wide range of radio and television programs, including NPR's "Performance Today," "Weekend Edition," and NPR stations around the country.

Tickets priced from \$25-\$40 (adult/senior) and \$10-\$20 (students 6 and older) are available online at www.earlymusicnow.org, or by phone at 414.225.3113.

For further information and links for any of these events, go to www.earlymusicnow.org.

- February 13 at All Saints' Cathedral – Lipzodes presents "Guatemala 1600"
- March 20 at UWM – Caravan Ensemble presents "The Spirit of Sepharad"
- April 17 at Wisconsin Lutheran College – Red Priest presents "Pirates of the Baroque"

Individual tickets and series tickets for the remainder of the season are available online or by phone from *Early Music Now*.

*Early Music Now – 759 N Milwaukee St, Ste 420 – Milwaukee 53202 – www.earlymusicnow.org
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