



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Season Opener – October 2nd at 5:00

Contact: Charles Q. Sullivan (414.225.3113 or info@earlymusicnow.org)

Across Borders – Across Time

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

Attachments: This Press Release
Program and Notes
Texts and Translations
Ensemble – New Photo
Director Photo

ROSE ENSEMBLE CELEBRATES HIPPIE SAINT

If Francis of Assisi had lived in the mid-1960s he would surely have been labeled a “hippie!” Nearly 800 years after his death, the *Rose Ensemble* (www.roseensemble.org) opens the season for Early Music Now (www.earlymusicnow.org) with a program “Il Poverello: Exploring the Life and Deeds of St. Francis of Assisi.” Born into wealth, Francis became known for his charity and good works, and for his love of nature. His life and miracles became the subject for many of the songs of his time, as did his famous sermon to the birds. Francis is believed to have had the ecstasy-infused ability to levitate, and received the stigmata (the five wounds of Christ) near the end of his life.

Just returned from participation in the World Symposium of Choral Music in Puerto Madryn, Argentina, the 12 musicians of the *Rose Ensemble* are joined by Medieval bagpipe virtuoso *Isacco Colombo* from Milan for this exploration of Italian music of the 12th through 16th centuries, seen through the eyes of St. Francis and his followers. The variety of vocal and instrumental music includes Gregorian chant, ethereal choral works from the cathedrals of Florence and Rome, along with Umbrian and Tuscan folksongs and dances – rendered by a range of exotic Medieval and Renaissance instruments, including harp, riqq, dumbek, hurdy gurdy, psaltery, and recorder, in addition to voices.

One of Milwaukee’s early music favorites, this St. Paul based organization is led by artistic director *Jordan Sramek*, who recently received the Louis Botto Award from national Chorus America organization for innovative action and entrepreneurial zeal. (Louis Botto was the founder of Chanticleer.) The Rose Ensemble received the Margaret Hills Award from Chorus America in 2005.

The program is scheduled for the perfect venue: St. Joseph Chapel. 1501 South Layton Boulevard (South 27th at Greenfield) – the Provincial and International Headquarters of the School Sisters of St. Francis, on **Saturday, October 2nd at 5:00** (just two days before the official Feast of St. Francis.) Single ticket prices range from \$25 to \$40 for adults and seniors, and from \$10 to \$20 for students 6 and older. Group discounts and gift certificates are also available.

To order tickets or for further information check the website at www.earlymusicnow.org, or contact Early Music Now by phone at 414.225.3113, email at info@earlymusicnow.org, or by mail at 759 N. Milwaukee Street, Suite 420, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202-3750.

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