



ACADEMY OF ANCIENT MUSIC

“A superb period instrument band” – *New York Times*, March 2009

Recently hailed as “one of the world’s great orchestras” by *China Daily* following its debut performance in Beijing, the Academy of Ancient Music is a household name renowned worldwide for its energized, passionate performances of baroque and classical music. Since it was founded by Christopher Hogwood in 1973 the AAM has reached music lovers worldwide with over 250 recordings and live performances on every continent except Antarctica.

The AAM specialises in performing on instruments and in styles dating from the time when the music was composed. Under Hogwood’s leadership it established itself as a leading authority on how music was originally performed. This pioneering work had a transformative impact on the world of classical music, and lies at the heart of the AAM’s reputation for musical excellence.

In 2006, Hogwood passed leadership of the AAM on to Richard Egarr. In his first three years as Music Director, Egarr has led tours to four continents, released CDs which have already won Gramophone, MIDEM and Edison awards, and founded the award-winning Choir of the AAM.

Concerts with Egarr in 2009-10 see the orchestra performing music from Castello and Monteverdi to Finzi and Britten around the world. Highlights include a tour of music by anniversary composers Purcell and Haydn to Africa and the Far East, a Christmas tour of Handel’s *Messiah* around Europe, and a fascinating programme showcasing the music of Monteverdi’s little-known contemporary Dario Castello.

The vitality of the AAM’s music making continues to be fostered by a range of guest directors. This season the orchestra works with Pavlo Beznosiuk, who directs a programme contrasting the Pergolesi and Vivaldi settings of the *Stabat Mater*; violinist Giuliano Carmignola, who directs early masterpieces by Mendelssohn and Schubert; Stephen Cleobury, who conducts a major European tour of Monteverdi’s *Vespers* with the choir of King’s College, Cambridge; Paul Goodwin, who conducts Haydn symphonies at Esterhaza Palace, the historic seat of the composer’s patrons; and Stephen Layton, who conducts the AAM’s traditional Good Friday performance of JS Bach’s *St John Passion* with Polyphony.

The AAM’s pioneering recordings under Hogwood for Decca’s *L’Oiseau-Lyre* label cover much of the baroque and classical orchestral canon. They include the first recordings on period instruments of Mozart’s complete symphonies and Beethoven’s piano concertos, and prize-winning opera recordings starring Cecilia Bartoli, Emma Kirkby and Joan Sutherland. Further projects

have resulted in recordings for EMI, Chandos, Erato and Harmonia Mundi, and the orchestra has released award-winning recordings with the choirs of King's College, Cambridge, Trinity College, Cambridge and New College, Oxford.

With Richard Egarr, the orchestra has recently completed a landmark new cycle of Handel's complete instrumental music published as Op.1-7. Other recent releases include JS Bach's complete Brandenburg Concertos with Egarr, Purcell and Handel discs with Stephen Layton and the Choir of Trinity College, Cambridge on Hyperion, and, for EMI, Handel's Messiah with Stephen Cleobury and the Choir of King's College, Cambridge

The AAM is Orchestra-in-Residence at the University of Cambridge.

October, 2009 – please discard any previously dated material.

RICHARD EGARR , DIRECTOR AND HARPSICHORD

“When I heard that England's Academy of Ancient Music had hired keyboardist and conductor Richard Egarr, I was absolutely delighted... I've been waiting for a conductor like Egarr to come along for some time... he's one of the most exciting and delightful musicians of our time.”

--National Public Radio's "All Things Considered", March 2008

Richard Egarr, acclaimed Music Director of the Academy of Ancient Music, is one of the most versatile musicians performing today. He has worked with all types of keyboards and performed repertoire ranging from fifteenth-century organ intabulations through Dussek and Chopin on early piano to Berg and Maxwell Davies on modern piano. He is in great demand as a soloist, chamber musician and conductor.

Egarr enjoyed his musical training as a choirboy at York Minster, at Chetham's School of Music in Manchester, and as organ scholar at Clare College, Cambridge. His study with Gustav Leonhardt further inspired his work in the field of historical performance.

As a conductor, Egarr has directed a wide range of repertoire, from Bach's St. Matthew Passion to John Taverner's Ikon of Light. Richard has directed many oratorios and operas, including Handel's Esther, Acis & Galatea, Alcina and L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato and Messiah, Haydn's The Creation, Purcell's The Fairy Queen and Dido & Aeneas, Telemann's St Matthew Passion and Mozart's Don Giovanni and JS Bach's Mass in B minor and St Matthew Passion. In addition to his busy performing schedule with the Academy of Ancient Music, he worked last season with Tafelmusik Toronto, Portland Baroque, the Flemish Radio Orchestra, and the Scottish Chamber Orchestra. This season Egarr collaborates with the Residentie Orchestra, The Hague, the Brabant Orchestra, the Flemish Radio Orchestra and Choir, Collegium Vocale Ghent and the Freiburg Baroque Orchestra.

Richard Egarr has given many solo performances throughout Europe and Japan. As orchestral soloist he has appeared with AAM, the English Concert, the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment,

the Orchestra of the 18th Century, the Dutch Radio Chamber Orchestra, and the Netherlands Wind Ensemble.

In chamber music, Richard forms an 'unequaled duo for violin and keyboard' (Gramophone Magazine) with violinist Andrew Manze, performing music from the Stylus Phantasticus to Mozart and Schubert. They have toured extensively throughout Europe, North America and the Far East.

Richard Egarr records exclusively for Harmonia Mundi USA. His solo output comprises works by Frescobaldi, Gibbons, Couperin, Purcell, Froberger, Mozart and J.S. Bach. He has an impressive list of award winning recordings with violinist Andrew Manze, including sonatas by Bach, Biber, Rebel, Pandolfi, Corelli, Handel, Mozart and Schubert. With the Academy of Ancient Music he has recorded the complete Bach harpsichord concertos and an entire set of Handel discs including the Concerti Grossi Op.3, the Organ Concertos Op.4 and 7 and his Sonatas Op.1 and 5.

June, 2008 – please discard any previously dated material.