



News Release

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Apollo's Fire to Open the 2008-2009 "Chagrin Arts" Series

Apollo's Fire, the Cleveland Baroque Orchestra, will open the 2008-2009 *Chagrin Arts* series of the Chagrin Foundation for Arts & Culture with a program titled *Pluckfest II: Old World Meets New*. Featuring renowned lutenist Stephen Stubbs, soprano Nell Snaidas, and baroque harpist Maxine Eilander as guest artists, the concert will be held on Wednesday, November 12, 2008, at 7:30pm in the United Methodist Church of Chagrin Falls, 20 South Franklin Street.

Pluckfest II is billed as a "Mediterranean jam session" filled with sultry ballads, siren songs, plucky dances and undulating percussion. Featuring music from the crossroads of 17th century Europe, South America and Africa by Monteverdi, Foscari and the great Spanish composers Hildago, Marin and Santiago de Murcia, among others, it reflects the musical excitement of the baroque era as new cultures mixed with mainstream styles.

Stephen Stubbs, one of the world's most renowned lutenists, guitarists and baroque opera directors, will guest direct the program. Artistic co-director of the famed Boston Early Music Festival, he has received world-wide acclaim for his performances and opera productions, which have included Monteverdi's *Poppea* at the Netherlands Opera, Handel's *Giulio Cesare* in Murcia, and Luigi Rossi's *Orfeo* in Boston. In addition to performing and directing, Mr. Stubbs is the founder of the Seattle Academy of Baroque Opera, a new graduate school for young singers and instrumentalists of baroque music.

A graduate of the Mannes College of Music, soprano Nell Snaidas began her professional career at sixteen as a soloist in a statewide tour of the New Jersey Opera Theater. She then sang leading roles with Repertorio Espanol, New York's renowned zarzuela company, and also starred in the Thalia Spanish Theater's production of Francisco Alonso's *Las Leandras* at the International Zarzuela Festival at the Chamizal in El Paso. A frequent performer with Apollo's Fire, where she has been hailed as a "model of luminous timbre and emotional intensity" by *The Plain Dealer*, she has sung with numerous early-music ensembles, including ARTEK, the New York Ensemble for Early Music, and Ex Umbris.

Harpist Maxine Eilander was born in Deventer, Holland, and raised in South Africa. She earned her Bachelor of Music on the classical harp at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, and completed a post graduate diploma in early harps and continuo practice at the Hochschule für Kunst in Bremen, Germany. Performing on a range of specialized early harps – the Italian arpa doppia, the Spanish cross-strung harp, the German 'Davidsharfe', the Welsh triple harp for which Handel wrote his harp concerto, and the classical single action pedal harp – she has appeared as a continuo player and soloist with many ensembles including Teatro Lirico, Tragicomedia, Tafelmusik, The Toronto Consort, Les Voix Humaines, The Sixteen and Seattle Baroque. She has also appeared around the world in productions of Monteverdi's three operas: *L'Orfeo*, *L'Incoronazione di Poppea* and *Il Ritorno d'Ulisse*.

Apollo's Fire, founded in 1992 by music director Jeannette Sorrell, who will perform on harpsichord during *Pluckfest II*, has gained national recognition as one of this country's finest baroque orchestras. Performing on period instruments, the ensemble presents a series of six programs throughout northeast Ohio each year, performs an annual series of Countryside Concerts featuring cross-over baroque folk music in Hunting Valley, records CDs and tours to prestigious locations. Recent performances have included those at the Aspen Music Festival, Columbia University and the Boston Early Music Festival concert series, where it was acclaimed as "one of America's leading baroque orchestras" by Richard Dyer of *The Boston Globe*.

Pluckfest II: Old World Meets New is co-presented by the Chagrin Foundation for Arts & Culture and Apollo's Fire. Tickets, \$45 - \$20, with discounts for seniors and students, may be purchased now through the Chagrin Foundation for Arts & Culture office by phone at 440-247-9700 or in person at the Foundation's office, 90 North Main Street, Chagrin Falls, during business hours.

This is the first performance in the 2008-2009 *Chagrin Arts* series presented by the Chagrin Foundation for Arts & Culture. Future programs include:

Verb Ballets: Saturday, February 7, 2009, 7:30 p.m., Performing Arts Center, Chagrin Falls High School, 400 East Washington Street

Artists from Oberlin: *David Bowlin and Friends*: Tuesday, February 17, 2009, 7:30 p.m., United Methodist Church of Chagrin Falls, 20 South Franklin Street

GroundWorks Dancetheater: Saturday, March 28, 2009, 7:30 p.m., Philomethian Auditorium, Chagrin Falls Intermediate School, 77 East Washington Street

Apollo's Fire: *Earth, Wind & Fire: Vivaldi & Rameau Do Battle With Nature*: Friday, April 24, 2009, 7:30 p.m., Performing Arts Center, Chagrin Falls High School, 400 East Washington Street

For more information, or to schedule an interview, call the Chagrin Foundation for Arts & Culture at 440-247-9700.

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Attachments: photos of Jeannette Sorrell and Nell Snaidas