



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 26, 2013

- WHAT:** Les Violons Du Roy, Music Director Bernard Labadie
With Stephanie Blythe, Mezzo-Soprano
- WHEN:** Saturday, October 26, 8 p.m.
- WHERE:** Fine Arts Center Concert Hall, Chamber Seating
University of Massachusetts Amherst
- TICKETS:** Call 1-800-999-UMAS or 545-2511 for tickets or go online to
<http://www.fineartscenter.com/>
- IMAGES:** To download images relating to this press release please go
online to <https://fac.umass.edu/Online/PressImages>

LES VIOLONS DU ROY WITH STEPHANIE BLYTHE, MEZZO-SOPRANO
Exceptional mezzo-soprano, chamber orchestra perform
Telemann, Haydn, Bach, Handel

AMHERST, MA- Internationally renowned mezzo-soprano Stephanie Blythe joins the highly acclaimed Canadian chamber music ensemble Les Violons du Roy in a program of Telemann, Bach, Handel and Haydn on Saturday, October 26 at 8 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center Concert Hall. Les Violons du Roy, led by Music Director Bernard Labadie, specializes in the vast repertoire of music for chamber orchestra, performed in the stylistic manner most appropriate to each era. This engagement marks Les Violons du Roy's premiere visit to the Fine Arts Center. There will be a pre-concert talk with UMass Music Professor Marjorie Melnick at 7 p.m. at the University Club.

Mezzo-soprano Stephanie Blythe is considered to be one of the most highly respected and critically acclaimed artists of her generation. She has sung in many of the renowned opera houses in the US and Europe including the recent Ring Cycle at the Metropolitan Opera. Her many roles include the title roles in Carmen, Samson et Dalila, Orfeo ed Euridice, L'Italiana in Algeri, La Grande Duchesse, Tancredi, Mignon, and Giulio Cesare; Frugola, Principessa, and Zita in Il Trittico, Fricka in both Das Rheingold and Die Walküre, Waltraute in Götterdämmerung, Azucena in Il Trovatore, Ulrica in Un Ballo in Maschera, Baba the Turk in The Rake's Progress, Jezibaba in Rusalka, Jocasta

in Oedipus Rex, Mere Marie in Dialogues des Carmélites; ,Mistress Quickly in Falstaff, Ino/Juno in Semele, and Orlofsky in Die Fledermaus.

A champion of American song, Ms. Blythe has premiered several song cycles written for her including *Twelve Poems of Emily Dickinson* by the late James Legg, *Covered Wagon Woman* by Alan Smith which was commissioned by the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and recorded with the ensemble (CMS Studio Recordings).

The chamber orchestra Les Violons du Roy borrows its name from the renowned string orchestra of the court of the French kings. The group, which has a core membership of fifteen players, was brought together in 1984 by music director Bernard Labadie and specializes in the vast repertoire of music for chamber orchestra, performed in the stylistic manner most appropriate to each era. Although the ensemble plays on modern instruments, its approach to the works of the Baroque and Classical periods has been strongly influenced by current research into performance practice in the 17th and early 18th centuries; in this repertoire Les Violons du Roy uses copies of period bows. The orchestra has been widely acclaimed for the exceptional energy, brilliance and vitality of its performances. In recent seasons, under the leadership of first guest conductor Jean-Marie Zeitouni, the orchestra has begun to explore 19th and 20th century repertoire in more depth.

Tickets for the Les Violons du Roy are \$50, \$45, and \$15; Five College, GCC, STCC students and youth 17 and under are \$15, \$12, and \$10. For tickets call the Box Office at 545-2511, toll-free at 800-999-UMAS, or purchase online at fineartscenter.com. The Fine Arts Center's season is sponsored by Baystate Health and Health New England with additional event support for Les Violons Du Roy coming from the Applewood at Amherst, New England Public Radio 88.5 and the Vidda Foundation.

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PHOTOS

Hi-res photos available for download: <https://fac.umass.edu/Online/article/Images>.

PRESS PASSES

A limited number of press passes are available. Please contact Shawn Farley at 413-545-4159 or sfarley@admin.umass.edu.

ABOUT THE FAC

The Fine Arts Center, located on the UMass Amherst campus, is a presenter of music, dance, theater and the visual arts, bringing hundreds of outstanding and provocative artists to the Pioneer Valley for over 35 years.

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