

THE TORONTO CONSORT

REVIEWS

Canada:

"On the whole, this was one of those richly constituted, impeccably executed concerts that reminded me of what the hackneyed term 'surprise and delight' really means."

—*Toronto Star*

"[Monteverdi's] *Stabat virgo Maria*, sung by nine unaccompanied singers, was heart stopping in its intensity ... Fallis and company displayed a deep connection with the style and mood of each piece."

—*Toronto Star*

"This dear band — so expert, so rhythmically alive, so humourous, at times so touching — has such an infectious good time doing what it does so well, I just sit and smile."

—*The Globe and Mail, Toronto*

"Toronto Consort music director David Fallis is a magician. Without any props, projections or lights, he and the 52 instrumentalists and singers took listeners to the Germany of 400 years ago ..."

— *Toronto Star*

"Director David Fallis, his orchestra and his cast of nine singers filled the hall with this great score's life and laughter, its human emotion and musical beauty, and the high drama and deathless appeal of its story."

—*The Globe and Mail, Toronto*

"Rather than keeping these historical treasures shrouded in thick glass, Fallis took them out for an energetic airing, carefully shaping and highlighting the music and its complex architecture."

—*Toronto Star*

"Since the founding of The Toronto Consort in 1972, Canada can boast a world-class early music ensemble worthy of the attention of any musically literate ear... Their closely matched phrasing, intonation and tonal shading was worthy of the finest string quartet."

—*Chronicle Herald, Halifax*

" ... gorgeously crafted performances ... the whole evening felt and sounded like the carefully chosen artist's portfolio culled and pared down to the essentials of what makes these compositions remarkable."

—*Toronto Star*

"The five members' approach to their medieval and renaissance program was as much personal as technically professional – not that there should be any distinction. In fact, they brought to it the polish and emotional presence that many people ... don't expect to hear in early music."

—*The Vancouver Sun*

"Wednesday's concert was an ideal demonstration of how interesting, informative and entertaining an early music concert can be. The works presented were attractive, even to the non-initiate, and were performed with skill and precision. This was no stuffy academicism but rather a concert of worthy, quality music by performers who love what they do."

—*Calgary Herald*

"Last night's concert, then, was like any other: fresh, interesting, liberally varied, delivered with style and emotion, and infused throughout with a sense of fun."

—*The Globe and Mail, Toronto*

International:

"The Toronto Consort consists of musicians who excel equally as singers and performers on a wide variety of early instruments... No matter what the combination the quality of performance is of a standard that all ensembles devoted to early music, would be very pleased to match."

—*Glasgow Herald, Edinburgh*

"A well-mixed demanding program with pieces for voice and instruments of the English and French Middle Ages, and of the Renaissance in Germany, France and England enthralled an audience which consisted mostly of connoisseurs of this genre of music."

—*Weiner Zeitung, Vienna*

"Its clear tone and rhythmic precision was characteristic of most of the spirited ensemble pieces through which the consort displayed its versatility and impressive musicianship."

—*Musical Times, London*

"The Toronto Consort set new standards, to the jubilant delight of a very large audience of normal concert-goers and to the breathless admiration of a specialist ... nowadays "old" music can hardly be heard in a more artful, competent and entertaining way."

—*Oberbayerisches Volksblatt, Munich*