

THE TORONTO CONSORT

Splendours of the Emperor's Chapel with guest director Lucas Harris February 6 & 7, 2015

Toronto, January 12, 2014 ... Guest Director **Lucas Harris** leads [The Toronto Consort](http://torontoconsort.org) and assembled forces in [Splendours of the Emperor's Chapel](http://torontoconsort.org), a lavish concert of music from the Viennese court of the Holy Roman Empire. Cornettos, sackbuts, violins, violas da gamba, violone, organ, theorbo, and virtuoso singers breathe life into this magnificent but rarely-heard music – some of it being played for the first time since the 17th century. ***Splendours of the Emperor's Chapel*** takes place at **8:00 PM on February 6 and 7** at Trinity-St. Paul's Centre, Jeanne Lamont Hall. For tickets and information, visit torontoconsort.org or call the box office at (416) 964-6337. A pre-concert lecture with **Greg Ingles**, historical brass specialist and Music Director of Dark Horse Consort, will be held in the Gymnasium an hour before each concert, and is free with admission.

Splendours of the Emperor's Chapel includes polychoral instrumental and vocal works from Italy, Bohemia, Poland, and Austria by such composers as Heinrich Biber, Antonio Bertali, and many others including two Holy Roman Emperors who were composers in their own right, Ferdinand III and Leopold I.

The program was inspired by Harris' interest in Austrian Baroque repertoire. "The musical scene in Vienna and the other Hapsburg territories was incredibly rich in the seventeenth-century – in a way we shouldn't expect otherwise when the Emperors themselves were skilled musicians. Here we see the roots of what would ultimately blossom into the Vienna of Mozart and Beethoven," says Harris. "Audiences today are starting to be somewhat familiar with the instrumental music of this time, especially Heinrich Biber's violin sonatas, but there is still an enormous amount of music combining voices and instruments which has not been edited and is therefore unknown. The style is Italianate, similar to Monteverdi, and yet it has its own character. I like to say that it mixes Italian passion with Austro-German profundity and Bohemian audacity."

One of the highlights of the *Splendours* program is the motet *Vidi Luciferum (I Saw Lucifer)* by Antonio Bertali, which Harris typeset from the original manuscript parts. "I'm pretty sure that our performance will be the first time this piece has been heard since the 17th century," says Harris.

The combined forces for this concert consist of eight vocal soloists with five-part string and brass consorts, and chamber organ. Joining the members of the Toronto Consort are **Vicki St. Pierre**, alto; **Bud Roach**, tenor; **Martin Auclair**, bass; **Olivier Brault** and **Edwin Huizinga**, violin; **Margaret Little**, viola & bass viol; **Beiliang Zhu**, bass viol; **Joëlle Morton**, violone; **Kiri Tollaksen** and **Nathaniel Cox**, cornetto; **Greg Ingles**, **Erik Schmalz**, and **Mack Ramsey**, sackbuts; and **Borys Medicky**, organ.

Guest director **Lucas Harris** studied the lute and early music at the *Civica scuola di musica di Milano* (as a Marco Fodella Foundation scholar) and at the *Hochschule für Künste Bremen*. In addition to being the regular lutenist with Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra, he collaborates with many other ensembles. He is the founder of the Toronto Continuo Collective and a founding member of the Vesuvius Ensemble, dedicated to Southern Italian folk music. Harris is a regular faculty member of the Tafelmusik Baroque Summer Institute as well as Oberlin Conservatory's Baroque Performance Institute, and has recently joined the faculty of the Vancouver Early Music Festival's Baroque Vocal Programme. In 2011 he decided to broaden his professional activities by training as a choral conductor at the University of Toronto. Just before graduating he was appointed the new Artistic Director of the Toronto Chamber Choir. He has also been a guest music director with the Pacific Baroque Orchestra, the Ohio State University Opera program, and Les Voix Baroques.

The Toronto Consort presents:

Splendours of the Emperor's Chapel, February 6 and 7 at 8:00 PM

Ticket Prices: Regular: \$23 to \$52 | 65+ : \$21 to \$49

Club Consort tickets for ages 30 and under: \$10 (with valid photo ID)

Venue: Trinity-St. Paul's Centre, Jeanne Lamon Hall, 427 Bloor Street West (west of Spadina)

Box Office: (416) 964-6337

Website: www.torontoconsort.org Find us on [Facebook](#)

NEXT UP: *Dowland in Dublin* with tenor Michael Slattery and La Nef, March 27 & 28

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*The Toronto Consort is Canada's leading ensemble specializing in the music of the Middle Ages, Renaissance and Early Baroque — roughly 1200 to 1675. Founded in 1972, The Toronto Consort was one of the city's first professional period music ensembles. Over the past four decades, the Toronto Consort has continued to expand listeners' appreciation through inventive programming that breathes life into period music. The ensemble has become internationally recognized for its excellence in live and recorded period music, and has collaborated on a number of film and television projects including Atom Egoyan's *The Sweet Hereafter* and two Showtime series, *The Tudors* and *The Borgias*.*

The Toronto Consort gratefully acknowledges the support of:



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