

## BACKGROUND

The Toronto Consort is Canada's leading ensemble specializing in the music of the Middle Ages, Renaissance and Early Baroque. Founded in 1972, The Toronto Consort was one of Canada's first professional period-music ensembles and currently features nine of Canada's leading early music specialists, including singers and instrumentalists.

Over the past four decades, The Toronto Consort has become internationally recognized for its excellence in live and recorded period music. In addition to presenting a concert series in Toronto that explores rarely heard repertoire, the ensemble has toured to Europe and Great Britain, and frequently across Canada and into the United States.

The Toronto Consort continues to expand listeners' appreciation through inventive programming that breathes life into period music. The Consort forges creative partnerships with artists from other disciplines and cultural backgrounds in order to present early music in a fuller context. In *The Marco Polo Project, Part 2* the ensemble invited Lata Pada, the director of Sampradaya Dance Creations to create a new dance piece for *bharatanatyam* dancers with singer Suba Sankaran. *Kanatha/Canada: First Encounters*, featured indigenous artists Jeremy Dutcher, Georges Sioui, Marilyn George and Shirley Hay. The Consort frequently collaborates with other leading Canadian cultural organizations including the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF), Luminto Festival, Tafelmusik, Soundstreams Canada, Nuit Blanche, Opera Atelier and Doors Open.

The Toronto Consort is committed to performing contemporary repertoire, a conviction that sets it apart from other early music ensembles and further demonstrates the ensemble's versatility and virtuosity. Several Canadian composers have written works especially for The Toronto Consort including John Beckwith, Lothar Klein, David Keane, Hope Lee, Walter Buczynski, David Eagle, Patrick Cardy, Mychael Danna, Christos Hatzis, Andrew Ager, R. Murray Schafer and David Fallis.

The Toronto Consort is heard frequently on Canadian and international radio and has made 17 recordings for the CBC Collection, *Berandol*, SRI, Dorian and Marquis Classics. The ensemble has collaborated on a number of film and television projects, including Atom Egoyan's award-winning *The Sweet Hereafter* and two Showtime series, *The Tudors* and *The Borgias*.