

THE TORONTO CONSORT

2015-16 season announced:

***The Soul of Naples* with Vesuvius Ensemble
Christmas at the Monastery of Santa Cruz with Žak Ozmo
The Way of the Pilgrim
Beowulf with Benjamin Bagby
Monteverdi Vespers with Charles Daniels**

"As led by its Artistic Director, David Fallis, the Toronto Consort lavishes luminous clarity, lightness and vitality on the music."

— Gramophone Magazine

Toronto, June 1, 2015 ... Under the artistic leadership of **David Fallis** since 1990, the Toronto Consort announces its 2015-16 season in the superior acoustics of Jeanne Lamon Hall at Trinity-St. Paul's Centre. The 2015-16 season features an array of superb guest artists including **Vesuvius Ensemble**, which joins the Consort in ***The Soul of Naples***; lutenist **Žak Ozmo**, who guest directs ***Christmas at the Monastery of Santa Cruz***; **Benjamin Bagby** of Sequentia fame making his Toronto debut with ***Beowulf***; and tenor **Charles Daniels** in the Monteverdi ***Vespers***. The season also features the Consort's popular program ***The Way of the Pilgrim***, to be re-released as a recording on the Marquis label. 2015-16 subscriptions are available through the box office at (416) 964-6337. Individual concert tickets go on sale in early September. For more information about the season, visit www.torontoconsort.org or the Consort's [Facebook](#) page.

Founded in 1972, The Toronto Consort was one of the city's first professional period music ensembles specializing in the music of the Middle Ages, Renaissance and early Baroque — roughly 1200 to 1675. 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*.

2015-16 SEASON AT A GLANCE:

The Soul of Naples

November 13 & 14, 2015

"Vesuvius Ensemble ... packed all the natural ease of an Early Music consort, bonding the audience from their first, improvised song ... utterly beguiling." — Musical Toronto

The Toronto Consort launches its 2015-16 season with a program inspired by the city of Naples, whose soul has always been expressed in its passionate, vivacious music. Joining the Consort for this Renaissance musical portrait is **Vesuvius Ensemble**, one of the world's foremost groups specializing in early Neapolitan music, led by the gifted tenor **Francesco**

Pellegrino. *The Soul of Naples* includes comic street songs, love poetry set to music, tarantellas, and virtuoso fantasias.

Christmas at the Monastery of Santa Cruz with Žak Ozmo

December 11, 12 & 13, 2014

"Is it possible to be more multinational and multitalented than Žak Ozmo, director, archlute player and baroque guitarist ...?" — The Press (U.K.)

Guest directed by lutenist and director of the "wildly successful" L'Avventura London, **Žak Ozmo**, the Consort presents **Christmas at the Monastery of Santa Cruz** — a Christmas concert unlike anything Toronto audiences have heard before. The monastery of Santa Cruz was a major centre of Portuguese music during the 16th and 17th centuries, and the music found in its archives includes ravishing villancicos and Brazilian-influenced dance music. As one critic declared, *"The musical monks of the monastery of Santa Cruz at Coimbra must have been a jolly lot if this concert represents their style. Even the serious religious numbers, enriched with the philosophy of St Augustine, had more than a hint of the dance which just bubbled up from the ever supportive accompaniments. It made for a really joyful concert!"* (TheLatest.co.uk)

The Way of the Pilgrim

February 12 & 13, 2016

In medieval times travelling was a precarious and uncertain proposition, full of adventure and excitement. From travellers en route to a sacred shrine, to wandering scholars searching for the perfect teacher, *The Way of the Pilgrim* is a program composed of pilgrim songs, crusaders' laments and ecstatic dances from Spain, France and Germany which evoke this exotic world. These concerts mark the re-release of the Consort's *The Way of the Pilgrim* recording on the Marquis label.

Beowulf

The Epic in Performance

March 11 & 12, 2016

"Bagby's performance is not only a tour de force, but a shining labour of love for the great story it tells, and for the original sound of its telling." — *The Scotsman*

Medieval performer Benjamin Bagby (Sequentia) has taken the world by storm with his performances of one of the great epics of the European bardic tradition, the battle between the hero Beowulf and the monster Grendel. Bagby's *Beowulf* was listed among the ['Ten Best Classical Music Events of 2014'](#) by the New York Times.

Monteverdi Vespers

with tenor Charles Daniels and La Rose des Vents

May 6, 7 & 8, 2016

The grand finale to the 2015-16 season is one of the greatest musical masterpieces of all time, the **Monteverdi Vespers of 1610**. From the splendour of the richly-scored psalms to the intimacy of the sensuous motets, this is a work of infinite variety and profundity. For this special performance, the Consort will be joined by an international group of singers and players, led by British tenor **Charles Daniels** and Montreal's premier cornetto and sackbut ensemble **La Rose des Vents**.

Friday and Saturday evening concerts begin at 8:00 pm and Sunday matinee concerts begin at 3:30 pm. All concerts take place at Trinity-St. Paul's Centre, Jeanne Lamou Hall, 427 Bloor Street West. Pre-concert chats are FREE with admission and are held in the gymnasium one hour prior to each concert.

Full subscriptions are available now and prices range from \$99 to \$238; Regular individual concert tickets go on sale in September, and regular prices range from \$24 to \$57. **Club Consort** tickets: \$10 for those age 30 and under with valid photo ID.

Box Office: (416) 964-6337

On-line ticketing at www.TorontoConsort.org

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For more information:

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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*.*

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