

THE TORONTO CONSORT

**Launches season with
The Soul of Naples
with the Vesuvius Ensemble
and tenor Francesco Pellegrino
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

Toronto, October 14, 2015 ... The Toronto Consort launches its 2015-16 season with ***The Soul of Naples***, 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 the **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*** takes place **at 8:00 PM on November 13 and 14**, at Trinity-St. Paul's Centre, Jeanne Lamon Hall. For tickets and information, call the box office at (416) 964-6337 or visit TorontoConsort.org. Vesuvius member **Lucas Harris** will give a pre-concert talk on both evenings, free with concert admission.

The program features both "classical" instruments (lute, viola da gamba, recorder) as well as more rustic "folk" ones: colascione, chitarra battente, ciaramella to create a rich unique accompaniment soundscape. The music itself will similarly cross over between the popular southern Italian music of the peasants and the more courtly renaissance composers of the 16th century. ***The Soul of Naples*** includes comic street songs, love poetry set to music, tarantellas, and virtuoso fantasias.

The Soul of Naples concert consists of the members of **The Toronto Consort**: David Fallis (Artistic Director), Alison Melville, Michele DeBoer, John Pepper, Paul Jenkins, Katherine Hill, Laura Pudwell, Ben Grossman joined by five members of the **Vesuvius Ensemble**: Guest Director Francesco Pellegrino (Artistic Director, tenor), Gianluca Campanino (chitarra battente, colascione), Marco Cera (baroque guitar, chitarra battente, ciaramella), Romina Di Gasbarro (baroque guitar, voice), Lucas Harris (theorbo, baroque guitar, lute).

The program's **Guest Director Francesco Pellegrino, Vesuvius Ensemble Artistic Director and tenor**, is a native of Naples, now living in Toronto. He specializes in traditional and classical Neapolitan music. The **Vesuvius Ensemble** is dedicated to the musical and cultural heritage from Naples and other parts of southern Italy. The ensemble performs songs in dialect from the Italian countryside, which have been passed on orally and in writing over centuries and finally researched and recorded in the twentieth century. The songs are accompanied by Baroque continuo instruments (baroque guitars, chitarrone) in combination with rustic string, percussion, and wind instruments typical of the region (chitarra battente, colascione, tammorra, ciaramella).

The Toronto Consort presents

The Soul of Naples with Vesuvius Ensemble and tenor Francesco Pellegrino

November 13 & 14 at 8:00 PM

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

Ticket Prices:

Regular: \$24 to \$57 | 65+: \$22 to \$52

Club Consort tickets for ages 35 and under: \$10 (with valid photo ID)

Box Office: (416) 964-6337

Website: www.TorontoConsort.org Follow us on Facebook

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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 the Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council, and the Toronto Arts Council.



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