

CLEVELAND-BASED ENSEMBLE LES DÉLICES PRESENTS "HOMMAGES"
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ensemble Les Délices (pronounced *Lay Deh-LEASE*) presents "Hommmages" as the second concert in their new series' inaugural season. Les Délices regulars Scott Metcalfe (violin), Emily Walhout (viola da gamba), and Lisa Crawford (harpsichord) join baroque oboist Debra Nagy for this intimate program of musical tributes and caricatures. The group will perform at Tregoning & Company, the highly esteemed gallery inside the W. 78th St. Studios complex (1300 W. 78th St., Cleveland) on Saturday February 20 at 8pm, and repeats its program inside Herr Chapel at Plymouth Church in Shaker Heights (2860 Coventry Rd., Shaker Heights, OH) on Sunday February 21 at 4pm. Tickets for both concerts are available at www.lesdelices.org.

Its lush sonorities and dance rhythms have universal appeal, but French baroque music has traditionally been underrepresented on concert programs and is thus little-known to audiences. Cleveland-based baroque oboist Debra Nagy is out to change that as she launches Les Délices' new concert series this year. Les Délices hopes to reach a broad audience by offering interesting programs presented by world-class artists in stimulating yet informal concert environments with very reasonable ticket prices.

"The concerts themselves are informal and inclusive, and last about an hour," Nagy explains. "The kind of music we perform was originally enjoyed in 'salons' that fostered interactions between performers, composers, patrons, and artists; I'm interested in cultivating that atmosphere in the present day. For the Saturday night concerts at Tregoning & Company, the audience will be invited to arrive early, take in the lively art exhibitions on view, and get comfortable in the space. After those concerts, we'll all be able to enjoy a reception where it's my hope that the interplay between the art and music will be the jumping off point for conversations. Plymouth Church's Herr Chapel is a fantastic space for us as well! The acoustics are gorgeous, and because the layout in the space is flexible, we can set up the chairs close to the performers to create a suitably intimate environment. Hearing a Sunday afternoon concert at Plymouth will be a great way to spend the afternoon."

The group's February program will appeal to the uninitiated and aficionados alike: "It's often illuminating to learn what a person's friends and admirers have to say about them – perhaps you'll get clued in on an inside joke, or gain an insight on what makes an intriguing person tick – but either way, you get an enriched perspective on an individual's personality. That's the basic concept behind this program: French baroque composers frequently created musical caricatures of their friends and colleagues and it's interesting for us get to know them from the perspective of their immediate contemporaries."

The program will feature a suite for oboe by Louis-Antoine Dornel that contains musical portraits of composer Louis-Nicolas Clérambault and the flutist René Pignon Descoteaux, in addition to Jean-Philippe Rameau and Antoine Forqueray's brilliant caricatures of each other. Composers also paid tribute to departed colleagues or mentors through highly personalized laments known as *tombeaux*. Viola da gamba player Emily Walhout will

perform Marin Marais' heart-wrenching *tombeau* for his teacher, *Monsieur de Sainte-Colombe*.

Finally, François Couperin's *Apotheosis of Lully* forms the centerpiece of Les Délices' "Homages" program. Richly imagined by Couperin as a series of musical scenes depicting Jean-Baptiste Lully's ascent into heaven, the *Apotheosis* will be performed with the original French narration that describes the Elysian fields and recounts a fictionalized confrontation between Lully and the Italian master Arcangelo Corelli.

Les Délices will present a total of three concert sets this year. Their final program of the season, "Petits Violons du Roy" will take place on Saturday May 22, 2010 at Tregoning & Co. (www.tregoningandco.com) and on Sunday, May 23, 2010 at Herr Chapel at Plymouth Church.

Tickets for all concerts in the series are available at www.lesdelices.org. \$20 General Admission, \$18 Seniors & Members of Plymouth Church. \$5 Student Rush available at the door.

About Les Délices

Les Délices (pronounced *Lay deh-LEASE*) is quickly establishing its reputation for polished, expressive, and dynamic performances of masterpieces and little-known works from the French Baroque. Founded in 2006 by Cleveland-based baroque oboist Debra Nagy, Les Délices brings together local and guest artists with national reputations who share a passion for this beguiling yet seldom heard repertoire. Their performances on period instruments allow them to explore a rich tapestry of tone colors, and the group's name conveys their approach to the music of this era: a delight, a fine delicacy, sumptuous, and exciting. Les Délices released their debut CD "The Tastes Reunited" to critical acclaim in June 2009, has had live performances featured on WKSU's In Performance and WCPN's Around Noon, and had their new recording featured on the Audio-guide for the recent special exhibit "Watteau, Music, and Theater," at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art. In addition to launching a Gallery Concert Series this season, Les Délices has been named Artist in Residence at Plymouth Church in Shaker Heights for 2009-2010. Visit www.lesdelices.org for more information.

About Debra Nagy

One of the few outstanding baroque oboists in the U.S., Cleveland resident Debra Nagy has been hailed for her "dazzling technique and soulful expressiveness" (Rocky Mountain News) and deemed a "baroque oboist of consummate taste and expressivity" by the Cleveland Plain Dealer. A graduate of the Oberlin Conservatory, and Case Western Reserve University, she was the First Prize winner of the 2002 American Bach Soloists Young Artists Competition. In addition to maintaining a busy national performing schedule, Debra is currently a Lecturer in Early Music Performance Practice at Case Western Reserve University. She was recently awarded a Creative Workforce Fellowship from the Community Partnership for Arts and Culture and Cuyahoga Arts and Culture.

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Editor's note:

We would be happy to set aside tickets for the press. Please let us know if you plan to attend one of these concerts.