

## ENSEMBLE LES DÉLICES ANNOUNCES 2009-10 CONCERT SEASON

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Cleveland-based chamber ensemble Les Délices is pleased to announce their 2009-10 concert season, which includes the launch of Saturday night concerts in Cleveland art galleries, and Sunday afternoon concerts in the beautiful acoustics of the John D.Herr Memorial Chapel at Plymouth Church in Shaker Heights, OH.

Les Délices' Gallery Concerts initiative will allow them to integrate the arts, creating unique concert events that are enjoyable, interesting, stimulating, and which build audiences by reaching across artistic disciplines. As Les Délices' director Debra Nagy explains, "Chamber music 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. The audience will be invited to come early to these concerts, check out the art, and get comfortable in the space. The concerts themselves will feel informal and inclusive, lasting about an hour. Afterward, 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. It's my hope, too, that people coming to concerts in Cleveland's gallery districts will discover and enjoy all that these reborn arts neighborhoods have to offer."

As Artists in Residence at Plymouth Church in Shaker Heights for 2009-2010, Les Délices will also present two Sunday afternoon concerts in the intimate, and acoustically gorgeous Herr Chapel. These one-hour concerts on Sundays at 4:00pm will present the perfect opportunity for audience members to head over to restaurants in nearby Shaker Square afterwards for an early dinner.

Les Délices will inaugurate their new Gallery Concert series at the William Busta Gallery (2731 Prospect Ave., Cleveland) on Saturday, October 10, 2009. Like an artist's solo exhibit, this concert will allow a glimpse at a single composer's varied output. Marin Marais was an unparalleled virtuoso on the viola da gamba (a fretted seven-string played with a bow and held between the legs), and an adventurous composer. Les Délices' program, "Transcendent Virtuosity: Music of Marin Marais," will include such beloved works as the *Folies d'Espagne*, the quirky *Sonnerie* for violin, and his highly original chamber piece "in the form of an opera," *La Gamme*. Baroque oboist Debra Nagy will be joined by nationally acclaimed guests Julie Andrijeski (baroque violin), Josh Lee (viola da gamba), and Michael Sponseller (harpsichord). (Les Délices will repeat this program on Sunday, October 11, 2009 at 5:00pm on the Music from the Western Reserve Series in Hudson, OH.)

In February 2010, Les Délices regulars Scott Metcalfe (violin), Emily Walkout (viola da gamba), and Lisa Crawford (harpsichord) return to join Debra Nagy (baroque oboe) for an intimate concert of musical tributes dubbed "Hommmages." French Baroque composers frequently paid homage to their greatest influences, or created musical representations of their friends and colleagues. This program features Francois Couperin's "Apotheosis of Lully," selected "tombeaux," and other musical caricatures (maybe even an arrangement of Ravel's Tombeau de Couperin!). Les Délices will perform inside the galleries of Tregoning

& Company (1300 W. 78<sup>th</sup> St, Cleveland) on Saturday, February 20 at 8:00pm, and in Herr Chapel at Plymouth Church on Sunday, February 21 at 4:00pm.

Les Délices will close their season with a program inspired by Louis XIV's personal chamber ensemble "Les Petits Violons du Roy," that features pairs of violins, oboes, and recorders. Concertgoers will relish the warm, subdued tones of mixed strings and winds in this program of solos, trios, and dance suites. Scott Metcalfe (violin), Emily Walhout (viola da gamba), and Lisa Crawford (harpsichord) will return alongside guests Julie Andrijeski (violin), and Kathryn Montoya (oboe and recorder). The fabulous gallery space at Tregoning and Company (1300 W. 78<sup>th</sup> St, Cleveland) will again host Les Délices for this concert on Saturday, May 22 at 8:00pm. Les Délices will repeat their program at Herr Chapel at Plymouth Church on Sunday, May 23 at 4:00pm.

Tickets for all concerts in the series are available at [www.lesdelices.org](http://www.lesdelices.org).

### **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 allows 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 will have their new recording featured as part of the Audio-guide for an upcoming exhibit at New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art (Watteau, Music, and Theater). 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](http://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.

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