

CLEVELAND-BASED ENSEMBLE LES DÉLICES PRESENTS "PETITS VIOLONS DU ROY"
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ensemble Les Délices (pronounced *Lay DEH-lease*) presents "Petits Violons du Roy" as the third concert of their inaugural season. 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 May 22 at 8pm, and repeats its program inside Herr Chapel at Plymouth Church in Shaker Heights (2860 Coventry Rd., Shaker Heights, OH) on Sunday May 23 at 4pm. Tickets for both concerts are available at www.lesdelices.org.

Inspired by Louis XIV's personal chamber ensemble "Les Petits Violons du Roy," the concert 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 that pairs soulful expressiveness with rhythmic verve. Les Délices regulars Debra Nagy (oboe & recorder), Scott Metcalfe (violin), Emily Walhout (viola da gamba), and Lisa Crawford (harpsichord) will be joined by guests Julie Andrijeski (violin), and Kathryn Montoya (oboe & recorder).

Despite its name, the King's private chamber ensemble was not exclusively composed of violins. Instead, a pair of oboes (often doubling on flutes and recorders) frequently joined the King's smaller string band (compared with his big orchestra – the 24 Violins) to entertain him and members of his court at mealtimes or for dancing in the evenings.

Featured works on the program include rarely heard suites by Pierre Gautier de Marseille and Michel de la Barre (one of the Louis XIV's flutists), and a trio for dueling violins in the Italian style by Jean-Féry Rebel (violinist to the King). Nagy and Montoya will be featured in sumptuous suites by two of the King's most celebrated wind players, Pierre-Danican Philidor and Jacques-Martin Hotteterre.

Although its lush sonorities and dance rhythms have universal appeal, 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 with the launching of Les Délices' new concert series this year.

"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."

So far this season, each gallery concert has attracted standing room-only crowds. "Audience response at the gallery concerts has been great, and the musicians have really enjoyed them as well."

Les Délices will present a total of three concerts during its inaugural 2009-10 season. They will announce plans for their second season of gallery concerts in late May.

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's debut CD "The Tastes Reunited" was released to critical acclaim in June 2009 and was recently named "One of the Top Ten Early Music Discoveries of 2009" by NPR's Harmonia. Les Délices has had live performances featured on WKSU's In Performance and WCPN's Around Noon, and their debut recording was 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. Debra has been named a Creative Workforce Fellow for 2010. The Creative Workforce Fellowship is a program of the Community Partnership for Arts and Culture, generously funded by Cuyahoga Arts & Culture.

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