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## The Rose Ensemble Announces 2008–2009 Performance Season

St. Paul, Minn.— The Rose Ensemble is pleased to announce its 2008-09 Performance Season, featuring the release of the group's eighth CD recording, new commissions from composer-in-residence John Rommerein, and collaborations with two European vocal groups. The French choir Diabolus in Musica and the English octet Voces8 will join The Rose Ensemble at different times during the season to present special concert and workshop opportunities.

The groups became acquainted when The Rose Ensemble was invited to perform at prestigious choral festivals in Spain and Italy this past year. Artistic Director Jordan Sramek says he's thrilled that The Rose Ensemble's success in Europe allows him to bring international artists to the local community.

"Our European engagements over the past few years have helped us appreciate even more the magical combination of beautiful music in a beautiful space," said Sramek. "But they have also helped us widen our repertoire—and our circle of friends."

The Rose Ensemble will appear this season at several new venues, including the historic Cathedral of Saint Paul and locations in Edina, Wayzata and New Brighton. With support from the Otto Bremer Foundation, the group will also present a special regional tour of Minnesota and surrounding states.

Tickets go on sale August 15 and are available through the Rose Ensemble box office at (651) 225-4340 or online at [www.RoseEnsemble.org](http://www.RoseEnsemble.org). Student and senior discounts are now offered at every regular season event.

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**ABOUT THE ROSE ENSEMBLE** The Rose Ensemble reawakens the ancient with vocal music that stirs the emotions, challenges the mind and lifts the spirit. The group tours both nationally and internationally with repertoire spanning 1,000 years and 25 languages. Now entering its thirteenth performance season, The Rose Ensemble is the recipient of the 2005 Chorus America Margaret Hillis Award for Choral Excellence and a first-place winner in the 2007 Tolosa International Choral Competition.

**DIABOLUS IN MUSICA (Tours, France)** From Gregorian chant to the great polyphonic works of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, Diabolus in Musica (*The Devil in Music*) specializes in early French repertoire. Directed by Antoine Guerber, the ensemble is acclaimed for its innovative interpretations of unpublished works from original manuscript sources.

**VOCES8 (London, England)** Founded in 1993 by former choristers of the Westminster Abbey, the award-winning a cappella octet Voces8 has a repertoire ranging from 13<sup>th</sup>-century polyphony to unique popular arrangements. Voces8 has been praised throughout Europe for its "stunning performance," "exquisite singing" and "sound that spans the entire range of vocal color."

### MORE INFORMATION

[www.RoseEnsemble.org](http://www.RoseEnsemble.org) | (651) 225-4340

**LISTEN ONLINE:** [www.myspace.com/theroseensemble](http://www.myspace.com/theroseensemble)

**PHOTOS:** [www.roseensemble.org/news/pressroom.html](http://www.roseensemble.org/news/pressroom.html)

<http://www.diabolus-in-musica.net>

<http://www.voces8.moonfruit.com>

[more]

# The Rose Ensemble: 2008–2009 Performance Season

## **CELESTIAL HARVEST: *Music for the End of Time***

Composers through the ages have used music to paint vivid images of the earth's end. With choral works both chaotic and sublime, The Rose Ensemble evokes a world of angels and demons, saints and

seven-headed monsters. Featuring Coptic, Hebrew and Latin chant traditions, soaring English Renaissance motets, and a new piece by composer-in-residence John Rommerein, this program explores human stories on a celestial scale.

- **October 10, 8 pm** – Sacred Heart Chapel, Cathedral of Saint Paul
- **October 11, 8 pm** – Basilica of Saint Mary, Minneapolis
- **October 12, 7:30 pm** – Wayzata Community Church
- **October 17, 7:30 pm** – Cathedral of Christ the King, Superior, WI

The Rose Ensemble Presents

## **DIABOLUS IN MUSICA *Machaut's Messe de Nostre Dame***

The Rose Ensemble welcomes the French vocal group Diabolus in Musica for a special performance

of a French masterpiece, Guillaume de Machaut's *La Messe de Nostre Dame*. Dark, tumultuous and richly textured, the famous mass finds a perfect home under the Basilica of Saint Mary's soaring arches. This rare United States appearance by Diabolus in Musica promises a profound experience of the world's best-known medieval composition.

- **November 6, 7:30 pm** – Basilica of Saint Mary, Minneapolis

## **AND GLORY SHONE AROUND *An Early American Christmas* (CD-Release Concert!)**

By popular request, The Rose Ensemble's Americana program returns to herald the release of the group's eighth recording. Celebrate with colonial carols & dances, Appalachian folk instruments, Southern shape-note singing, heartfelt four-part Shaker hymns, and the close harmonies that gave birth to bluegrass.

Filled with sounds both familiar and fresh, this holiday concert shines with the warmth of hearth and home.

- **December 18, 7:30 pm** – Colonial Church of Edina
- **December 20, 8 pm** – Basilica of Saint Mary, Minneapolis
- **December 21, 2 pm** – Church of the Nativity, St. Paul
- **December 22, 7:30 pm** – Cathedral of Christ the King, Superior, WI
- **December 23, 7 pm** – Trinity Lutheran Church, Stillwater

## **CANDLELIGHT CONCERT *William Byrd's Great Service* (With Special Guests Voces8)**

London's acclaimed octet joins forces with The Rose Ensemble for a candlelit evening of magnificent double-choir works. Featuring Italian Renaissance multi-part motets & antiphonal chants, the program's

centerpiece is *The Great Service*, William Byrd's triumph of ten-part polyphony. With the combined strength of twenty voices from two award-winning groups, this concert by candlelight resounds with music of rare complexity and power.

- **February 26, 7:30 pm** – Cathedral of Christ the King, Superior, WI
- **February 27, 7:30 pm** – Church of St. Bernard, St. Paul
- **February 28, 8 pm** – Basilica of Saint Mary, Minneapolis
- **March 1, 5 pm** – St. Paul Seminary School Chapel, St. Paul

## **CANTIGAS FROM THE LAND OF THREE FAITHS**

### *A Celebration of Ancient Mediterranean Music*

Four hundred years of vibrant music and passionate poetry come alive in a program echoing the rhythms of the early Mediterranean courts. A national touring

favorite, this lyrical collection of Arab-Andalusian dances, Sephardic laments, Spanish *villancicos*, Hebrew chants and Galician *cantigas* weaves "a rich and dramatic tapestry as entertaining to see as to hear" (*Choral Journal*).

- **March 28, 7:30 pm** – Macalester Plymouth United Church, St. Paul
- **March 29, 7 pm** – United Theological Seminary, New Brighton