



January 1, 2009—FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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The Rose Ensemble + Voces8 Present  
**Candlelight Concert: Renaissance Music for Two Choirs**  
*featuring 'The Great Service' by William Byrd*

St. Paul, Minn.— London's acclaimed octet [Voces8](#) joins forces with The Rose Ensemble to present "[Candlelight Concert: Renaissance Music for Two Choirs](#)," a special program of extraordinary English Renaissance choral works. The event runs February 26 through March 1 at four locations in St. Paul, Minneapolis and Duluth-Superior.

The program of double-choir and multi-part motets will feature *The Great Service*, William Byrd's triumph of ten-part polyphony. The complex material is a natural fit for The Rose Ensemble's first collaboration with another vocal group. Illuminated by hundreds of votive candles, this concert resounds with the combined strength of twenty voices from two award-winning ensembles.

A large-scale, intricately textured work, *The Great Service* was written for the Church of England and went unperformed for hundreds of years until its rediscovery in the 1920s. Byrd is said to have studied with the great Thomas Tallis, another famous composer of the Elizabethan era.

The Rose Ensemble and Voces8 became acquainted at an invitation-only choral competition in Tolosa, Spain. Most recently, both groups participated in the 2008 [Festival des Choeurs Lauréats](#) in France, a showcase for the winners of major choral prizes. After four successful European tours in under a year, The Rose Ensemble is now thrilled to bring international artists to the local stage.

Tickets are available at the door or in advance through The Rose Ensemble at (651) 225-4340 and [www.RoseEnsemble.org](http://www.RoseEnsemble.org). Students and seniors receive a discount of \$3 per ticket. A group discount is also available with advance purchase.

**FEBRUARY 26, 2009, 7:30 pm**  
*(pre-concert presentation, 6:30pm)*  
Cathedral of Christ the King  
1410 Baxter Ave, Superior, WI  
General seating: \$23

**FEBRUARY 27, 2009, 8:00 pm**  
*(pre-concert presentation, 7:00 pm)*  
Church of St. Bernard  
187 Geranium Ave W, St. Paul  
Reserved sections: \$35, \$25, \$17

**FEBRUARY 28, 2009, 8:00 pm**  
*(pre-concert presentation, 7:00 pm)*  
Basilica of Saint Mary  
88 N. 17<sup>th</sup> St, Minneapolis  
Reserved sections: \$35, \$25, \$17

**MARCH 1, 2009, 5:00 pm**  
*(pre-concert presentation, 4:00 pm)*  
St. Paul Seminary Chapel  
2260 Summit Ave, St. Paul  
Reserved sections: \$35, \$25, \$17

[more]

**FREE WORKSHOP: Sing Renaissance Motets with The Rose Ensemble**

February 17, 7:00-9:00pm

Merriam Park Branch Library, St. Paul

*No experience necessary*

**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. The group has released eight nationally distributed recordings.

**ABOUT VOCES8 (London, England)** Founded in 1993 by former choristers of the Westminster Abbey, the a cappella octet Voces8 has a repertoire ranging from 13<sup>th</sup>-century polyphony to unique popular arrangements. The group has been praised throughout Europe for its “stunning performance,” “exquisite singing” and “sound that spans the entire range of vocal color.” Voces8 won first prize awards at the 2005 International Choral Competition in Gorizia, Italy and at the 2006 European Choral Grand Prix in Spain.

**DOWNLOAD PHOTOS.**

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

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

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