



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Boston Secession Presents an Evening of Early Music With
Justina Golden and the Amiable Consort**

BOSTON, MA – March 7, 2008 – On Friday, April 11th, Boston Secession presents Justina Golden and her new ensemble, The Amiable Consort, featuring many of the best of Boston Secession's early music voices, including Mary Gerbi, Pamela Getnick Mindell, Martin Near, and Brenna Wells. The ensemble will be joined on medieval fiddle by Robert Eisenstein, a founding member and program director for the Folger Consort, and by renowned mezzo-soprano Pamela Dellal.

The concert is unusual in its variety, presenting works ranging from the 12th through 17th centuries, including compositions by medieval visionary, composer and writer Hildegard von Bingen. The repertoire also features a selection of troubadour songs, secular works about courtly love and chivalry from the European High Middle Ages, which were composed and performed by itinerant musicians. Additionally, the concert will showcase compositions by Orlando di Lasso, one of the most prolific and versatile composers of the late Renaissance.

Justina Golden, a singer, conductor and teacher, brings a unique perspective to early music. "We're not trying to recreate the medieval experience in our concerts, but focus instead on what is timeless and universal about the music. It's a passionate, involved relationship, rather than an academic approach. Our goal is simply to take people's breath away with the beauty of these extraordinary compositions." Praised for her "honey rich, deep voice" and the "lush richness" of her expressive vocal work, Golden brings to her performances a boldness and passion rarely heard in this form.

**2007-2008
Season**

November 9 & 10, 2007
The Big Oh!

December 7, 2007
Cabaret Noel
Singalong Secession

February 8, 2008
(Un)Lucky in Love
Alternative Valentine Celebration

March 15, 2008
Handel in the Strand

April 11, 2008
**Justina Golden and The
Amiable Consort**

**Fall, 2008
Preview**

November, 2008
Testimony of Witnesses
An Oratorio of Remembrance

Justina Golden and the Amiable Consort takes place Friday, April 11th at 8:00 p.m. at Gordon Chapel, Old South Church, Copley Square. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door, \$15 for seniors, and \$10 for students. Tickets may be ordered online at www.bostonsecession.org or by phone at 617.499.4860.

The Amiable Consort specializes in 11th-14th century solo and multi-part chant. This new early music ensemble, founded by Golden in 2007, presents deeply moving performances of exceptional quality, imbued with a rare accessibility both for those in the know and those who are new to this music.

Boston Secession was founded in 1997 by Jane Ring Frank. The group quickly established a reputation for offering superlative performances of works ranging from medieval chant to contemporary music. Looking forward to the 2007 - 08 season, Frank observed, "It's a joy and a privilege to work with a group of musicians who are not only singularly talented, but passionate and committed as well. Their skill and dedication has enabled Secession to earn a place of great respect in the classical music community." Secession is equally dedicated to making classical music accessible to audiences, offering intelligent thematic programs accompanied by commentary.

Boston Secession's 2007 – 2008 concert season concludes with ***Justina Golden and the Amiable Consort***.

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Boston Secession's 2007 - 2008 Season Details

Boston Secession 2007 - 2008 season subscriptions are \$130 (5 shows for the price of 4, and a \$25 discount off the single ticket price) for all five season performances, including tickets to *Secession's* repeat sell-out (Un)Lucky in Love alternative Valentine's concert. Tickets are currently on sale through the *Boston Secession* website (www.bostonsecession.org) or by calling 617-499-4860. The subscription package includes:

The Big Oh!

Friday, November 9, 2007, 8:00 pm

Heineman Ecumenical and Cultural Center, Framingham State College

Saturday, November 10, 2007, 8:00 pm

First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, 11 Garden Street, Harvard Square

A let-'er-rip romp through the sexier strains of music from 999 to today. This is a seductively silly, positively PG-13 program that explores the earthier mechanics of 'friction to heat' conjugal counterpoint, tests the tortured romanticism of Wagnerian love-death, and takes a humorous look at love "from both sides, now." Repertoire highlights run the gamut – from Pergolesi to Rossini, Barber, Schönberg, Bruckner and more.

Cabaret Noël: Singalong Secession

Friday, December 7, 2007, 8:00 pm

St. Paul's Church, 15 St. Paul Street, Brookline

Join us for Boston's new holiday tradition, a joyous cabaret performance overflowing with seasonal favorites, this year featuring renowned soprano Nancy Armstrong and Artists of Boston Secession. Croon along or wail away on all your holiday favorites, from *White Christmas* to *Silent Night* and through the top tunes from Handel's *Messiah*. Lift your voice in song with Jane Ring Frank and the professional singers of Boston Secession and enjoy a few funny, heartwarming and poignant Secession solo surprises along the way. ...and if you have a *Messiah* score, don't leave home without it!

(Un)Lucky in Love

Featuring special guest artist, Justina Golden

Friday, February 8, 2008, 8:00 pm

Veronique Ballroom, Longwood Towers, Brookline

Cupid might be stupid

And forget to shoot the beau

But you don't have to sit alone

And wish it weren't so...

Come share an empathizing laugh with fellow fools for love at Boston Secession's annual Alternative Valentine celebration – presented for the first time in the gorgeous Veronique Ballroom of the Longwood Towers in Brookline! Join featured Secession artists – in solos, duets and wee ensembles – as they celebrate the vicissitudes of love. Featuring an all new program, including works by Mozart, Sondheim, Bernstein, Jason Robert Brown, and others.

Handel in the Strand

Saturday, March 15, 2008, 8:00 pm

First Church in Cambridge, Congregational, 11 Garden Street, Harvard Square

In the Baroque period, J. S. Bach beetled away in Germany as the introverted, provincial genius, while George Frideric Handel took London by storm, becoming the era's extroverted, cosmopolitan superstar. A German who wrote in the Italian style in England, Handel was wildly popular in his day – and it is his musical style that has left an indelible mark on nearly all the greatest composers after his death in 1759. This concert traces the musical inheritance of Handel's heirs – from the man himself to works by Mendelssohn, Brahms, Weill, Stravinsky and even Percy Grainger!

Boston Secession presents

Justina Golden and The Amiable Consort

Featuring Robert Eisenstein, medieval fiddle, founding member of the Folger Consort

Friday, April 11, 2008, 8:00 pm

Gordon Chapel, Old South Church, Boston

Boston Secession is pleased to welcome guest artist Justina Golden and her new ensemble, The Amiable Consort, featuring the best of Boston Secession's early music voices. Specializing in Hildegard von Bingen and solo and multi-part chant, this early music ensemble presents deeply moving performances of exceptional quality, imbued with a rare accessibility both for those in the know and those who are new to this music. Praised for her "honey rich, deep voice" and the "lush richness" of her expressive vocal work, Justina brings to her performances a boldness and passion rarely heard in this form.

About The Amiable Consort

Early music specialist Justina Golden, is a singer, conductor, and teacher from western Massachusetts. She maintains a thriving private vocal studio and performs widely, including regular appearances at Smith College and the Performing Arts Center in Easthampton. With a B.A. in Music from Amherst College (cum laude) and an M.M. in Music from Yale University, Justina brings twenty years of experience in music performance to her most recent venture, Justina Golden and The Amiable Consort. Specializing in 11th-14th century solo and multi-part chant, this new early music ensemble presents deeply moving performances of exceptional quality, imbued with a rare accessibility both for those in the know and those who are new to this music. Praised for her "honey rich, deep voice" and the "lush richness" of her expressive vocal work, Justina brings to her performances a boldness and passion rarely heard in this form. Combined with the highest technical standards, the result is powerful and moving.

As Justina and her new ensemble make their Boston debut, Justina reunites with Robert Eisenstein, her collaborator on her recent CD, *Flos Regalis* (Royal Flower). Robert Eisenstein is a founding member and program director for the Folger Consort (based at the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C.), and is the director of the Five College Early Music Program in Western Massachusetts. The other members of The Amiable Consort will be familiar to King's Chapel and early music audiences in Boston. Soprano Yulia Van Doren, mezzo-sopranos Thea Lobo and Mary Gerbi, counter tenor Martin Near, and soprano Kristi Vrooman, are all accomplished young artists in their own right on the Boston early music scene.

About Boston Secession

It's not every night that the chemistry of a concert's performance and program leads to spontaneous audience combustion. Welcome to Boston Secession: utterly superlative musical performances combined with witty, original programs that reframe the very notion of what a "classical music" concert can be.

Here's Boston Secession's formula for the city's most stunning and entertaining concerts:

First, start with Boston's best, most disciplined singers. Add Artistic Director Jane Ring Frank's commitment to world-class musicianship coupled with a lushly transparent sound, achieved through applying typically orchestral techniques to her professional ensemble. After plundering nine centuries of repertoire to find compositions—both famous and obscure—Ring Frank then puts this unique sound to work in creative thematic programs of depth and originality.

The result? Performances that demonstrate "a commitment to serious musicianship leavened with a friendly sense of *joie de vivre*," (*The Hub Review*), and an aural effect "so precise" — according to Richard Dyer of *The Boston Globe* — "[it makes] the ears ring."

So, why the name Boston Secession?

Over a hundred years ago, Austrian painter Gustav Klimt's artist's co-operative, the Vienna Secession, created a sensation by displaying paintings at eye level for the first time. Now the common practice for all art galleries, the Secessionists' approach modernized the presentation of fine art forever. Inspired by the original Secession, Jane Ring Frank founded Boston Secession in 1996 as a professional studio for modern vocal performance, bringing classical music to "eye level."

Join this "superb choral group" (*Boston Phoenix*) as we embark on our second decade of exceptionally fine performances, bringing new audiences to classical music and fresh inspiration to classical music lovers everywhere.