
For Immediate Release: October 13, 2009

Mercury Baroque's in The Woodlands!



Mercury Baroque

Houston's Mercury Baroque Ensemble will present two world class performances at the John Cooper School Performing Arts Center in The Woodlands, Texas. This beautiful 500 seat theater is the perfect venue for Mercury Baroque to expose students and audiences from The Woodlands to rich and exciting baroque music. The two concerts in The Woodlands will be taken from our seven concert subscription series at Houston's Wortham Center and will feature the works of Handel and Vivaldi. Tickets for the performances range from \$20-\$35. Subscriptions to both performances range from \$36-\$63 and can be purchased on the Mercury Baroque website or by phone at 713-533-0080.

By performing the two concerts in The Woodlands, Mercury hopes to expose new audiences to the rising popularity and importance of period instrument performances. According to Artistic Director Antoine Plante, "Hearing baroque music performed the way it was supposed to be, with the proper instruments, and with musicians who know how to bring out the subtle nuances of the music is such a special experience." He says, "The audience feels involved with the music as they watch the musicians move together and interact so closely together. This kind of intimacy and passion is something you just can't see at a larger orchestra." It is this passion and energy that Mercury Baroque has become known for over the past several years and it is the source for their growing international recognition. Now The Woodlands community has the chance to experience Mercury Baroque first hand and at their doorstep.

Mercury's first performance at the Woodlands will be Handel's Messiah on December 13th at 2:00pm. Handel's Messiah is the perfect family holiday tradition and Mercury will perform all of the most popular highlights of the masterpiece in all of their glory. For the final concert in The Woodlands, Mercury Baroque will perform six of Vivaldi's set of twelve Concertos known as L'Estro Armonico. These concertos for one, two, or four violins are the perfect pieces for Mercury to show off the dazzling virtuosity and artistry of its core string ensemble.

Mercury Baroque has been a dynamic member of the Houston region arts community since 2000. Founded as a chamber ensemble, the group has grown into a Baroque orchestra performing a full subscription season of concerts in and around Houston and touring both domestically and internationally. The organization continues to pursue its goal of building a strong tradition of Baroque music performance in the Houston region, starting with its educational outreach programs designed to train the community's future musicians and create the audience of the future. Although Mercury is focused on bringing the best Baroque to Houston, the ensemble has toured to other countries as well, including two tours to Quito, Ecuador. In September, 2010, Mercury will revive its popular performance of Lully's opera Armide in Paris.