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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Mercury Baroque performs *free* concert of treasures  
to accompany exhibit of paintings by Pompeo Batoni  
at The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston**



HOUSTON—Engage your senses with *Italian Colors* when Mercury Baroque continues its popular chamber music series at The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston in the Audrey Jones Beck Building on Sunday, Jan. 6, 2008 at 2 p.m.

This free concert is a unique opportunity to hear the refreshing sound of Mercury and view outstanding works of art by Pompeo Batoni, the most celebrated Italian painter in Rome in his day, on display at The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston located at 1001 Bissonnet in Houston's Museum District.

For this intimate performance, Artistic Director Antoine Plante designed an afternoon of Baroque treasures to accompany the exhibit.

"Performing such passionate music in such an intimate setting, accompanied by the works of Batoni, will meld the genius of the artist and the composers of the era," said Plante. "And, with the musicians playing on period instruments, the audience will hear the music as it was heard at the time."

The concert will include Corelli's *Trio Sonata*, Vivaldi's *La Folia*, Vivaldi's *Cantata for Soprano*, and Caldara's *Trio Sonata*. Performing will be Mercury's Jonathan Godfrey, Oleg Sulyga, Barrett Sills and William Averill.

Pompeo Batoni was the most celebrated painter in Rome in his day. The American painter Benjamin West, who lived in Italy in 1760—63, said, "When I went to Rome, the Italian artists of that day thought of nothing, looked at nothing, but the work of Pompeo Batoni."

Mercury Baroque's highly imaginative programming brings music to a variety of audiences and venues, including the Wortham Center, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston and The University of Houston at Clear Lake. The ensemble does not limit itself to concerts—it also presents a fully staged opera each season

For more information, call 713-533-0080 or visit [www.MercuryBaroque.org](http://www.MercuryBaroque.org).

**Antoine Plante, Mercury Baroque Artistic Director. Photo Credit Jim Caldwell  
Additional photos available on request.**