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**CELEBRATED BAROQUE ORCHESTRA APOLLO'S FIRE BRINGS MONTEVERDI'S
VESPERS OF 1610 TO BING CONCERT HALL**

***Conductor and harpsichordist Jeannette Sorrell leads the Cleveland-based ensemble in one its
signature works***

Stanford, CA, October 20, 2014—Claudio Monteverdi's *Vespers of 1610*, the glorious Venetian masterpiece that bridged Renaissance and Baroque styles, is considered the grandest piece of religious music before Bach and it's the favorite music of conductor/harpsichordist Jeannette Sorrell. On November 14, at 7:30 p.m., she brings this signature work to Bing Concert Hall in a performance by her Cleveland-based **Apollo's Fire** Baroque orchestra.

"It's one of the great epic centerpieces of western music," says Sorrell. "Monteverdi was a giant. I think of him like Beethoven — a revolutionary, living at the end of one style period, and almost single-handedly forging a new one through sheer force of will. He used the tools of the Renaissance, but created a new and intensely emotional form of expression, which we call Baroque."

The *Vespers* ("evening prayers") is a 90-minute piece for orchestra, chamber choir and vocal soloists, composed around Biblical texts — primarily the sensual love poetry from the Songs of Solomon. It has become a signature work for Apollo's Fire since the ensemble first presented it in 1998, and the subsequent 2010 international CD release of the work debuted in the Top 10 on the Classical *Billboard* Chart.

Named for the classical god of music and the sun, Apollo's Fire was founded by Sorrell in 1992. The group is widely respected for its creative programming and performances of early music on period instruments that have been described as "a blend of scholarship and visceral intensity" (*Gramophone*). Fresh from its third European tour, Apollo's Fire is slated to make its debut at the prestigious BBC Proms in August 2015 and the group makes its debut at The Metropolitan Museum of Art this December.

Apollo's Fire performs the *Vespers* with the combined forces of seven vocal soloists, its renowned professional chamber choir Apollo's Singers and an orchestra of period instruments, including theorbos (a member of the lute "family") and sackbuts (an early trombone). It is the largest ensemble to-date that Apollo's has presented on tour, and one of the largest ensembles to cross the Apollo's Fire stage.

Tickets for the performance at Bing range from \$30-\$75 for adults and are \$15 for all current Stanford students. Tickets are available at the Bing Concert Hall Ticket Office, by phone at **650-724-2464 (BING)** or online at **<http://live.stanford.edu>**. The box office is located at 327 Lasuen Street. Regular hours are Tuesday-Friday from 12:00-5:00 p.m.

VENUE INFORMATION

Bing Concert Hall is located on the Stanford University campus at 327 Lasuen Street on the corner of Lasuen and Campus Dr. Parking on campus is free of charge after 4:00 PM and on weekends at all times, and may be found in the Galvez Lot across Campus Drive from Bing Concert Hall. Maps and directions are available at <http://live.stanford.edu/Venues/parkingmapsdirections.php>.

ABOUT STANFORD LIVE

Stanford Live is Stanford University's performing arts presenter and producer, committed to sharing, celebrating and advancing the art of live music, dance, theater, and opera. Stanford Live unites celebrated and emerging artists with the Stanford campus and greater Bay Area communities in a broad range of experiences that engage the senses and emotions, stimulate minds, and enrich lives. The organization values artistic vitality, learning and an inclusive community. In addition to its home in Bing Concert Hall, Stanford Live also presents performances at other campus venues including Memorial Auditorium, Memorial Church and Frost Amphitheater.

CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

What: **Apollo's Fire Baroque Orchestra**
Program: Claudio Monteverdi: *Vespers* of 1610
When: Friday, November 14, 7:30 p.m.
Where: Bing Concert Hall, 327 Lasuen Street, Stanford University
Tickets: \$30-\$75
Description: Led by harpsichordist Jeannette Sorrell, the renowned Cleveland-based Baroque orchestra Apollo's Fire performs one of their signature works.

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