

BOSTON BAROQUE

Martin Pearlman, Music Director

For Immediate Release –

WGBH "Opera Bash" airs Boston Baroque's acclaimed production of rarely performed Rameau opera *Les Indes Galantes*

Ambitious production is American period-instrument premiere of extravagantly-scored French Baroque gem

Program will be broadcast on WGBH 99.5 All Classical Radio and streamed live on www.wgbh.org/radio on Sunday, September 4 at 2:00 pm.

WGBH 99.5 FM All Classical radio will broadcast Boston Baroque's acclaimed recent performance of Jean-Phillippe Rameau's extravagantly-scored opera-ballet "Les Indes Galantes." Martin Pearlman leads the Boston Baroque orchestra and chorus in the American period-instrument premiere of this brilliant piece, with sopranos Amanda Forsythe and Nathalie Paulin, tenors Aaron Sheehan and Daniel Auchincloss, and baritones Sumner Thompson and Nathaniel Watson.

The program will also be streamed live as part of WGBH's "Opera Bash 2011," a weekend of operatic masterpieces hosted by NPR World of Opera host Lisa Simeone.

This rare and path-breaking production continues Music Director Martin Pearlman's exploration of the evocative music of the French Baroque. The uniquely French opera-ballet genre, which flourished in the early 1700s, reached its zenith in *Les Indes Galantes* (1735), with its lyrical music-making, spectacular tableaux, and infectious, toe-tapping dances. Héb , goddess of youth, laments seeing the young men of Europe lured by the goddess of war's promises of glory, and asks Cupid to travel to exotic, faraway lands in search of love. There follow four acts, each a self-contained love story, set in Turkey, Peru, Persia and America. The libretto and music reflect Parisian society's fascination with the New World and the Near East.

Jeremy Eichler, Boston Globe, wrote about this production:

“Last night’s splendid performance in Jordan Hall made one wonder anew why this work is spotted so rarely. . . It was the refined and stylish singing [of the soloists] that made this night a particular pleasure. . . Boston Baroque’s chorus sang with elegance, and the orchestra rendered Rameau’s vibrant writing, a kind of 18th-century technicolor, with precision and finesse.”

The live performances had stage direction by Sam Helfrich and choreography by Marjorie Folkman.

Martin Pearlman's program notes and a synopsis can be found at www.bostonbaroque.com.

About Boston Baroque

Three-time Grammy Nominee Boston Baroque—the first permanent Baroque orchestra established in North America—is widely regarded as “*one of the world’s premier period-instrument bands*” (Fanfare). The ensemble’s performances and recordings of the Baroque and Classical repertoire have been acclaimed from Boston to London, from New York to Vienna to Sao Paulo for their freshness, virtuosity, and exuberant appeal.

Founded in 1973 by Martin Pearlman, Boston Baroque presents an annual subscription concert series in Greater Boston and reaches an international audience with its twenty critically acclaimed recordings on Telarc. It has now signed a recording contract with the European company Linn Records.

Boston Baroque's many career milestones include the American premiere of Rameau's *Zoroastre*; a Mozart opera series including *Marriage of Figaro*, *Così fan tutte*, and the American period-instrument premieres of Mozart's *Don Giovanni* and *The Magic Flute*; and a revelatory exploration of the Beethoven symphonies on period instruments. In 1998-99, the ensemble gave the modern premiere of *The Philosopher's Stone*, a singspiel newly discovered to include music by Mozart and to shed fresh light on his canon. In recent years, Boston Baroque has presented Boston's first complete cycle of the surviving operas of Monteverdi, with new performing editions of *L'incoronazione di Poppea* and *Il ritorno d'Ulisse* by Martin Pearlman; and an internationally acclaimed

series of Handel operas including *Agrippina*, *Alcina*, *Xerxes*, *Giulio Cesare*, *Semele*, and *Amadigi di Gaula*. The company most recently concluded its 2010-2011 season with this ambitious production of Rameau's *Les Indes Galantes*.

Boston Baroque is the resident ensemble for Boston University's Historical Performance Program.

Boston Baroque's 2011-12 season opens with Haydn's *The Creation* on October 21 & 22 and concludes with Gluck's opera-ballet *Orfeo ed Euridice* on May 9 and 10, 2012.

Boston Baroque
68 Leonard Street Belmont MA 02478
617 484 9200 www.bostonbaroque.org