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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **La Venexiana Opens Early Music Series With Monteverdi Madrigals and More**

On Friday, October 17, 2003, at 8 p.m. Mandel Hall will resound with Italian music of the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries as **La Venexiana** launches the **Howard Mayer Brown International Early Music Series** for the University of Chicago Presents 2003-2004 season. Madrigals and sacred songs by Grandi, Donati and Monteverdi highlight the program performed by the ensemble of five voices and harpsichord that has been called the “the world’s leading specialist in Italian madrigal.” Tickets are \$30 for the general public and \$11 for students with ID.

### **LA VENEXIANA**

La Venexiana takes its name from an anonymous Italian Renaissance comedy, precursor to the *Commedia Del Arte*, famous for its linguistic playfulness and pointed burlesque of society and manners. In the spirit of their dramatic forbearer, the musicians who form the 21<sup>st</sup> century troupe — director and alto/counter-tenor Claudio Cavina, soprano Valentina Coladonata, tenors Sandro Naglia and Giuseppe Maletto, bass Matteo Bellotto and harpsichordist Andrea Perugi — strive to capture their namesake’s delight in language and the juxtaposition of the lofty and the lowly. The result is a new style of Italian Madrigal singing characterized by a lush Mediterranean sound and sensitivity to text and harmonic refinement, which is fast making Monteverdi a rival for Verdi’s attention among lovers of Italian music around the world.

La Venexiana has appeared in concert and in music festivals in Europe, Japan, Mexico, South America and the United States. They have recorded for Opus 111 and Cantus, and since 1998, exclusively for the Spanish Glossa label. They won the *Cannes Classical Award* in 2002 for their Glossa CD *Gesualdo da Venosa: Il Quarto Libro di Madrigali*, the *Gramophone Award* in 2001, the *Prix Amadeus* in 2000, and the *Diapason d'Or* in 1999. Their performance at Mandel Hall marks their Chicago debut. For more information, visit: [www.shupartists.com](http://www.shupartists.com).

## THE FACTS AND FIGURES

- TICKETS:** By phone with credit card at (773) 702-8068 or in person with cash, check or credit card at Concert Office, 5720 S. Woodlawn, or at Box Office after 5 p.m. on concert night, or by email at [concert-office@uchicago.edu](mailto:concert-office@uchicago.edu)
- PRICE:** \$30 general public  
\$11 students with valid ID
- DATE/TIME** Friday, October 17, 8 p.m.
- PLACE:** Mandel Hall  
1131 East 57<sup>th</sup> Street  
Chicago, IL 60637
- PARKING:** Street or after 5 p.m. free in lot  
at 55<sup>th</sup> and Ellis
- HANDICAP:** Persons with disabilities or who otherwise need assistance may call the Concert Office at (702) 773-8068 prior to the concert, but no later than 4 p.m. on concert day.
- ONLINE:** At <http://chicagopresents.uchicago.edu> or by email to [concert-office@uchicago.edu](mailto:concert-office@uchicago.edu).

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