Feb. 24-26

**True Concord and Arizona Early Music**

Claudio Monteverdi’s *Vespers for the Blessed Virgin* (1610) is a monumental work for multiple choirs, soloists and orchestra that laid the foundation for oratorios such as Bach’s *St. Matthew Passion* (1727) and Handel’s *Messiah* (1741).

Using several different Psalms (as well as text from *Isaiah 6, John 5*, and other sources), and musical forms that include motet, hymn and sonata, the 90-minute work definitely transcends the idea of evening prayers.

The work requires a sizable and very talented group of singers and musicians, and the Arizona Early Music Society and True Concord have joined forces to produce these three concerts. Providing the authentic instrumental sounds will be Tesserae, a Southern California group that has previously thrilled Tucson audiences as guests of AEMS. True Concord, under the musical directorship of Eric Holtan, will handle the vocal duties with choir and soloists. Adding to the sonic glory will be baroque violinist Scott Metcalfe, a Massachusetts-based seasoned performer of the Vespers of 1610.

Fri: 7 pm, Valley Presbyterian Church, Green Valley; Sat: 7:30 pm, Catalina Foothills High School; Sun: 3 pm, Grace St. Paul’s Episcopal Church. 401-2651. Trueconcord.org, or www.azearlymusic.org.