



**For Immediate Release**

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**True Concord performs Monteverdi's Vespers**

A partnership with Arizona Early Music Society on their 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary

Tucson, AZ (Feb. 6, 2017)--True Concord Voices & Orchestra is partnering with Arizona Early Music Society (AEMS) and Tesserae Early Music Ensemble, a Los Angeles-based period instrument ensemble specializing in music from the 17th century, to perform the iconic Vespers of 1610, utilizing sackbuts, cornettos, recorders and other rare period instruments.

True Concord's Music Director Eric Holtan, explains that 'Vespers' "refers to the centuries-old tradition of evening prayers, but in creating a work of monumental scale, Claudio Monteverdi includes both tranquil prayerful moments and ecstatic outbursts of absolute joy." Monteverdi was the pioneering composer who arguably brought music of the Renaissance to its peak and laid the foundation for the Baroque period.

AEMS, celebrating its 35th anniversary season this year, has increased its focus on partnering with other organizations in recent years. When AEMS approached True Concord's Music Director Eric Holtan about collaborating on the Vespers production, Holtan embraced the opportunity, and a partnership was developed that included Tesserae Early Music Ensemble from Los Angeles. Founded in 1982, AEMS was formed by a group of friends "dedicated to the enrichment of contemporary life with the music of the past," according to AEMS' mission statement. Augmenting the instrumentalists of Tesserae is Scott Metcalfe, concertmaster, on Baroque Violin, an experienced performer of the Vespers and director of Boston's early music choral ensemble, Blue Heron.

AEMS Board President Scott Mason said of the performance, "bringing these exceptional musicians together, the period instrumentalists of Tesserae and the voices of True Concord, in this magnificent work of Monteverdi's Vespers of 1610 is exciting. It is a truly unique and remarkable event not to be missed."

Audience members will have an opportunity for up-close experiences with the rare, period instruments during the pre-concert discussions led by True Concord's Eric Holtan (45-minutes prior to each show time), and after the concerts at meet-and-greets in the lobby.

Continued on next page

**Times, dates and locations for Monteverdi's Vespers are:**

**Friday, February 24, 7:00 pm** – Valley Presbyterian Church, 2800 S. Camino del Sol, Green Valley

**Saturday, February 25, 7:30 pm** – Catalina Foothills High School, 4300 E. Sunrise Dr., Tucson

**Sunday, February 26, 3:00 pm** – Grace Saint Paul's Episcopal Church, 2331 E. Adams St., Tucson

For tickets and information, visit [trueconcord.org](http://trueconcord.org). or call 520.401.2651.

[azearlymusic.org](http://azearlymusic.org)

[tesseræ-la.com](http://tesseræ-la.com)

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**About True Concord Voices & Orchestra**

Grammy-nominated True Concord is Southern Arizona's professional choir and chamber orchestra. Founded in 2004, its mission is to create experiences with music that move, enrich and inspire. This mission is accomplished primarily through the performance of masterworks and the music of America's cultural mosaic. More information at [www.trueconcord.org](http://www.trueconcord.org) and on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.