

PhilharmoniaBaroqueOrchestra

MEDIA RELEASE

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MAYOR GAVIN NEWSOM PROCLAIMS APRIL 21 “NICHOLAS MCGEGAN DAY” IN SAN FRANCISCO

**McGegan to mark his 20th Anniversary with PBO with
Philharmonia’s debut at Davies Symphony Hall**

San Francisco - Mayor Gavin Newsom will proclaim Friday, April 21, 2006 “Nicholas McGegan Day” in San Francisco in honor of the celebrated maestro’s 20th anniversary at the helm of the nation’s preeminent period instrument orchestra. That evening, McGegan will lead Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, the Philharmonia Chorale and two other choruses in Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony for PBO’s debut at Davies Symphony Hall as they close the Orchestra’s own 25th anniversary season.

The consul general of Great Britain, the Honorable Martin Uden, will be on hand for the occasion to recognize McGegan for his singular contributions to the field of arts and culture here and abroad. McGegan will also be honored in a series of special written tributes from global arts leaders including Sir Roger Norrington, maestro Kent Nagano, choreographer Mark Morris, composer Jake Heggie and others.

Robert Birman, Philharmonia’s Executive Director, commented, “To inspire, to teach, to cajole, to move - not just an orchestra but an entire community - is a rare and beautiful talent. Nic’s selflessness, caring, generosity and charm endear him to audiences and musicians alike around the globe. PBO, indeed the entire Bay Area, has been fortunate and changed forever by his presence. No one has more energy or more fun making music than Nic. I think everyone would agree that there can be no more fitting theme than “Ode to Joy” with which to honor his 20th anniversary!”

Nicholas McGegan is one of the world’s leading authorities on Baroque and Classical repertoire. During his tenure Philharmonia has become the leading original instrument orchestra in the United States. PBO’s **subscription concert series** has quadrupled since 1985, the Orchestra now appears at major festivals in the U.S. and in Europe. PBO was named *Musical America’s Ensemble of the Year* for 2004. Their European debut took place at Germany’s International Handel Festival Göttingen in 1999, and PBO now returns to Göttingen frequently, for opera and concert performances which have included the modern-day premiere of the recently rediscovered Handel *Gloria*. In 2005, PBO made their debuts at London’s **BBC Proms** and in Amsterdam’s famed **Concertgebouw**, in addition to New York’s **Carnegie Hall** and Los Angeles’s **Walt Disney Concert Hall**.

Nic and the PBO have made more than 30 **recordings** together, including the world-premiere recording of Handel’s *Susanna*, which received a Gramophone Award and

Grammy nomination for best vocal recording. In Fall 2004 they released the premiere recording of Alessandro Scarlatti's *Vespers for St. Cecilia*, on the Avie label and are now recognized as a leader in **Internet distribution of live concert recordings** - a service PBO has been providing for more than a year, with their latest release (Handel's opera *Atalanta* - the only recording of the work in print worldwide) having been released this week.

Nic was born in England, studied at Cambridge and Oxford Universities and has received an honorary degree from the Royal College of Music in London. He has been awarded the prestigious Handel Prize from the Halle Handel Festival in Germany, and in 1996 was presented with the Drottningholmsteaterns Vänners Hederstecken, the honorary medal of the Friends of the Drottningholm Theatre.

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**PROCLAMATION BY THE MAYOR DECLARING
APRIL 21, 2006 "NICHOLAS McGEGAN DAY"
IN SAN FRANCISCO**

Whereas: The City of San Francisco is privileged and honored to be recognized today as a leading cultural center for period instrument performance all over the world; and

Whereas: The Mayor and music lovers from throughout our region recognize maestro Nicholas McGegan and the members of Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra as champions and foremost advocates for the study and performance of music from the Baroque, Classical and early-Romantic eras; and

Whereas: The City joins with members and supporters of Philharmonia as they gather this day to celebrate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Orchestra and twentieth year of maestro McGegan's leadership with this unique musical treasure; and

Whereas: The love of music knows no boundaries, the mission of the Orchestra is to present great music that enriches lives, inspires passion for period instrument performance, connects audiences to history, preserves tradition and celebrates creative genius; and

Whereas: our City is made great by individuals and organizations dedicated to preserving the public trust while bringing great joy to individuals and our entire society through the performance of music at the highest artistic standard;

Let It Therefore Be Known: That the City of San Francisco most gratefully honors

MAESTRO NICHOLAS McGEGAN

For his sterling contribution to the City of San Francisco and joins with the entire community in celebrating the goodwill he has generated these many years.

I HEREBY PROCLAIM: April 21, 2006 to be “Nicholas McGegan Day” in the City.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City and County of San Francisco to be affixed this Twenty-First day of April, Two Thousand and Six.

The Honorable Gavin Newsom, Mayor