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COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS SPRING 2009 PERFORMANCES AND EXHIBITIONS



Collegium Musicum Concert

Thursday, April 2, 7:30 p.m.

Organ Recital Hall, University Center for the Arts

1400 Remington St., Fort Collins, Colorado

\$10, \$5/CSU Students, \$5/Youth (ages 6-17)

Unique performances of German Baroque with Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 4 and Cantata No. 78, and Handel's Harp Concerto in B-flat major and a Sonata for two flutes. For moments of enchantment, enjoy scenes from John Gay's satirical Beggar's Opera enlivened with jilted damsels and black-hearted villains. Soloists include Michelle Stanley, Dawn Grapes, Wyatt True, Sarah Wigley, Craig Blackard, Alaina Bongers, and the CSU Women's Choir. Collegium Musicum is CSU's early music ensemble, specializing in historically informed performances.

Headlining the performance is J.S. Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 4 featuring music faculty Michelle Stanley and CSU alum Dawn Grapes, flute, and graduate student Wyatt True, violin.

The Collegium also performs scenes from *The Beggar's Opera*, the 1728 ballad opera by John Gay. Graduate students Sarah Wigley and Craig Blackard sing to the lyric drama, a musical play that satirized both the Italian opera and themes of corruption at all levels of society.

"The Beggar's Opera focuses on villains and thieves – and jilted damsels – in early 18th century London, a scandalous subject for the times!" says Janet Pollack, the Coordinator of Music History at Colorado State and the director of the Collegium Musicum.

The CSU Women's Choir, conducted by Austen Wilson, makes a guest appearance in the concert to sing selections from a J.S. Bach Cantata. Rounding out the program is Handel's Concerto in B-flat major for Harp, featuring student soloist Alaina Bongers, harp.

The Collegium Musicum, formed in 2006 by Colorado State University musicologist Dr. Janet Pollack, is a collaboration between students and faculty dedicated to the historically informed performance of Western and Non-Western European music from the Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, and Classical eras.

About Janet Pollack

Dr. Janet Pollack received her Ph.D. from Duke University in historical musicology, and her scholarly interests cross the boundaries between literature, music, and cultural studies. Her current research explores English music criticism in the 16th and 17th centuries, the publication history of *Parthenia*, historical musical pedagogy, a recreation of the entertainments at the 1613 Palatine Wedding, and the new religiosity in twentieth-century music. She also actively promotes the recognition of early modern women's contributions in music. In addition to research, Pollack remains active as a harpsichordist, and organizes and performs on early music concerts. Before joining the Colorado music faculty in 2005, she taught at Duke University and the University of Puget Sound, and was the contracted keyboardist with the Southwest Florida Symphony Orchestra for a number of years.

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