

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**An Evening of Secular Song: Eakins Vocal Consort makes April 27<sup>th</sup> debut**

Philadelphia, April 12, 2007

Eakins Vocal Consort, Philadelphia's newest a cappella chamber choir, makes its recital debut at the Ethical Society Building on Friday April 27<sup>th</sup> at 8pm. The Consort is a group of young scholars in music, literature and fine art with extensive choral singing experience, handpicked and directed by local pianist and musicologist Tim Ribchester.

Focusing on the English Renaissance Madrigal, and modernist music with a pronounced local accent, the recital program carries the theme of "Madrigals and Travels". The first part of the program will consist of selections by the greatest composers of madrigals in 17<sup>th</sup> century England, including John Wilbye, Orlando Gibbons, Thomas Tomkins and a late example by Henry Purcell; a single representative of the Italian madrigal school by Jacques Arcadelt will also be featured. The "Travels" begin in the second half, with the Scottish flavors of James MacMillan's *The Gallant Weaver*, the flamenco guitar effects of *Las Agachadas* by Aaron Copland, and a cathartic *Sonnet LXIV* by contemporary American composer Dominick Argento, who has set Shakespeare's eerily prescient poetry as a memorial to the events of September 11<sup>th</sup> 2001. Completing this half, *The Demolished Man* is a new work by emerging composer Katharine Saxon, with texts from Alfred Bester's celebrated Orwellian novel. All of the program, with the exception of the Copland and Arcadelt pieces, is in the English language, though *The Gallant Weaver* features the Scots dialect in poetry by Robert Burns.

The Eakins Vocal Consort was founded in late 2006 with the aim of performing secular a cappella music with a clean, stylish sound and literary panache. Preview appearances at Andrea Clearfield's Salon and the Ethical Society have met this goal and earned the Consort an enthusiastic early reception. Named for the great Philadelphian painter Thomas Eakins, the group will be pursuing future collaborations with visual artists and art venues to build bridges between the fine arts, literature and music. Eakins' realism and innovative spirit are qualities to which the Consort aspires in the interpretation of music that is often considered antiquarian or avant-garde. The April 27<sup>th</sup> debut will emphasize the timeless resonance of madrigals, and the relevance of modernist and contemporary music to specific places and people.

Concert details:

Eakins Vocal Consort; Tim Ribchester, Director

Friday April 27<sup>th</sup>, 8.00pm

Ethical Society Building, 1906 South Rittenhouse Square, Philadelphia PA 19103

Admission at the door: \$15 full/\$10 students and seniors; includes complimentary wine reception following the concert

For more information:

[www.eakinsvocalconsort.org](http://www.eakinsvocalconsort.org)

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