



ABOUT THE ENSEMBLE

“Remarkable... gorgeous... with precise ensemble, a strong sense of presence, and ringing vowels that reverberated to the farthest reaches of the Cathedral.” - THE WASHINGTON POST

Eya is an award-winning vocal ensemble based in Washington, DC specializing in the interpretation of medieval music for women’s voices. Launched in 2010 and directed by Allison Mondel, Eya is an ensemble of hauntingly beautiful vocal quality married with deep spirit. Eya crafts programs that interweave diverse repertoires, forging new points of connection between contemporary audiences and medieval repertoire which underline our common humanity with early poets and composers. Our performers are some of the finest young early music specialists in the region. Audiences have praised the ensemble for its vocal beauty, fascinating and accessible programming, fresh and inspired interpretations, and musicianship of the highest standard.

Eya has been presented at a number of distinguished venues so far, notably the National Gallery of Art, The Music Center at Strathmore, Washington National Cathedral, Dumbarton Oaks, and numerous colleges and universities, including Georgetown University, Williams College, and The College of William and Mary, among others. They are the recipient of the 2013 Greater DC Choral Excellence Award for *Best Specialty Group: Early Music* as well as a 2015 nominee for *Most Creative Programming*. Eya recently released their second full-length album, *The Three Marys*, in February 2018. Their 18-19 season will explore the theme of the Divine Feminine, including new programs featuring Irish music in praise of St. Brigit and the different faces of the goddess Venus, as well as a special collaboration with Dumbarton Oaks on a new exhibition.

Eya (pronounced “EH-yah”) is a Latin exclamation of joy. Learn more at www.eyaensemble.com.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

THE THREE MARYS Eya recreates *Les Trois Maries*, an early 14th-century liturgical Easter drama illuminating the emotional journey of the three Marys as they prepare and make their visit to the sepulchre following the burial of Jesus. Composed in plainchant, *Les Trois Maries* is one of the most sensitively-wrought examples of liturgical drama from this period. Accompanied on historical instruments, dramatic scenes are interwoven with medieval polyphony from the Tournai Mass, the Montpellier Codex, and the Bamberg Codex, in addition to traditional plainchant and instrumental improvisation, punctuating the dramatic arc of the story until its joyous finale. (5 performers)

HEARTFORM Inspired by the exquisite Chansonier Cordiforme, Eya explores the profound theme of sacred desire. We sift through a fantastic array of music and poetry that speaks of longing, sensuality, and connection with the Beloved. The delicately-crafted works of the Chansonier Cordiforme, featuring French and Italian songs of the early Renaissance, are folded within the poetic lines of Rumi, John Donne, Hildegard von Bingen, Richard Rolle, the Song of Songs, Shakespeare, and Peter Gabriel in a custom heart-shaped program book. Featuring a special commission by Baltimore-based composer Douglas Buchanan and music of Hildegard von Bingen, Francis Poulenc, Richard Einhorn, and Gregorian chant, as well as spoken text and poetry. (3 performers)

PILGRIMAGE Eya follows the humming routes of the Camino de Santiago as well as the path towards the mountaintop monastery of Montserrat with music of medieval Spain from Las Huelgas Codex, Codex Calixtinus, and the Llibre Vermell. Interspersed throughout the program are the liturgical songs of Hildegard von Bingen devoted to St. Ursula and the 11,000 virgins, the renowned young maidens who were martyred on their doomed spiritual journey. This interweaving of musical styles outlines the progression of body, mind, and spirit along the well-worn and sometimes turbulent path of the pilgrim. (3 performers)

GREENWOOD Sometimes sumptuous, sometimes playful, Eya explores the music of medieval France in Greenwood, including the achingly beautiful melodies of the trouvères, playful tunes of Adam de la Halle from *Le Jeu de Robin et Marion*, unusual Parisian motets of the 13th century, and the perfectly-crafted music and poetry of Guillaume de Machaut. With lute and percussion. (4 performers)

View our full program list at www.eyaensemble.com.

Contact us to discuss creating a new program for your venue or concert series at info@eyaensemble.com.