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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Byrd Ensemble performs “AFTERLIFE,” a program of modern music featuring composers Arvo Pärt, John Tavener and Peter Hallock, and aerialist Naomi Hummel.

WHAT: *Afterlife*

WHEN: Saturday, February 18, 2012 at 7:30pm

WHERE: Youngstown Cultural Arts Center
4408 Delridge Way SW
Seattle, WA 98106

TICKETS: \$25 – General Admission
\$20 – Students and Seniors (60+)

Order tickets in advance by calling (206) 397-3627, or by ordering online at <http://www.byrdensemble.com/2011-2012-concert-season/afterlife/>

The Byrd Ensemble, directed by Markdavin Obenza, will perform “Afterlife,” a program of modern music featuring composers Arvo Pärt, John Tavener and Peter Hallock, and aerialist Naomi Hummel on **Saturday, February 18, 2012 at 7:30pm** at the **Youngstown Cultural Arts Center** – 4408 Delridge Way SW, Seattle, WA 98106.

Musical expressions of death and the afterlife are some of the most hauntingly beautiful pieces ever written. This program of mystical and transcendent music in collaboration with **aerialist Naomi Hummel, 4 cellos and pianist Cameron Sharif** promises to be an interaction of artistic medium that will send you out of this world. The program features music by Herbert Howells (1892-1983), Samuel Barber (1910-1981), Arvo Pärt (b.1935) and local composers Peter Hallock (b.1924), Joshua Haberman (b.1982) and Markdavin Obenza (b.1980).

[THE BYRD ENSEMBLE](#), described as “Seattle’s own masters of ancient polyphony” (Seattle Times), is a vocal ensemble specializing in the performance of chamber vocal music, particularly Renaissance polyphony. The ensemble of eight to twelve singers have performed programs of medieval, renaissance, baroque and modern music in the greater Seattle area since 2003 (formerly under the name, “The Renaissance Singers”) and have appeared across the United States on a recent tour to New York, Boston and Maryland with guest conductor Peter Phillips (director of the Tallis Scholars). The Byrd Ensemble are Artists-in-Residence at Seattle’s first Episcopal parish, [Trinity Parish Church](#) (established 1865), where the group performs regularly throughout the year. The group’s creative efforts are led by Markdavin Obenza.

[ARTISTIC DIRECTOR MARKDAVIN OBENZA](#) received his Master of Arts in music theory from the University of Washington School of Music. For over a decade, he has been active in Seattle’s rich music scene as the artistic director of the Byrd Ensemble (formerly known as “The Renaissance Singers”) and as a countertenor and baritone with the Tudor Choir (US) and the Byrd Ensemble (US). Markdavin has also performed with members of the Tallis Scholars (UK) under the direction of Peter Phillips, the Seattle Academy of Baroque Opera (US) under the direction of Steven Stubbs, and the Kronos Quartet. He is the Choirmaster at St. Clement of Rome Episcopal Church in Seattle, WA.

PRESS QUOTES

“When this group performs live, it fills every cubic inch of the room with warmth and brilliance.”

The Seattle Times

“Obenza handles the literature with an appropriately sophisticated approach, holding the interweaving lines in precision while creating a blend that is bursting with life.”

The Seattle Times

"[The Byrd Ensemble], led by Markdavin Obenza, lock into ancient harmonies as one body, like a multitongued god announcing its own divine beauty."

The Seattle Times

"...they perform centuries-old music in a pure, authentic style that brings out its universal human gorgeousness."

The Seattle Times

“...the Byrd Ensemble is a first-rate group ideally suited to perform the music of their eponymous composer and his colleagues.”

The Boston Musical Intelligencer

“The clarity of blend between pairs (always trickier with just two on a part than any other combination) were splendid, making possible the clearest projection of the contrapuntal lines.”

The Boston Musical Intelligencer

“...the Byrd Ensemble provides a beautiful balance between the parts and elegantly shaped renderings of the rhythmically flexible lines.”

The Boston Musical Intelligencer

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