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MSU Music presents early music group from the Netherlands

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EAST LANSING, Mich. – Commemorating the 500th anniversary of the death of painter Hieronymus Bosch, MSU College of Music presents **Cappella Pratensis**, a vocal ensemble specializing in Renaissance music. The concert will be held in MSU Auditorium's **Fairchild Theatre** on **Tuesday, Feb. 28 at 7:30 p.m.** and is the final installment of the 2016-17 Taylor Johnston Early Music Series. This unique performance is an opportunity to experience music of the 16th century.



The Dutch-based vocal ensemble **Cappella Pratensis** – literally “Cappella des Prés” – are champions of the music of Josquin Desprez. The group combines historically informed performance practice with inventive programs and original interpretations based on scholarly research and artistic insight. As in Josquin’s time, the members of Cappella Pratensis perform from a central music stand, singing from the original mensural notation scored in a large choirbook. Founded in 1987, Cappella Pratensis is currently under the artistic direction of singer and conductor Stratton Bull.

Besides regular appearances at concert venues in the Netherlands and Belgium, Cappella Pratensis has performed at leading international festivals and concert series throughout Europe, North America and Japan.

The Feb. 28 concert will feature works by Pierre de la Rue, Gregorian chant, and motets by Jean Mouton. The music is drawn from the choirbooks of the Confraternity of Our Illustrious Lady, of which both Bosch and la Rue were members.

“The College of Music is so fortunate to welcome this renowned group to our stage,” says David Rayl, series curator and director of MSU choral programs. “Cappella Pratensis gives us the opportunity to hear glorious repertoire performed live by one of the best vocal ensembles in the world.”

Admission to the performance is free for students with ID and anyone under the age of 18. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors (age 60 and older), and can be purchased online, at the College of Music box office, by calling (517) 353-5340, or in person. *The concert is part of the Taylor Johnston Early Music Series.*

The ensemble will offer workshops for music students, entitled “Nuts and Bolts of Renaissance Polyphony,” which are open to the public and will be held in Fairchild Theatre: Feb. 27, 1:50 p.m. and Feb. 28, 8:30 a.m. The ensemble also invites students and the public to sit in on an open rehearsal from 10 to 11 a.m. on Feb. 28.

In addition to the performance, a free screening of the documentary “Bosch: In the Garden of Dreams” will be offered on Thursday, March 2 at 6 p.m. the Main Library. The subject of the film is Bosch’s most famous painting “The Garden of Earthly Delights.” Part of the Library Film Series, this event is co-sponsored by the College of Music and the Department of Art, Art History and Design, and will be presented by Susan J. Bades, professor of art history.

For more information, click the following link: <http://www.music.msu.edu/event-listing/cappella-pratensis>

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