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**WVIZ-PBS IDEASTREAM® AND APOLLO'S FIRE PRODUCE "DISCOVERING VIVALDI"**

**Hour-long broadcast premières on Sunday, May 30 at 7 p.m. on WVIZ/PBS**

Three hundred years ago, Antonio Vivaldi penned some of the most popular music of all time. Today, Vivaldi's music is heard in commercials, elevators and even movie soundtracks. But why does his music have such "staying power?" What is it about Vivaldi's music that still speaks to us today, and what story is he telling?

WVIZ/PBS ideastream and Apollo's Fire, the Cleveland Baroque Orchestra, announce the première of a new cultural/educational television special, **"DISCOVERING VIVALDI with Apollo's Fire."** The program, a special edition of "Applause," the WVIZ/PBS weekly series on the arts, is hosted by ideastream's Dee Perry.

Airing Sunday, May 30 at 7 p.m. on WVIZ/PBS, **"Discovering Vivaldi with Apollo's Fire"** explores the reasons behind the extraordinary popularity of this 18<sup>th</sup>-century composer through performances and interviews.

Based on a live studio performance by Apollo's Fire at ideastream's Westfield Insurance™ Studio Theatre, the program features selections from Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*, as well as his *Concerto for Two Cellos* and a set of variations known as "*La Follia*" (Madness), arranged by Apollo's Fire Music Director Jeannette Sorrell. A harpsichord solo by Sorrell, presenting an alternative version of "*La Follia*," rounds out the musical selections.

Sorrell serves as the "tour guide" through the program, providing insights and background to illuminate the storytelling qualities of the music, and pointing out the special effects in each piece. Sorrell, who collaborated with WVIZ/PBS Producer Dave DeOreo and Director of Production and Special Projects Mark Rosenberger on the script, says that the team set out to help audiences understand why they love Vivaldi's music.

"I think of Vivaldi as the rock-n-roll composer of the 18<sup>th</sup> century," Sorrell said. "He was a huge star in his own time, and the qualities in his music that spoke to people then still cause millions of people to buy Vivaldi CD's today." Sorrell mentions driving rhythms, a simple harmonic language, and musical storytelling as qualities that contribute to Vivaldi's mass appeal.

"Most people don't have the opportunity to learn that Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* are actually telling a story," said ideastream Executive Producer Mark Rosenberger. "In this program, we

tried to bring that aspect of his music into the spotlight and .unlock the secrets behind the music.”

The 14-member ensemble in the program includes featured soloists Julie Andrijeski, Miho Hashizume and Cynthia Roberts (violin) and cellists René Schiffer and Mimé Brinkmann, as well as Sorrell on the harpsichord.

**“Discovering Vivaldi with Apollo’s Fire”** is produced by WVIZ/PBS and Apollo’s Fire. This special edition of “Applause” was made possible by grants from The Cleveland Foundation, The George Gund Foundation, Cuyahoga Arts and Culture, United Black Fund of Greater Cleveland, and The Ohio Arts Council. Additional support for the Apollo’s Fire performance was provided by the National Endowment for the arts.

**Apollo’s Fire Baroque Orchestra** is one of the nation’s leading period-instrument ensembles. Founded in 1992 by Jeannette Sorrell, the ensemble has toured throughout North America, including such venues as the Aspen Music Festival and the Library of Congress, and will make its European debut in the fall. The ensemble is frequently broadcast nationally and internationally by NPR, Britain’s BBC, Canada’s CBC, and the European Broadcasting Union. Apollo’s Fire has released 13 commercial CD recordings, and recently announced a major new partnership with British label Avie Records, to release five new recordings for worldwide distribution. This program marks the ensemble’s PBS television debut.

**Jeannette Sorrell** is the First Prize winner of two international harpsichord competitions, and praised as “a brilliant harpsichordist” (GRAMOPHONE) and “one heck of a conductor” (BOSTON GLOBE). She studied conducting at the renowned Tanglewood Music Festival under Leonard Bernstein and Roger Norrington, and studied harpsichord with Gustav Leonhardt. Sorrell has performed as guest conductor with such orchestras as the St. Louis Symphony and the Handel & Haydn Society of Boston. She holds an Honorary Doctorate from Case Western University in Cleveland.

Together, Sorrell and Apollo’s Fire received the 1995 Noah Greenberg Award from the American Musicological Society, given for outstanding scholarship and performance.

## **ideastream**

ideastream® is a multiple-media public service organization with a mission to strengthen our communities by providing distinctive, thought-provoking programs and services that enlighten, inspire, educate and entertain. The organization was formed by the merger of public broadcasting stations WVIZ/PBS and 90.3 WCPN in July of 2001. The organization operates public television and radio stations in Cleveland with an audience of some 2.8 million viewers and listeners, an Educational Service group serving schools with nearly one half million students and manages the Ohio Public Television and Radio Statehouse News Bureau and Ohio Government Telecommunications in Columbus. ideastream is generously funded by the citizens of Cuyahoga County through Cuyahoga Arts and Culture.

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