



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 17, 2024

Early Music Vancouver Celebrates Master Storyteller Benjamin Bagby's Return in Performance of Medieval Epic *Gregorius*

Legendary performer leads internationally-acclaimed medieval ensemble Sequentia in enchanting and intimate performance of ancient work

Vancouver, BC - Early Music Vancouver (EMV) welcomes the return of singer and harpist **Benjamin Bagby** with members of ensemble **Sequentia** in ***Gregorius*** on **January 17, 2025 at 7:30pm** at the **Vancouver Playhouse**.

"Benjamin Bagby is well-known for his extraordinarily engaging performances of the Old English epic poem *Beowulf* and we're delighted to welcome him and Sequentia back to Vancouver, following their sold-out appearances in 2020," says EMV's Artistic and Executive Director Suzie LeBlanc. "Ben's captivating stage presence has thrilled and awed audiences across the globe, introducing countless listeners to the musical world of the Middle Ages. Sequentia's performance of ***Gregorius*** will take you on a journey towards finding light and hope in the darkest of times and places."

Benjamin Bagby's renditions of works from the Middle Ages and Antiquity invite the audience into a riveting world from the past, aided by projected subtitles and Bagby's electric and riveting performance onstage as storyteller and reenactor. The first graduate of Oberlin Conservatory to earn a degree in Early Music, Bagby sees himself as "a reconstructed singer of tales." With his late wife Barbara Thornton, they formed Sequentia in 1977, and created over 70 programs. Benjamin Bagby was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award from Early Music America in 2011.

Sequentia is one of the world's most respected and innovative ensembles for medieval music, ranking "among the noblest and most active of the very-early-music performing groups" (LA Weekly). Based in Paris, the ensemble consists of an international group of singers and instrumentalists dedicated to the performance and recording of Western European music from the period before 1300. Bagby and Sequentia have been almost yearly guests on EMV's series since the 1980s and have collaborated with the organization on many summer courses in medieval music. Bagby will be joined onstage by his Sequentia colleagues Jasmina Črnčič, voice and harp, and vocalist Lukas Papenfusscline a.k.a. leiken.

The medieval verse epic ***Gregorius***, written by twelfth century German knight and poet Hartmann von Aue, relates an astonishing tale of victory over despair. Sequentia performs this premiere reconstruction about a man tossed about by fortune, who returns from near death to become a great holy man – Pope Gregory the Great. Hartmann's narrative poem is an inspiring tale of limitless possibility and inextinguishable hope. The performance will be sung in medieval German, with subtitles in English, and will feature two Romanesque harps, copied from instruments depicted in sculpture from the late 12th century and further enveloping listeners in the aural world of the Middle Ages.

EMV's presentation of *Gregorius* will also feature a post-concert chat at the Vancouver Playhouse with Sequentia hosted by Suzie LeBlanc.

For tickets and information, visit earlymusic.bc.ca



With the generous support of Global BC.

About Early Music Vancouver (earlymusic.bc.ca)

Early Music Vancouver's concerts offer a platform for cross-cultural dialogue and exploration of diverse perspectives and relationships with the past. Under the leadership of Artistic/Executive Director, and internationally acclaimed soprano, Suzie LeBlanc, C.M., EMV presents a variety of live performances and digital concerts featuring some of the most renowned artists in the early music genre drawn from all parts of the globe.

LISTING INFORMATION

EMV presents Sequentia: *Gregorius*

Date:	January 17, 2025
Address:	Vancouver Playhouse 600 Dunsmuir Street, Vancouver, BC
Ticket Prices:	From \$28 to \$88 Under age 35: 35% off regular priced tickets Free tickets for Indigenous persons \$10 Student Rush tickets at the door
Ticket link:	earlymusic.bc.ca
Website:	earlymusic.bc.ca

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