

CONSORTIUM AURORA BOREALIS – Baroque and Beyond Pat Forrest, The Walleye Magazine, Nov. 2012

Those of us who are of a certain vintage can recall spending many happy hours browsing the aisles at Eatons. But the real treat was reserved for those shoppers who were lucky enough to catch an in-store performance by Consortium Aurora Borealis. Whether perched on top of the perfume counter or celebrating the music of Spain at the foot of the escalator, Consortium Aurora Borealis has “stepped out of the box” on many occasions to bring their music to the people with wit and joy.

Founder and longtime artistic director Elizabeth Ganiatsos says that this has always been the goal of Consortium. “Consortium Aurora Borealis came into being out of an enthusiasm for the music of the Mediaeval, Renaissance and Baroque periods and a desire to share this love with the community”, she said. “We want our performances to bring happiness and beauty into the lives of our audience members. We have a fervour and enthusiasm about the music that we present and we communicate our excitement and passion through the energies and talents of our musicians”.

Each season Consortium presents six varied concerts of chamber music, primarily from the Baroque period, with occasional forays into the Mediaeval, Renaissance, Classical and Early Romantic eras. Its distinctive programming style is reflected in many carefully researched, historically-themed concerts. Local professional soloists and chamber ensembles, instrumental and vocal, are joined on occasion by such distinguished visiting artists as virtuoso violinist Jeremy Bell, soprano Monica Whicher and others.

Now in its 34th year and based in St. Paul’s United Church which is renowned for its acoustics, Consortium Aurora Borealis has developed a diverse and devoted following. “The people who attend our concerts quickly feel like family. They are the kind of events where you can come by on your own and not feel strange. It’s not stuffy at all. It’s warm and friendly—and great fun”, said Ganiatsos.

Brilliant, luminous and always changing like the Northern Lights themselves, Consortium Aurora Borealis is an experience to be savoured.

