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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**December 13, 2010**

Tickets & Information: 212/854-7799; www.millertheatre.com

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*"If education was one goal of Miller Theatre's Early Music series, they scored a baccalaureate last night."  
— Concertonet.com*

**MILLER THEATRE AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY**

continues its *Early Music* series next month with

**Voices from the Island Sanctuary**

Saturday, January 22, 8:00PM

*Church of St. Mary the Virgin (145 W 46th Street)*

**Benjamin Bagby and Sequentia bring the early ecclesiastical music of Notre Dame to Midtown**

Tickets: \$35 • Students: \$21

**From Miller Theatre Director Melissa Smey:** "Benjamin Bagby and his medieval music ensemble Sequentia brilliantly bring to life programs with a wonderful blend of scholarship and art. 'Voices from the Island Sanctuary' will be a musical feast, offering the audience a glimpse of 12th- and 13th-century Parisian music and life. Founded in Germany, based in Paris, and revered the world over, Sequentia will be making their Miller Theatre debut in this concert."

**Saturday, January 22, 8:00PM**

**Voices from the Island Sanctuary**

In the 12th century, the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris was far more than a tourist mecca. It was an entire city unto itself, with a private port on the Seine and its own schools, laws, and social life. In this passionately performed, meticulously researched program, **Benjamin Bagby** and his acclaimed medieval ensemble **Sequentia** bring that bygone era to life, suffusing ancient music with striking immediacy.

ARTISTS: **Sequentia**  
**Benjamin Bagby**, director

PROGRAM:

Philippe le Chancelier (d. 1236)

Paris, Notre-Dame (after 1236)  
Paris, Notre-Dame (early 13th c.)

Paris, Notre-Dame (after 1189)  
Paris, Notre-Dame (early 13th c.)

Chancelier  
Paris, St. Victor, (mid-12th century)

Paris, Notre-Dame (ca.1200)

The Courtly Chancellor:

Ave gloriosa virginum regina

Passionate young urban males:

Aurelianus civitas  
O varium fortune lubricum  
Initium Sancti evangelii  
Curritur ad vocem nummi  
Anglia planctus itera  
Bulla fulminante

New monophonic sounds in Parisian churches:

Minor natu filius  
Zima vetus expurgetur

New polyphonic sounds in Parisian churches:

Descendit de celis

Hilarius of Orleans (12th c.) Paris, Notre-Dame (early 13th c.)	<u>Eros and ambition:</u> Sic mea fata canendo solor Veneris prosperis Vitam duxi Procurans odium Olim sudor Herculis
Pierre de Blois (d. 1212)	
Paris, Notre-Dame (early 13th c.)	<u>New Year's Day:</u> Festa ianuaria Annus renascitur Novus annus hodie

BIOS: **Sequentia** is one of the world's most respected and innovative ensembles for medieval music. It is an international group of singers and instrumentalists – united in Paris under the direction of the legendary performer and teacher Benjamin Bagby – for performances and recordings of Western European music, focused on the period before 1300. The size and disposition of the ensemble is determined by the repertoire being performed, and ranges from an instrumental/vocal duo to a large vocal ensemble. Based on meticulous research, intensive rehearsal, and long gestation, Sequentia's virtuosic performances are compelling, surprising in their immediacy, and strike the listener with a timeless emotional connection to our own past musical cultures.

Vocalist, harpist, and scholar **Benjamin Bagby** has been an important figure in the field of medieval musical performance for almost 30 years. After musical studies at Oberlin Conservatory and in Switzerland, he and the late Barbara Thornton formed Sequentia in 1977 in Cologne, Germany, where the ensemble was based until Bagby moved to Paris in 2001. Bagby also directs the Sequentia men's vocal ensemble for the performance of medieval liturgical polyphony and chant. Apart from the research and ensemble work of Sequentia, Bagby devotes his time to the solo performance of Anglo-Saxon and Germanic oral poetry; an acclaimed performance of the *Beowulf* epic is an ongoing project. In addition to researching and writing more than 70 program books for festivals and concert series, and writing (or co-authoring, with Barbara Thornton) more than 25 CD booklets, Bagby has written about performance practice. As a guest lecturer and professor, he has taught courses and workshops at the Harvard University, Tufts University, Wellesley College, the University of Texas at Austin, Northwestern University, the New England Conservatory of Music, Duke University, Stanford University, the Studio Alte Musik, and the Royaumont Foundation.

*Columbia University's Miller Theatre is located north of the Main Campus Gate  
at 116th St. & Broadway on the ground floor of Dodge Hall.*

For tickets, the public should call the Miller Theatre Box Office at 212/854-7799, M–F, 12–6 pm.  
Please note that the box office will be closed starting Tuesday, December 7 and will re-open Tuesday, January 18.  
Tickets can also be purchased online at [www.millertheatre.com](http://www.millertheatre.com) at any time.

For further information, press tickets, and to arrange interviews,  
please contact Aleba Gartner Associates at 212/206-1450 or [a@alebgartner.com](mailto:a@alebgartner.com).

For photos, please contact Charlotte Landrum at 212/854-2380 or [cl2867@columbia.edu](mailto:cl2867@columbia.edu).

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