**Aston Magna’s 45th Anniversary Berkshire Season Features Early Music & Beyond, at Historic Saint James Place**

***Festival features programs ranging from ‘forbidden’ tangos, sarabands and chaconas, to arias and sonatas, and renowned works for violin and clarinet***

**Great Barrington, Mass. (March 28, 2017)** – Aston Magna Music Festival’s 45th season expands its summer offerings to six Berkshire weekends beginning June 15, with baroque and early classical music, including composers Arañes, Corelli, Bach, Mozart, Paganini, Beethoven, Purcell, Handel and others. Aston Magna is celebrated for its performances on period instruments by virtuoso musicians.

Performances take place on six Saturdays, June 17 - July 22 at 6 p.m. at the newly restored Saint James Place in Great Barrington. Pre-concert talks take place at 5 p.m. with Artistic Director Daniel Stepner; a wine and cheese reception with the artists follows each concert.

On opening weekend, June 17, Aston Magna performs “Music for Forbidden Dances” including sarabands, chaconas and tangos, featuring guest artist Hector del Curto, bandoneon, with Aston Magna musicians. Music by Arañes, Bach, Bertali, Merula, Purcell, Corelli and Rodriquez.

On June 24, guest artist Eric Hoeprich, clarinet, joins the ensemble for “Late, Great Mozart,” including the clarinet quintet, 24. Selections: K. 563 and K. 581.

On July 1, soprano Dominique Labelle returns to perform in “Arias, Sinfonias and Biblical Oratorios” with the Aston Magna string ensemble. Selections by Caldara, Handel, Purcell and Clerambault.

On July 8, Aston Magna welcomes a solo performance by Brazilian violinist Edson Scheid, presenting “Paganini: The 24 Caprices for Violin.”  
  
On July 15, Aston Magna presents “Beethoven’s Kreutzer Sonata and its Mozartean Models” with Daniel Stepner, violin, and guest artist David Hyun-Su Kim, fortepiano. Sonatas by Beethoven and Mozart.

For its finale performance, on July 22, the ensemble performs “Voices and Viols: Music from the Court of Isabella D’Este” with mezzo-soprano Deborah Rentz-Moore and tenor Aaron Sheehan, with a consort of viols. Music by Josquin, Agricola, Obrecht, Busnois, Isaac, Tromboncino.

Saint James Place is located at 352 Main Street, Great Barrington.

Tickets: $40 in advance; $45 at the door; students with ID $5; children accompanied by adult: free; ArtSmart/Under 30s: $15.

Information and tickets: http://astonmagna.org