**Aston Magna’s 45th Anniversary Season Features Early Music & Beyond on Period Instruments at Brandeis on Thursdays, June 15-July 20**

***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 Brandeis weekends beginning Thursday, 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 Thursdays at Brandeis University (7 p.m.) June 15 - July 20, at Slosberg Music Center. Pre-concert talk at 6 p.m. with Artistic Director Daniel Stepner.

On opening night, Thursday, June 15, 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 Thursday, June 22, guest artist Eric Hoeprich, clarinet, joins the ensemble for “Late, Great Mozart,” including the clarinet quintet. Selections: K. 563 and K. 581.

On Thursday, June 29soprano 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 Thursday, July 6 Brazilian violinist Edson Scheid presents a solo performance of “Paganini: The 24 Caprices for Violin.”

On Thursday, July 13, 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 final concert at Brandeis on Thursday, July 20, 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.

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>