**Aston Magna’s 45th Anniversary Season Features Early Music & Beyond on Period Instruments, at Brandeis, Bard and in the Berkshires;**

**Extended Season at Brandeis and Berkshire venues**

***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 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 Thursdays at Brandeis University (7 p.m.) June 15 - July 20; four Fridays at Bard College, June 16 - July 7 (8 p.m.), and six Saturdays in the Berkshires June 17 - July 22 at the newly restored Saint James Place in Great Barrington (6 p.m.). Pre-concert talks take place one hour ahead of each curtain time; Great Barrington concerts are followed by wine and cheese receptions with the artists.

On opening weekend, June 15, 16 and 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.  
  
Weekend 2: Guest artist Eric Hoeprich, clarinet, joins the ensemble for “Late, Great Mozart,” including the clarinet quintet, on June 22, 23 and 24. Selections: K. 563 and K. 581.

Weekend 3: On June 29, 30 and 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.

Weekend 4: On July 6, 7 and 8, features Brazilian violinist Edson Scheid for a solo performance of “Paganini: The 24 Caprices for Violin.”  
  
Weekend 5 (Brandeis and Great Barrington only): On July 13 and 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.

Weekend 6: (Brandeis and Great Barrington only): For its final weekend, July 20 and 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.

Venues: Thursdays at Slosberg Music Center, Brandeis University, Waltham; Fridays at Laszló Z. Bitó ’60 Conservatory, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, N.Y. and Saturdays in the Berkshires at Saint James Place, 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