Concert and Readings: Pegasus Early Music

The concert on Thursday evening, a collaboration between the University of Rochester and Pegasus Early Music, will explore Dryden’s texts as set by composers of the baroque period. The program will include excerpts from a rare 18th century chamber arrangement owned by the Sibley Music Library of Handel’s Ode to St. Cecilia, with text by Dryden; songs to Dryden texts by Purcell and other contemporaries; and arias from Bononcini’s opera Almahide, which is based on a text by Dryden translated into Italian, and which was the first opera in England to be performed in Italian. Performers in the concert are part of Pegasus Early Music, and include Laura Heimes, soprano; Deborah Fox, theorbo and archlute; James E. Bobb, harpsichord; and Rachel Evans, violin. Jonathan Wetherbee from the UR Department of Theatre will perform dramatic readings that will complement the musical selections, including a satirical poem which pokes fun at the styles of Dryden and the composer Grabu.

Pegasus Early Music is a community-based cultural organization which presents an annual series of 4-5 concerts of early music. Helping to promote the arts and music in the Rochester region, we bring performers of international stature in our field, as well as utilizing the wealth of local talent. For more information, visit www.PegasusEarlyMusic.org.