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Polyphonic Films completes its first HD music-drama *The Full Monteverdi*

Opera director John La Bouchardière has just completed post-production on his highly anticipated screen collaboration with UK vocal-music ensemble **I Fagiolini**. Entirely sung throughout, the film sees the work of Claudio Monteverdi, the 16th Century Italian composer of the first operatic masterpiece, transformed into a gritty ensemble drama.

Set in the modern day, *The Full Monteverdi* follows the break-up of six couples over the course of an evening and the following morning. Based on Monteverdi's fourth book of madrigals, La Bouchardière's interpretation of the poetry, and music director Robert Hollingworth's detailed treatment of the music, has produced a visceral and relevant contemporary film, providing a unique opportunity to experience the genius of Monteverdi.

Filmed in High Definition over 24 days, La Bouchardière worked closely with Director of Photography Nick Gordon-Smith, Producer Greg Browning and Production Designer Chloe Lamford to create a meticulously considered world that juxtaposes the beauty of Monteverdi's work with the *verité* style of combining naturalistic documentary techniques with stylized cinematic devices.

The Film will have its broadcast premiere on S4C in the autumn, with Sky Arts already having picked up the secondary UK rights. Other pre-sales include SVT (Sweden), YLE Teema (Finland) and Ceska Televize (Czech Republic). International music distributors Naxos have also signed up as a co-production partner and will release the Film on DVD worldwide.

Visit the production **blog** at www.thefullmonteverdi.co.uk

ENDS.

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

- The Full Monteverdi was conceived by John La Bouchardière and began life as a site-specific live performance which has toured the UK and Europe since 2004 and will be revived at the Lincoln Centre Festival in July 2007.
More at : www.lincolnfestival.org
- In 2006 I Fagiolini received the Royal Philharmonic Society Award for Ensemble and celebrated their 20 year anniversary. I Fagiolini is acknowledged worldwide as the most innovative British vocal ensemble specialising in early music. Their stylish staged productions of Renaissance and Baroque music-theatre works together with virtuosic performances of contemporary repertoire have won them friends from the BBC Proms to Soweto and brought this repertoire to both specialist and completely new audiences.
More at : www.ifagiolini.com
- Polyphonic Films Ltd was formed in 2005 to create innovative artistic-led broadcast projects in the field of classical and contemporary music. It is currently developing a slate of documentary, performance and drama that aims to bring a diverse array of art to a broad audience.
More info : www.thefullmonteverdi.co.uk
- Opera director John La Bouchardière's recent work includes *Rigoletto* at London's Opera Holland Park; his much-celebrated production of *Semele* for Scottish Opera and *The Full Monteverdi*, his 'smash-hit' creation for I Fagiolini. He has recently directed *Tamerlano* for Scottish Opera and currently working on a new production of *Don Giovanni* in Bulgaria.
More at : www.johnlabouchardiere.com
- *The Full Monteverdi* is a Silicon 19 Media Ltd and I Fagiolini production for Polyphonic Films in co-operation with S4C, SVT and Sky Arts, and in association with Ceska Televize, YLE Teema and Naxos.
- *The Full Monteverdi* is distributed by Hazel Wright Media Limited (Contact: hazel@hazelwrightmedia.com / 0044-(0)208-5810125) and is available as 1x60 or as a short series of 3x25' episodes.