

STANFORD LIVELY ARTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:
Robert Cable
650-736-0091
rcable@stanford.edu

STANFORD LIVELY ARTS PRESENTS ANONYMOUS 4 ON OCTOBER 21 AT MEMORIAL CHURCH

The renowned vocal quartet will explore music from 13th-century Spain in its new program, *Secret Voices*, and lead a Stanford Chant Camp prior to its performance

Stanford, CA, September 21, 2009—The renowned four-woman ensemble **Anonymous 4**, will fill Stanford's majestic Memorial Church with vocal polyphony in a performance presented by Stanford Lively Arts on Wednesday, October 21 at 8:00 p.m. In its new program, *Secret Voices: The Sisters of Las Huelgas Music of 13th-Century Spain*, the group aims to prove that medieval women could, and did, sing the most complex music written in the Gothic era. Stanford faculty member William Mahrt will give a free discussion prior to the concert at 7:00 p.m. in the church.

Coming on the heels of Anonymous 4's *Four Centuries of Chant* recording, the *Secret Voices* program is a return to the heart of the ensemble's favorite century. The varied repertoire of 13th-century polyphony and sacred Latin song was collected for a convent of noble and aristocratic women, in spite of a rule forbidding the singing of polyphony by the women of their order. Their convent, Las Huelgas at Burgos in north central Spain, was on the road to the well-known shrine of Sant'Iago de Compostela.

"*Secret Voices* has been on Anonymous 4's 'to-do list' since our earliest days," says founding member **Susan Hellauer**. "While there is some controversy about whether this wonderful 13th-century repertoire was sung by the nuns of the royal monastery of Las Huelgas or by their hired singers, the words of the solfège exercise *Fa fa mi/Ut re mi* make us feel like we're following in the footsteps of our much older sisters, who collected and sang the greatest music of their time."

In conjunction with the performance, members of Anonymous 4 and Stanford music faculty **William Mahrt** and **Jesse Rodin** will lead a half-day **Chant Camp** on Monday, October 19 at 5:00 p.m. The event is open to amateur and professional singers who want to know more about, and participate in, Western plainchant. The Camp will include a lecture, discussion, and singing of chant from Iberian sources, in keeping with the concert repertoire.

-More-

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Renowned for uncanny tonal blend and technical virtuosity, **Anonymous 4** combines musical, literary, and historical scholarship into performances of unequaled resonance. Each year the ensemble tours throughout North America and appears at major festivals worldwide. The ensemble has been featured on numerous radio and television programs, including Garrison Keillor's "A Prairie Home Companion," "CBS Sunday Morning," A&E's "Breakfast With the Arts," and NPR's "Weekend Edition." Enchanted both by their live performances and by their 18 recordings of medieval, contemporary, and American music, Anonymous 4's listeners have bought nearly two million copies of the group's albums on the harmonia mundi label.

The four women of **Anonymous 4** are **Marsha Genensky**, **Susan Hellauer**, **Jacqueline Horner**, and **Ruth Cunningham**. California native **Genensky**, originally a traditional folksinger, resides in Menlo Park and has been as a visiting assistant professor at Stanford University. **Hellauer**, from the Bronx, New York, followed her passion for medieval and Renaissance music from trumpet performance into singing. **Horner** hails from Monkstown, Northern Ireland, and began her career as a London-based singer. **Cunningham** grew up in Millbrook, New York, and specializes in improvisational sacred music from varied spiritual traditions in both liturgical and concert settings. For more information visit <http://www.anonymous4.com/>.

TICKETS

Tickets for **Anonymous 4's Secret Voices, presented by Stanford Lively Arts on Wednesday, October 21 at 8:00 p.m.** at Memorial Church, are \$40 for adults and \$10 for Stanford students. Half-price tickets are available for young people age 18 and under and discounts are available for groups and non-Stanford students. For tickets and more information, call 650-725-ARTS (2787), or visit <http://livelyarts.stanford.edu>.

Tickets for **Chant Camp on Monday, October 19 at 5:00 p.m.** at Memorial Church are \$10 for Anonymous 4 ticket holders and \$20 for Chant Camp only. For reservations, call the Stanford Tickets Office at 650-725-ARTS (2787). Enrollment deadline is Friday, October 16.

VENUE INFORMATION

Memorial Church is located on the Main Quad at the end of Palm Drive. Parking on campus is free of charge after 4:00 p.m. and on weekends at all times and may be found along the Oval at the end of Palm Drive. Roth Way and Museum Way, off Palm Drive, also provide parking. Maps and directions may be accessed at <http://livelyarts.stanford.edu>.

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ABOUT STANFORD LIVELY ARTS

Stanford Lively Arts curates experiences that engage artists' and audiences' imagination, creativity, and sense of adventure. Founded in 1969 at Stanford University, we produce and present music, theater, dance, spoken word, and multi-media events. We place a special focus on innovation and risk-taking, and through commissions and premieres are an incubator and destination for new work. Stanford Lively Arts plays a leading and collaborative role in the university's thriving vision of a sustained culture of creativity—one in which the arts integrate with the academic disciplines, flourish as a vital part of campus and community life, and inspire new perspectives on our lives and culture.

NOTE TO EDITORS

High-resolution images can be accessed at livelyarts.stanford.edu/presscenter.

CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

What: **CHANT CAMP**
With members of Anonymous 4 and Stanford music faculty
Where: Memorial Church, Stanford University
When: Monday, October 19 at 5:00 p.m.
Tickets: \$10 (Anonymous 4 performance ticket holders); \$20 (Chant Camp only)
Presented by: Stanford Lively Arts

Description: Led by members of Anonymous 4 and Stanford music faculty William Mahrt and Jesse Rodin, Chant Camp is for experienced amateur and professional singers who want to know more about the nuts and bolts of Western plainchant. The Camp will include a lecture, discussion, and abundant communal singing.

What: **ANONYMOUS 4**
Program: *Secret Voices: The Sisters of Las Huelgas*
Music of 13th-Century Spain
Where: Memorial Church, Stanford University
When: Wednesday, October 21 at 8:00 p.m.
Tickets: \$40 (Adult); \$10 (Stanford student)
Presented by: Stanford Lively Arts

Description: The internationally renowned Anonymous 4's newest program is a return to the heart of the quartet's favorite century, and to a repertoire that confirms medieval women could—and did—sing the most complex polyphony written in the Gothic era. This varied repertoire of 13th-century polyphony and sacred Latin song was collected for the convent Las Huelgas at Burgos in north central Spain.

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