



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Bata Shoe Museum Opens Windows to Centuries Past**

*-Two evenings of curator's talks, concerts, and gallery visits filled with elegance and glamour -*

TORONTO, ON, April 25, 2007 – The Bata Shoe Museum presents two events celebrating the beauty and style of centuries past. Participants will hear an introductory curator's talk, followed by music of the Renaissance, Baroque and Rococo periods. They will then visit galleries displaying artifacts of the period.

The first of the two events, *In the Shoes of an Elizabethan Lady: The Passions and Scandals of Frances Walsingham*, will take place on May 25<sup>th</sup> and run from 7 to 9:30 pm. The curator's talk will discuss various topics, including the scandalous life of Frances Walsingham, the daughter of Queen Elizabeth I's spymaster. *The Musicians in Ordinary* will play evocative and passionate music from the time. The evening will culminate with a visit to the *Chronicles of Riches* exhibition to see one-of-a-kind, delicately embroidered slap-soled shoes which date from the Renaissance and are thought to have been worn by Walsingham.

The second of the two events, *Sense and Sensuality: The Charm of Rococo*, will take place on June 22 and run from 7 to 9:30 pm. The curator's talk will discuss stylistic features of the Rococo period and its charming, aesthetically pleasing and opulent fashions. *The Musicians in Ordinary* will play on rarely heard instruments such as the archlute and the baroque guitar, recreating through their music the delicate elegance of the High Baroque and Rococo eras.

Julie Harris, founder of Early Music Voices, a company that presents leading Canadian performers of Baroque and Renaissance repertoire, believes that *The Musicians In Ordinary* have a talent for putting the music into perspective, and that they give listeners the feeling that the past wasn't so long ago. "What's great about this duo is that they're really focused on this kind of early repertoire-they've done a lot of reading about the period as well as the music, so they always have some interesting insight into the time."

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### **Concerts, Curator's Talks and Gallery Visits**

- May 25 and June 22, 2007
- 7:30-9:30 pm (doors open at 7 pm)
- The Bata Shoe Museum, 327 Bloor Street West at St. George
- Free for Bata Shoe Museum members; \$10 seniors and students; \$15 adults
- Pre-registration required: call 416.979.7799 x242
- For more information on this event please visit [www.batashoemuseum.ca](http://www.batashoemuseum.ca) or call Liz Edwards, 416.979.7799 x226

#### *About The Musicians In Ordinary*

Named after the singers and lutenists that performed in the Stuart kings' private chambers and chapel royal, *The Musicians In Ordinary*, (Hallie Fishel, soprano and John Edwards, lute) specialize in bringing the music of this period to life and putting it into context. For more information on *The Musicians In Ordinary*, please visit [www.musiciansinordinary.ca](http://www.musiciansinordinary.ca).

#### *About the Bata Shoe Museum*

The Bata Shoe Museum is a centre of knowledge about the role of footwear in the social and cultural life of humanity. The Museum's growing international collection of over 12,000 objects touches on 4,500 years of history. A varied program of events and exhibitions lets visitors discover the stories behind footwear from many lands and cultures. Current exhibitions include: *Chronicles of Riches: Treasures from the Bata Shoe Museum*; *Watched by Heaven, Tied to Earth: Summoning Animal Protection for Chinese Children*; *The Charm of Rococo: Femininity and Footwear in the 18th Century* and *All About Shoes: Footwear Through the Ages*. Online exhibitions include *All About Shoes* and *On Canadian Ground: Stories of Footwear in Early Canada*. The Bata Shoe Museum is located in downtown Toronto at the southwest corner of Bloor and St. George Streets. Further information is available at [www.batashoemuseum.ca](http://www.batashoemuseum.ca).