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***The Full Monteverdi* released on DVD in North America**

Following I Fagiolini's sell-out run at New York's Lincoln Center Festival in 2007, Polyphonic Films is delighted to announce that John La Bouchardière's reworking of *The Full Monteverdi* for the screen will be released on DVD in North America on January 29 2008 by Naxos Global Distribution. Featuring the original cast from the live show, the DVD was filmed in HD and is presented with DTS surround sound, optional English subtitles and a comprehensive booklet containing essays by the director and the music director, Robert Hollingworth.

The film has been televised in Norway (NRK), Czech Republic (CTV) and New Zealand (The Arts Channel), and is currently scheduled for broadcast in Spain (RTVE), Sweden (SVT), Finland (YLE) and the UK (S4C and SkyArts).

Claudio Monteverdi's *Fourth book of Madrigals* (1603) explores differing emotional states of abandoned lovers through the most dramatic and amazingly modern music for vocal ensemble. *The Full Monteverdi* follows the simultaneous break-up of six couples, from shocking revelation, vengeful anger and erotic longing for reconciliation, as an ensemble film. Vulnerable and disarming, it draws viewers into its emotional journey and intensely moving portrait of contemporary love.

Seated in a restaurant, the six couples begin to quarrel over dinner. Onlookers are drawn to the interactions of their fellow diners, yet also wary of their invasive gaze, as the relationships fragment before their eyes. The couples fight over moments in the past, then reflect on better times and unrealised dreams. Ultimately, six (singing) lovers are left to contemplate life alone. The film takes place over an evening and following morning, with several scenes shot as flashback, giving viewers the back-story to the lovers' downfall. It is sung throughout.

Selected Reviews:

"...a brilliant film... a searing dramatisation" Richard Morrison, **The Times** (UK)

"...a raw emotional striptease" Peter Conrad, **The Observer** (UK)

"Outstanding directing" Michael Bordt, **Klassisk** (Germany)

"...has the makings of an award winner" Andrew Stewart, **Early Music Review** (UK)

"Aesthetically beautiful in every aspect" Edward Lewis, **Classical Source** (UK)

"Staggeringly inventive" Andrew Benson Wilson, **Early Music Review** (UK)

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