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MEDIA RELEASE

Canadian vocal ensemble takes Europe by storm

Vancouver, BC – The Vancouver-based a cappella vocal ensemble **musica intima** recently returned from Ireland where they presented “a wonderfully engaging performance” (Festival Director, John Fitzpatrick) for a large and enthusiastic audience at the prestigious **Cork International Choral Festival**. For five days, more than 4,000 choristers filled Cork’s streets, stages, schools, libraries, and churches with song. Mr. Fitzpatrick noted that this year’s festival was one of the best. “It was a really special festival with one of the highest standards of performances we have ever had”.

“What was most successful was not just the range of concerts but also the quality and diversity of them” remarked Fitzpatrick. Fifteen international choirs made the trip to Cork this year, representing Canada, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland and the US. “The stars of Thursday night’s gala concert were musica intima from Canada, whose uninhibited, natural sound, superb choral discipline and extraordinarily varied programme was a joy to hear” (Declan Townsend, *Irish Examiner*). Founded in 1954, the **Cork International Choral Festival** is noted for its high standards, eclectic and wide-ranging programme, and the friendliness of its welcome. More information can be found at www.corkchoral.ie

“International touring is very important because it helps build recognition, not only for the ensemble, but for Canada’s broader cultural community” said General Manager, Annelisa Pedersen. “Time and time again while we are on tour, audience members remark that the members of musica intima are musical ambassadors for Vancouver and British Columbia. It’s the ensemble’s way of engaging audiences that sets them apart—working without a conductor, performing from memory, speaking from the stage in both official languages, and choosing works which resonate with audiences, like “Mon Pays” in Quebec or “Northwest Passage” in the Yukon—this is what makes every musica intima performance unique and special.”

musica intima has become one of Canada’s most sought-after classical touring ensembles. Since October 2006, musica intima has undertaken six tours totalling more than 50 days on the road. These tours have taken the group to France, Ireland, the USA, as far north as the Yukon, east to New Brunswick and PEI, throughout Ontario, and twice to Quebec, as well as performances around British Columbia. The ensemble’s ability to engage and entertain has made musica intima a hit with audiences everywhere.

However, this isn’t the group’s only European appearance this season. In July, musica intima will travel to Copenhagen, Denmark for a series of performances at the **World Symposium on Choral Music**. As one of just 24 choirs from around the world chosen to participate in this prestigious event, musica intima will represent Canada as the only professional ensemble from this country to take part in the Symposium. More information on the 8th World Symposium can be found at www.choraldenmark.org

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