

MEDIA RELEASE / NOVEMBER 2008

Christmas Day TV premiere for *The Full Monteverdi*

John La Bouchardière's critically acclaimed film *The Full Monteverdi* will receive its UK television premiere on 25th December at 20.00 on both SKYARTS 2 and SKYARTS HD. The film is a contemporary drama about six couples on the verge of breaking up, set to music by the Italian Renaissance composer Claudio Monteverdi and is sung throughout by the British vocal ensemble I Fagiolini.

Sky was a major production partner in the making of the film:

"The Full Monteverdi was one of the first projects I became involved with here and it is one of those I am most proud of. We wanted to give it the slot it deserved."

Adrian Zak, Head of Programming - Sky Arts

The scheduling may surprise those familiar with the film, which is not standard seasonal fare:

"The first thing to say about this brilliant film is that it is extremely well sung. The second thing is that you need to be in pretty good emotional shape in order to enjoy, or perhaps I should say survive, the experience of watching it... almost unbearably moving. Bravos all round."

Richard Lawrence, Gramophone Magazine

"It will certainly be an unusual antidote to tinsel television. Christmas is about the value of relationships, after all, not just saccharine tears and half-heard Vivaldi. The Full Monteverdi is about couples in crisis and gets pretty intense, so just cuddle up in front of the telly and share what is left of the sherry."

John La Bouchardière, Director

The Full Monteverdi (60 mins) is a setting of Claudio Monteverdi's complete fourth book of madrigals (1603). To date, it has been broadcast in Australia, Canada, Czech Republic, New Zealand, Norway and Sweden and will be shown in Finland and Spain in 2009. It has been screened by cinemas and festivals at home and abroad and is available worldwide on Naxos DVD.

Visit www.thefullmonteverdi.co.uk or www.skyarts.co.uk for further information.

For further reviews, additional comment, screeners and production stills contact:

Greg Browning - Senior Producer / greg.browning@polyphonicfilms.com / 0117-963-2796

Ends.