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Association for the Promotion of Culture and the Arts

MUSICA RICERCATA was founded as a chamber music ensemble in 1987 by Michael Stüve and other musicians living mainly in Florence. In 1989 the group was officially established as a cultural association and in 1998 it was granted the status of ONLUS (Non profit organization of public utility). Initially inspired by the rich musical heritage of Tuscany, its activities - both in public performances and academic research - have embraced a steadily growing repertory from all periods of musical history, starting from the Hellenistic epoch, with an emphasis on original themes and rarely presented music. Under the guidance of Michael Stüve, the President and Artistic Director, MUSICA RICERCATA has performed worldwide and participated in many international festivals, including the Festival de Musique et d'Art Baroque en Tarentaise 1989, the Sagra Musicale Umbra 1995, the Festival Internazionale di Monfalcone 1996, the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino 1996, the 1998 concert season of the Ateneo Musica Basilicata, the Bachfest Leipzig 2001, the MittelFest of Cividale del Friuli 2001, the chamber music festival in Kiryu, Japan, 2003, the Tuscan Week in Moscow 2003 and the Kyoto-Florence sister-cities festivities of 2005. The group has also performed recordings for numerous radio and television broadcasting stations. Moreover, it is regularly devoted to the organization of conferences, meetings, seminars and seminar-concerts at various institutions, such as the Scuola Normale Superiore of Pisa, the Conservatory 'Luigi Cherubini' of Florence, the University of Music of Vienna, the 'Gnessin' State Musical Academy of Moscow and the Osaka State University. Publications of MUSICA RICERCATA include the volume of conference presentations *Musica e Crisi sonora* (Music and the Crisis of Sound) in the 'Quaderni della Rivista Italiana di Musicologia', Leo S. Olschki Editor, Florence, 2004.

The majority of activities undertaken by the Association has been centred around three principle projects selected and co-funded by the European Commission within specific cultural programmes. The first, HELLENIKA – *Dialogo della musica antica et della moderna* which focused on ancient Greek music and the birth of opera in Florence, was included in the cultural programmes 'Kaleidoscope 1996' and 'Kaleidoscope 1997'. The second, the festival 'La Via del Sale', was included in the L.E.A.D.E.R.II programme (*Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de l'Économie Rurale*) in 1998 and 1999. The third, the triennial cultural project MUSA MUSEO MUSICA - *Organicae voces* on classical musical instruments and the changes in musical taste and style over the past four hundred years, was included in the programme 'Raphael 1999-2002', dedicated to the enhancement and safeguarding of our cultural heritage. More about MUSICA RICERCATA can be read in the Internet pages www.musicaricercata.it and www.musikmuseum.org.