

ATLANTA CAMERATA

For Immediate Release
through December 14, 2013

www.herodplay.com

The Play of Herod is an Atlanta tradition

One of Atlanta's long-running Christmas traditions, *The Play of Herod*, a 12th-century music drama presented by Atlanta Camerata since 1974, will be performed at 8:30 p.m. on December 12 and 13 at St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, 1790 LaVista Road. There will be an additional performance at the Monastery of the Holy Spirit in Conyers at 7:00 pm. on Saturday, December 14. Admission is \$20. Advance tickets are available on-line from Brown Paper Tickets: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/503738>. A limited number of tickets will also be available at the door.

Bart Gilleland will again play the dread-filled, raging monarch who orders the slaying of the Innocents. Jonathan Pilkington plays the Archangel; Jim Robinson returns as the Armiger; Wanda Yang Temko and Chrissy Spencer are the Midwives and Mothers; Matthew Ireland, Philip Sasse, and Kevin Streiter are the Magi; and Adrin Akins, Nancy Bryant, Patricia Guenther, and Susan Reynolds play the Shepherds. *The Play of Herod* is sung in Latin, with English translations projected above the action. A consort of viols, recorders, harp, hurdy-gurdy, bells, and percussion accompanies the singers. The production is led by the creative team of director Kelly Morris and music director Kevin Culver.

The Play of Herod, one of a group of remarkable dramas found in a Benedictine monastery in France, is one of the earliest dramatic works of the Christian era. In the Camerata Theatre production, the world of Herod is dreamlike, shadowy, and stark. The Christmas story unfolds in a medieval ceremony of simple gestures and ancient, haunting melodies. It is a drama of mysterious beauty, a tale of awestruck shepherds, magi come from afar to worship a newborn boy, a King Herod clinging to power by slaughtering children.