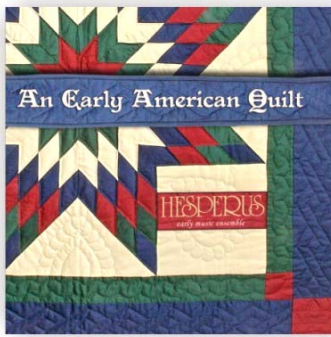




Maggie's Music

From the deep well of our ancient folk traditions
PO Box 490, Shady Side, MD 20764 (410) 867- 0642
wwwwww.maggiesmusic.com

For Immediate Release Viki Garte, Maggie's Music, (410) 867-0642, mail@maggiesmusic.com



**NEW CD *An Early American Quilt* (Maggie's Music, MM 235)
HESPERUS Early Music Ensemble**

HESPERUS Early Music Ensemble *celebrates* our Early American heritage with a musical patchwork honoring the Jamestown Colony's 400th anniversary.

An Early American Quilt presents performances

chronicling the Colonial experience, from the 17th c. arrival of the first settlers through the American Revolution. This release is the 4th CD in the Early American Music series on the Maggie's Music label, coinciding with the nationwide commemoration of the 400th anniversary of America's oldest colony-**Jamestown**. America's pioneer *chamber folk* ensemble, HESPERUS creates a crossover of early music and traditional folk styles that epitomizes the diversity of Early American music.

PERFORMERS: HESPERUS members represented on the CD are: Tina Chancey (Director, fiddle, viola da gamba), Scott Reiss (Founder, recorders, whistle, hammered dulcimer), Grant Herreid (lute, theorbo, early guitar, recorders), Mark Cudek (cittern, early guitar), Robert Eisenstein (viola da gamba), Peter Marshall (harpsichord), and guests Maggie Sansone (hammered dulcimer), Melissa Weaver-Dunning (Appalachian singer), the HESPERUS Shape-Note Chorus, Bonnie Rideout (Scottish Fiddle), Philippe Varlet (Irish Fiddle), William Taylor (bray harp).

THE THEME: The music from British Colonial America (1607-1776) is a true American Quilt, a patchwork piecing together musical traditions of its English, Irish, Scottish and French settlers, with an appliqué of new sounds from the budding republic. A wide variety of music is represented: Jamestown settlers brought over English renaissance tunes from Queen Elizabeth's court—ballads, lute fantasies, lute viol tunes (a mixture of chords and melodies); country dances from *The Dancing Master* published by John Playford & sons (1651-1728); 18th c. French cotillions--ancestors of our modern square dances; divisions—variations over a repeating bass; shape note hymns-music written in different note shapes; marches and virtuosic instrumental and vocal solos.

THE CD: Over one hour, the CD was produced by Tina Chancey, and includes ten new tracks recorded by engineer

James Robeson, (Bias Studios, Springfield, VA); five excerpts from a live HESPERUS concert recorded at Georgetown University's Gaston Hall and bonus tracks from HESPERUS' Early American Music Series on the Maggie's Music label--***Early American Roots, Colonial America and Celtic Roots***.

TRACK HIGHLIGHTS: (Tr.8) *Greensleeves*: A version from Early America with eight improvised variations. (Tr. 9) *Haste to the Wedding*: 18th c. versions from Scotland, Ireland and America. (Tr.10, 16) *Barbara Allen, New Jerusalem*: an Appalachian ballad from the earliest sources; a sacred harp hymn. (Tr.19, 20) *Trio Sonata, Merry Milkmaids*: An elegant 18th c. chamber work by English composer Thomas Arne and music from John Carr's *First Book of Cotillions* (1801) featuring the late Scott Reiss, HESPERUS' founder and recorder soloist.

HESPERUS has performed Early American music in residence at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History, Monticello; Colonial Williamsburg; for President Clinton's celebration of Thomas Jefferson's 250 birthday; at the Folger Shakespeare Library where Dr. Chancey (pictures on right with viola da gamba) was a member of the Folger Consort I; in the film: *Sleepy Hollow* and heard often on PBS and NPR.

