

INFUSION BAROQUE



“This is real Baroque... gripping and full of character.”
- Radio-Canada

ENSEMBLE BIOGRAPHY

"Infusion Baroque plays with a smile in their bows and fingers." (Radio-Canada)

"Infusion Baroque has it all: brilliant virtuosity, musical integrity and a concert presence unlike any other." (La Scena Musicale)

Infusion Baroque draws new audiences to early music through a truly captivating concert experience, deftly combining seasoned musicianship with theatrical elements. Playing music of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries on historical instruments, the four women of Infusion Baroque enthrall audiences across North America with their creative and interactive programming.

Infusion Baroque's performances have been described as "dynamic and alive" (Early Music America) with "polish, energy, and finely-honed style... merrily breaking established traditions" (Milwaukee Journal Sentinel). Winners of the Grand Prize and Audience Prize at the 2014 Early Music America Baroque Performance Competition, the ensemble charms audiences with its dynamic programs such as "Who Killed Leclair?" (an interactive murder mystery soirée based on the unsolved murder of the famous musician); "Rebels and Rivalries" (featuring scandalous stories from the lives of great composers); and "Son of a Bach!" (narrating the multigenerational saga of the famous musical family).

Infusion Baroque has released two recordings with the Canadian label Leaf Music to critical acclaim. The ensemble's latest album is a world-premiere recording of quintets by Georg Anton Kreüsser. According to Fanfare, "the playing of these musicians ... is superb. They play with a liveliness and unforced energy that

seems to grow naturally out of the music... combining spontaneity and abandon with technical perfection." The ensemble's debut recording of trio sonatas by C.P.E. Bach was described as "real baroque ... gripping and full of character" (Radio-Canada).

Since 2017, Infusion Baroque has been exploring the lives of historical women performers through The Virtuosa Project. Fascinated by the great number of women who made their mark as musical performers despite considerable barriers and stigma, Infusion Baroque devoted an entire concert season in 2018-19 to exploring their lives and music. The ensemble also produced a web series which tells the story of four female musicians of the past, and is looking forward to producing a CD recording and documentary on this exciting topic to be released in 2021.

Infusion Baroque has appeared with major early music presenters across North America including the San Francisco Early Music Society, Early Music Now (Milwaukee), Columbus Early Music, Houston Early Music, and Indianapolis Early Music. In addition to its annual Montreal season, Infusion Baroque performs regularly in the greater Montreal area and has appeared in the Montreal Baroque Festival, Concerts Lachine, and with the Montreal Arts Council on Tour.



MEMBER BIOGRAPHIES



ALEXA RAINE-WRIGHT, BAROQUE FLUTE & RECORDER

Equally at ease on the recorder and the baroque flute, Alexa Raine-Wright has shared her passion and talent for early music with audiences across the United States and Canada with ensembles such as Flûte Alors!, Ensemble Caprice, Arion Baroque Orchestra, Apollo's Fire, I Musici, Studio de musique ancienne de Montréal, and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Alexa was awarded the Grand Prize and Orchestra Prize at the 2016 Indianapolis International Baroque Competition, as well as First Prize at the National Flute Association's 2015 Baroque Flute Artist Competition in Washington DC. She is a graduate of McGill University.

SALLYNEE AMAWAT, BAROQUE VIOLIN

A native of Chicago, violinist Sallynee Amawat enjoys performing with North American period ensembles such as the American Baroque Orchestra, Arion Baroque Orchestra, Pacific Baroque Orchestra, and Studio de musique ancienne de Montréal. While living in Thailand, she performed regularly with ensembles such as the Bangkok Symphony Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra, with tours in Japan, Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam, and Singapore. She holds a Master of Music in Violin Performance from the Hartt School, and a Master of Music and Doctor of Music in Early Music Performance from McGill University, where her research was focused on repertoire of the early French violin school.

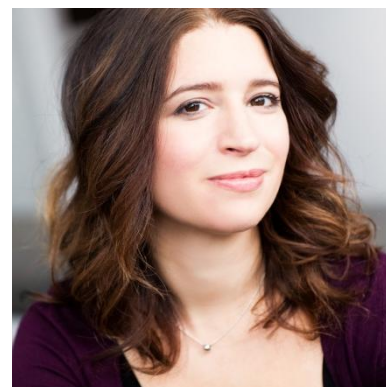


ANDREA STEWART, BAROQUE CELLO

Cellist Andrea Stewart has been heard in venues across North America, Europe, and Asia performing solo recitals and collaborating with ensembles including Infusion Baroque, collectif9, Grammy-nominated Uccello, Gruppo Montebello, and Ensemble Caprice. A laureate of the Golden Violin Competition (McGill University), the Eckhardt-Gramatté National Music Competition, and the Prix d'Europe Competition, Andrea holds the degrees of Doctor of Music (2015) and Master of Music (2009) from McGill University. Her research has been supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council in Canada, the Canada Council for the Arts, and the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec.

RONA NADLER, HARPSICHORD

Known as a sensitive and stylish continuo player, harpsichordist Rona Nadler has performed with some of the most prestigious ensembles in the Montreal area including Ensemble Caprice, I Musici, the McGill Chamber Orchestra, and Les Voix Baroques. She has worked as a vocal coach and music director for Compagnie Baroque Mont-Royal, Opera da Camera, and Opera McGill, and is artistic director of the vocal ensemble One Equall Musick. Rona studied harpsichord at McGill University with Hank Knox and at the Schola Cantorum Basiliensis with Jesper Christensen. She serves as Music Director and Cantorial Soloist at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Shalom.



REVIEWS

About Infusion Baroque's performances

“The women played with polish, energy, and finely honed style. They crafted beautifully shaped phrases, presented with an ongoing exchange of musical ideas and dynamic contrasts that came across like animated conversations.”

-*Journal Sentinel (Milwaukee)*, 2017

“Infusion Baroque shaped the music from the very first note. They were dynamic and alive. They had no fear.”

- *Early Music America Magazine*, 2014

About Infusion Baroque's album, *Kreüßer: 6 Quintettos, Op. 10*

“[Infusion Baroque] play[s] with a liveliness and unforced energy that seems to grow naturally out of the music ... combining spontaneity and abandon with technical perfection.”

-*Fanfare Magazine*, 2019

“Charming, in the word's proper sense: It is immediately appealing, even beguiling. ...

[E]legance and refinement reappear here in spades ... alongside a lovely sense of wit, pathos, and verve.”

-*Early Music America Magazine*, 2019

About Infusion Baroque's debut album, *1747: C.P.E. Bach*

“Bach's son [is] tackled with enthusiasm.... Their approach is fierce: the articulation of the bow, their energy, their musical personality ... This is real baroque ... gripping and full of character.”

-*Médium large (Radio-Canada)*, 2017

"[A] new CD of works by C.P.E. Bach that comes about as close to pure happiness as any other recording you're going to listen to anytime soon."

-*Classical Archives*, 2017



PROGRAMMES



WHO KILLED LECLAIR? Concert version: Infusion Baroque invites you to investigate the true murder of violinist-composer Jean-Marie Leclair, found murdered in his home in Paris on October 23, 1764. Despite a thorough investigation and a plethora of suspects, no one was ever charged with the crime. Was it the composer's estranged wife? A jealous colleague? A robbery gone wrong? Or something more sinister? Learn the details of the original investigation while enjoying a sumptuous program of music by Leclair and his contemporaries, and get to the bottom of *Who Killed Leclair!*

WHO KILLED LECLAIR? Interactive game version: Music, mystery and intrigue are the order of the evening in this innovative concert experience by Infusion Baroque! In between musical sets, audience members play an original interactive role-playing murder-mystery game based on Leclair's death. Musically compelling and socially engaging, this program is perfect for a special event or fundraiser. Refreshments such as wine and cheese make this evening even more fun; cabaret seating is required.

REPERTOIRE: Jean-Marie Leclair (1697-1764) - Deuxième récréation de musique, Op. 8 (excerpts) • Jean-Joseph Cassanéa de Mondonville (1711-1772) - Sonata in C major, Op. 3 No. 4 • Jean-Pierre Guignon (1702-1774) - Trio sonata in A major, Op. 4 No. 1 • J. M. Leclair - Trio sonata in G minor, Op. 13 No. 3 • Pietro Antonio Locatelli (1695-1764) - Trio Sonata in E major, Op. 5 No. 3

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL PROGRAMMES: Presenter provides 3 black music stands, 4 chairs with no arms or wheels (height: 18" – 19"), and 2 microphones on stands for speaking to the audience. If presenter does not provide a harpsichord, presenter agrees to provide personnel to help load the harpsichord in and out of the performance facility.

PROGRAMMES (continued)



REBELS AND RIVALRIES Did you know that J. S. Bach almost got into a duel after insulting a second-rate bassoonist in his band? Or that Jean-Marie Leclair refused to play second fiddle to his colleague Jean-Pierre Guignon? *Rebels and Rivalries* presents pieces from the Baroque by both famous and lesser-known composers, interspersed with anecdotes that shed light on the composers' tangled lives. This engaging programme offers a window into the human side of a repertoire that often seems removed from our present-day concert experience.

REPERTOIRE: **Francesco Geminiani** (1687-1782) - The Broom of Cowdenknows/Bonny Christy • **Jean-Marie Leclair** (1697-1764) - Trio Sonata in G minor, Op. 13 No. 3 • **J.S. Bach** (1685-1750) – Cello Suite No. 2 in D minor, BWV 1008 (excerpts) • **John Playford** (1623-1686)/arr. A. Raine-Wright - John Come Kiss Me Now • **Jean-Pierre Guignon** (1702-1774) - Trio Sonata in A major, Op. 4 No. 1 • **W.F. Bach** (1710-1784) – Fantasia for harpsichord in D minor, F. 19 • **Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach** (1714-1788) - Trio Sonata in A major, Wq. 146



SON OF A BACH! In addition to his tremendous achievements as a composer and musician, Johann Sebastian Bach is famous for having fathered many children, several of whom went on to have successful musical careers. This program explores the different musical personalities of the sons of Bach: the enigmatic Wilhelm Friedmann; the inventive and sensitive Carl Philipp Emanuel; and the cheerfully conservative Johann Christoph Friedrich. This program also includes music by “Papa Bach” himself and Georg Philip Telemann, who was the godfather of C.P.E. Bach.

REPERTOIRE: **Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach** (1714-1788) - Trio Sonata in G major, Wq. 150 • **Johann Sebastian Bach** (1685-1750) – Cello Suite No. 2 in D minor, BWV 1008 (excerpts) • **Johann Christoph Friedrich Bach** (1732-1795) – Sonata in C major • **Georg Philipp Telemann** (1681-1767) - Sonata Prima in A major, TWV 43:A1 • **Wilhelm Friedmann Bach** (1710-1784) – Fantasia for harpsichord in D minor, F. 19 • **C.P.E. Bach** - Trio Sonata in A major, Wq. 146



VIRTUOSA Women made their mark on baroque music not only as muses, but also as virtuoso performers and composers. Mozart wrote his famous sonata K454 for the Mantuan virtuosa Regina Strinasacchi, while Vivaldi composed most of his vast musical output for the incredibly talented women of the Ospedale della Pietà in Venice. None other than Casanova was smitten by cellist Henriette de Schmetzmänn. And many women were acclaimed performers of their own compositions. Infusion Baroque presents an all-female tour-de-force celebrating the talent and prowess of women musicians throughout the ages!

REPERTOIRE: **Isabella Leonarda** (1620-1704) - Sonata in G major, Op. 16 No. 3 • **Barbara Strozzi** (1619-1677) - L'Eraclito amoroso • **Anna Bon** (c. 1739 - ?) Sonata in D major, Op. 1 No. 4 • **Antonio Vivaldi** (1678-1741) - Concerto in D minor, RV 96 • **Linda Catlin Smith** (b. 1957) - Versailles • **Antonio Vandini** (c. 1690 - c. 1773-8) - Sonata in D major • **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart** (1756-1791) - Sonata in B-flat Major (excerpts) • **Elizabeth-Claude Jacquet de la Guerre** (1665-1729) - Suonata in G minor

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Infusion Baroque's innovative and engaging programming is designed to connect with concert-goers of all ages and to appeal to both early music connoisseurs and newcomers to classical music. Therefore, our programmes are easily adaptable to educational settings such as schools (K-12), universities, and retirement homes. We also offer workshops and masterclasses for all ages.

Educational Concerts

We offer a shortened version of any programme, which includes selections that are light, **exciting** and accessible. Highlighting **audience interaction and participation** through a variety of methods, we share funny anecdotes about the composers' lives, teach interesting facts about music history and musical forms, and pose key questions about the pieces performed to **heighten musical awareness**. We also introduce our specialized Baroque instruments by sight and sound, explaining the differences between them and their modern counterparts and demonstrating how this affects the expression of the music.

Testimonials: "The children were transcended to another place in time.... The expression on [their] faces was priceless." -*Mary Neeley Stevens, Music Educator* • "This is the best song I ever heard in my life.... The music you played was beautiful. I wish you would come again." -*Mendel Elementary students, ages 5-7*

Masterclasses and Workshops

Using a variety of historically-informed performance techniques, members of Infusion Baroque take turns guiding students towards a **deeper understanding** of Baroque music. By getting the music "off the page," together we discover how the sound transforms when infused with the ideas of the young performers. Masterclass recipients have described their experience as "**pivotal**", "**engaging**", and "**inspiring**".

Pre-Concert Lectures, Q&A Sessions, and Chats

Infusion Baroque places an emphasis on audience education and engagement, and can offer pre-concert lectures for all main programmes. While all of Infusion Baroque's performances include multiple spoken presentations, **pre-concert lectures delve deeper** into the composers' lives, their music, and the history surrounding them. Pre- or post-concert Q&A sessions and chats are a more informal way to interact with our audience, and are **great for those that may be new to early music**.



Infusion Baroque at a masterclass with members of the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra

THE VIRTUOSA PROJECT

What began as a concert season dedicated to music composed by or for women from the 17th-21st centuries now includes a touring programme and **The Virtuosa Series**, a webseries dedicated to four women of the 18th and 19th centuries: Princess Anna Amalia of Prussia, Lise Cristiani, Teresa Milanollo, and Élisabeth-Claude Jacquet de La Guerre. Each mini-documentary is accompanied by a companion video, in which a piece written by or composed for the featured musician is performed. The series ends with a bonus episode - a round-table discussion on what it means to the members and guests of Infusion Baroque to be a musician and a woman. View a playlist of the entire season, including bonus videos, here: <https://bit.ly/2lykBA7>

THE VIRTUOSA SERIES



Ep01 Princess Anna Amalia of Prussia
<https://youtu.be/Hmbt9h4QreA>



Ep02 Lise Cristiani
<https://youtu.be/Hf0YiY4Doxk>



Ep03 Teresa Milanollo
<https://youtu.be/yTNGHUuMOnQ>



Ep 04 Élisabeth-Claude Jacquet de La Guerre
<https://youtu.be/-bu5r-hseiA>

RECENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS

SHOWCASES

Chamber Music America 2019 • Pacific Contact 2018 • Ontario Contact 2015

2019-2020 SEASON

Montreal Season: *Weekend With Burney* - November 23, 2019 • *East Meets West* - March 7, 2020 • *The Scottish Connection*- May 9, 2020

Touring: Joliette, QC – October 27, 2019 • Kindred Spirits (Milford, PA, USA) – November 1-2, 2019 • Beaconsfield, QC – November 30, 2019 • Friday Musicale (Jacksonville, FL, USA) – March 12-13, 2020 • Alma Spectacles (Alma, QC) – April 18, 2020 • Les concerts de la chapelle (Sainte-Camille, QC) – April 19, 2020 • Diffusions Amalgamme (Prévost, QC) – May 23, 2020 • Friends of Music (Stamford, NY) – June 21, 2020 • Conference “Burney Studies” (Montreal, QC) – July 4, 2020 • Stratford Summer Music Festival (Stratford, ON) – August 15, 2020 • Toronto Music Garden (Toronto, ON) – August 16, 2020

NOTABLE PAST TOURS AND EVENTS

CANADA

Zoomer Media 2019 (Toronto, ON) • Almonte in Concert 2019 (Almonte, ON) • Montreal Arts Council on Tour 2017 (Dollard-des-Ormeaux, Villeray, Pierrefonds, Montreal, Anjou, Saint-Laurent) • Montreal Baroque Festival 2017, 2015 (Montreal, QC) • Chapelle historique du Bon-Pasteur 2017 (Montreal, QC) • Concerts Ponticello 2015 (Gatineau, QC) • Odyscène 2015 (Ste-Thérèse, QC)

UNITED STATES

Indianapolis Early Music Festival 2017 (Indianapolis, IN) • Houston Early Music 2017 (Houston, TX) • Early Music Now 2017 (Milwaukee, WI) • Renaissance & Baroque 2017 (Pittsburgh, PA) • Early Music in Columbus 2017 (Columbus, OH) • San Francisco Early Music Society 2016 (Palo Alto, Berkeley, San Francisco, CA)

EDUCATIONAL CONCERTS AND MASTERCLASSES

Concert at Dingman-Delaware Middle School 2019 (Dingmans Ferry, PA) • Concert and masterclasses at Delaware Valley High School • Concert at Mendel Elementary School 2017 (Houston, TX) • Concert and Q&A at Capitol University 2017 (Kenosha, WI) • Masterclass with the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra 2017 (Milwaukee, WI) • Concert at St. John’s on the Lake Retirement Community 2017 (Milwaukee, WI) • Concert and masterclass at Worthingway Middle School 2017 (Worthington, OH)

AWARDS

Grand Prize and Audience Prize at the 2014 Early Music America Baroque Performance Competition in Chicago, IL



CONTACT

BOOKING

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FUNDING ORGANIZATIONS

Canada Council for the Arts • Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec • Conseil des arts de Montréal •
Foundation Assisting Canadian Talent on Recordings (FACTOR)



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