



# INFUSION BAROQUE

**“This is real Baroque... gripping  
and full of character.”**

*- Radio-Canada*

## ENSEMBLE BIOGRAPHY

Founded in 2013, Infusion Baroque won the Grand Prize and Audience Prize at the Early Music America's Baroque Performance Competition in 2014. Since then, they have performed extensively in North America with series such as the Montreal Baroque Festival, Ottawa Chamberfest, Stratford Summer Music, Early Music Now (Milwaukee), San Francisco Early Music Society, Indianapolis Early Music, Houston Early Music, and the Gotham Early Music Scene in New York City. Their 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*). They have released three albums with the Canadian label Leaf Music, and their second album, *Kreüsser*, was nominated for a Prix Opus Album of the Year. Their research and creative programs focus not only on important figures of the past, but also relatively unknown composers and musicians. Since 2017 one of their main initiatives has been "The Virtuosa Project," a series of concerts, lectures, videos, and recordings highlighting historical female musicians.



Their third album, *Virtuosa*, consisted of works composed or performed by women from the 17th to 21st centuries, and reached over 500K streams within the first six months of release. In early 2022 they began exploring common musical practices between Europe and the East through collaborations with Persian and Indian traditional musicians. The resulting project, "East is East," presented traditional Persian, Indian, and Euro-pean songs and dances in collaboration with Amir Amiri (santur), Vidita Kanniks (soprano), Hamin Honari (tombak and daf), and Thibault Bertin-Maghit (double bass). In April 2023, Infusion Baroque and its collaborators recorded this program, with a planned release in March 2024.

**Alexa Raine-Wright, Baroque flute  
& recorder**

**Sallynee Amawat, Baroque violin**

**Andrea Stewart, Baroque cello**

**Rona Nadler, harpsichord**

## MEMBER BIOGRAPHIES



### **ALEXA RAINE-WRIGHT, BAROQUE FLUTE & RECORDER**

Known for her spirited and luminous sound, Alexa Raine-Wright shares her eloquent interpretations with audiences across North America in solo, chamber and orchestral performances with ensembles such as Flûte Alors!, Arion Baroque Orchestra, Tafelmusik, Handel & Haydn Society, Les Boréades de Montréal, Apollo's Fire, Piffaro, Les Violons du Roy and Ensemble Caprice. Winner of several national and international competitions, Alexa was awarded the Grand Prize and Orchestra Prize at the 2016 Indianapolis International Baroque Competition. She can be heard on the labels ATMA Classique and Leaf Music. Alexa is a graduate of McGill University.

### **SALLYNEE AMAWAT, BAROQUE VIOLIN**

Known for her warm sound and sensitive musicianship, baroque violinist Sallynee Amawat appears as an orchestral and chamber musician, soloist, and lecturer throughout the US, Canada, and Asia. Based in Montreal, she collaborates with period ensembles such as Ensemble Caprice, Studio de musique ancienne de Montréal, Les Boréades, Arion Baroque Orchestra, and Clavecin en concert. She is also the co-founder of Compagnie intangible, a multidisciplinary arts group that combines ancient and modern music and dance of the East and West. Sallynee holds a M.Mus and D.Mus in Early Music Performance from McGill University and also serves on the Board of Directors of Early Music America.



### **ANDREA STEWART, BAROQUE CELLO**

Cellist and gambist Andrea Stewart is a versatile musician and artistic instigator whose explorations span from historical performance to the new sounds and techniques of contemporary music. Andrea is a founding member and the Associate Director of chamber ensemble collectif9 and a member of Infusion Baroque and Arion Baroque Orchestra, and has appeared as guest principal cellist with Ensemble Caprice and Les Violons du Roy. She has created and performed in numerous projects including multimedia works, prize-nominated album recordings and film-concerts, international tours, and the commissioning of new music. Andrea holds the degrees of Doctor of Music (2015) and Master of Music (2009) from McGill University.



### **RONA NADLER, HARPSICHORD**

Rona Nadler enjoys a multi-faceted career in the Montreal music scene as a harpsichordist, vocalist, and music director. She has performed across North America as a member of the quartet Infusion Baroque, while also serving as Artistic Director of the vocal ensemble One Equall Musick and composing original music for the Blue Dawn Quartet. Her compositions for vocal ensemble have been recorded on the ATMA label by Ensemble ArtChoral. Since 2021, she has been on faculty at the Schulich School of Music as Early Music Vocal Coach and director of the Cappella Antica. In addition to her work in the field of early music, Rona serves as Music Director and Cantorial Soloist at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom in Westmount, Quebec.



## REVIEWS

“With its polished textures and resolutely dynamic but refined interpretations, *Virtuosa* unfolds in sprawling movements, as explosive as they are contemplative.”

-*La Scena Musicale*, 2022 (about the album *Virtuosa*)

“The piquant new release ... is an impressive undertaking featuring 14 compositions, stylish interpretations and tons of heartfelt energy.”

-*The WholeNote*, 2022 (about the album *Virtuosa*)

“The musicians put forward not only their excellent understanding of the musical discourse present in the instrumental pieces, but also their breathtaking virtuosity.”

-*Revue L'Opéra (Montreal)*, 2022

“[I]mmediately appealing, even beguiling. ... [T]heir star is on the rise, and rightfully so. ...

Infusion Baroque's earlier elegance and refinement reappear here in spades, but they do so alongside a lovely sense of wit, pathos, and verve.”

- *Early Music America Magazine*, 2019 (about the album *Kreüßer*)

“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

“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 (about the album *1747: CPE Bach*)



## PROGRAMMES



### **WHO KILLED LECLAIR? With Mike Fan, actor**

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? Infusion Baroque combines forces with actor Mike Fan, who plays Inspecteur Receveur and the suspects. Join us for a sumptuous program of music by the slain composer, and get to the bottom of Who Killed Leclair!

**REPERTOIRE Jean-Marie Leclair** (1697-1764) • Deuxième récréation de musique, Op. 8 (excerpts) • Trio sonata No. 3 in D minor, Op. 4 • Sonata No. 6 in C minor for violin and basso continuo, Op. 5 • Trio sonata in G minor, Op. 13 No. 3

**TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR WHO KILLED LECLAIR?** This programme includes 4 musicians and 1 actor. Presenter provides 5 black music stands, 2 chairs with no arms or wheels (height: 18" – 19"), 1 table for props (20" x 20") and 5 lavalier microphones (venues over 200 seats). 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)



**EAST IS EAST** A multicultural collaboration of Eastern and Western musical traditions that transcends time and borders. With guest artists Amir Amiri (santur), Hamin Honari (tombak and daf), and Vidita Kanniks (soprano), “East is East” brings together music with ancient roots in Persia, India and Europe, performed on traditional and period instruments. A postmodern response to colonisation, this program highlights shared commonalities and a convergence of Eastern and Western performance practice. From shared improvisations on a ground bass to exploring the Persian Radif system, “East is East” features works composed by Amiri, Fux and Uccellini, and inspired by Persian, Indian, and European traditional dances.

**REPERTOIRE Trad. Persian** – Chahar Parh • **Amir Amiri** – Saghi Nameh, Cortège, Aghrab & Raghse choobi • **Marco Uccellini** (1603-1680) – Aria sopra La Bergamasca • **Varia** (18<sup>th</sup>-century) – La Folia • **Johann Joseph Fux** (1660-1741) – Sinfonia in C major “Turcaria” • **Ravi Shankar** (1920-2012) – Sandhya Raga • **Varia** (Trad. Indian) – Savaro Nandana / Bhor bhayi

**TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR EAST IS EAST** This programme includes 5-8 musicians. Presenter provides 7 black music stands, 7 chairs with no arms or wheels (height: 18” – 19”), 2 microphones on stands for speaking to the audience, 1 microphone and amp for voice. If presenter does not provide a harpsichord, presenter agrees to provide personnel to help load the harpsichord in and out of the performance facility.



**VIRTUOSA** Women made their mark on baroque music not only as muses, but also as virtuoso performers and composers. Vivaldi composed most of his vast musical output for the incredibly talented women of the Ospedale della Pietà in Venice, while none other than Casanova was smitten by cellist Henriette de Schmetzmänn. And many women were acclaimed performers of their own compositions, such as Élisabeth-Claude Jacquet de la Guerre and Maddalena Lombardini Sirmen, who forged their own paths to lead their lives as professional musicians. Infusion Baroque presents an all-female tour-de-force celebrating the talent and prowess of women musicians throughout the ages!

**REPERTOIRE Anna Bon** (c. 1739 - ?) Divertimento in D minor, Op. 1 No. 3 • **Barbara Strozzi** (1619-1677) L'Eracito amoroso • **Antonio Vivaldi** (1678-1741) Violin Concerto in A major, RV 343 • **Linda Catlin Smith** (b. 1957) Versailles • **Antonio Vandini** (c. 1690 - c. 1773-8) Cello Sonata No. 1 in C major • **Wilhelmine von Bayreuth** (1709-1758) Flute Sonata in A minor • **Maddalena Lombardini Sirmen** (1745-1818) Trio Sonata Op. 1 No. 3 in D major • **Elizabeth-Claude Jacquet de la Guerre** (1665-1729) - Suonata in G minor

**TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR VIRTUOSA** This programme includes 4 musicians. Presenter provides 3 black music stands, 2 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.

## 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**.



# 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, an album 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>



## THE VIRTUOSA PROJECT (continued)

In Autumn 2020, Infusion Baroque launched #virtuELLES, a 4-part series and social media campaign celebrating women of the past and present making music at home.

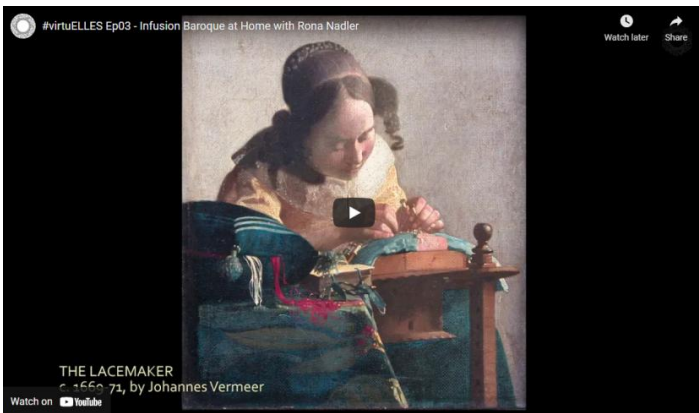
# #virtuELLES



Ep01 At Home with Alexa Raine-Wright  
<https://youtu.be/3RsO7pk4cAE>



Ep02 At Home with Sallynee Amawat  
<https://youtu.be/LrMScG42rkQ>



Ep03 At Home with Rona Nadler  
<https://youtu.be/jktAUeMEUmo>



Ep 04 At Home with Andrea Stewart and Gili Loftus  
[https://youtu.be/sA\\_xc\\_ifrv0](https://youtu.be/sA_xc_ifrv0)

# RECENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS

## SHOWCASES

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

## 2023-2024 SEASON

**10<sup>th</sup> Montreal Season** *Bonne fête Anna Amalia!* December 2, 2023 • *Bonne fête Infusion Baroque!* March 22, 2024 • *Bonne fête Wilhelmine!* May 10, 2024

**Off-season concerts and tours:** Residency at University of Michigan (Ann Arbor, MI, USA) – February 19-22, 2024 • *Virtuosa* at Early Music Now (Milwaukee, WI, USA) – February 23, 2024 • *Virtuosa* (Chicago, IL, USA) – February 25, 2024 • *Virtuosa* – Ottawa Chamberfest (Ottawa, ON)

## NOTABLE PAST TOURS AND EVENTS

**VIRTUAL PRODUCTIONS** *Who Killed Leclair?* - Film-concert (Montreal, QC) – 2022 • *Virtuosa* - Virtual Season concert (Montreal, QC) - December 2021 • *Entracte* - Virtual Early Music Now (Milwaukee, WI, USA) - March 2021 • *The Scottish Connection* - Virtual Season concert (Montreal, QC) - January 2021 • *#virtuELLES* - Webseries - Autumn 2020 • *Virtual Virtuosa* - Summer Music in the Garden (Toronto, ON) - August 2020 • *The Virtuosa Project* - Webseries – 2019

**CANADA** Les concerts de la chapelle 2023 (St-Camille, QC) • Regina Musical Club 2022 (Regina, SK) • Virtuosi Concerts 2022 (Winnipeg, MB) • Sarnia Concert Association 2022 (Sarnia, ON) • Aramusique 2022 (Repentigny, QC) • Montreal Baroque Festival 2022, 2017, 2015 (Montreal, QC) • Ottawa Chamberfest 2021 (Ottawa, ON) • Stratford Summer Music Festival 2021 (Stratford, ON) • Société musicale Fernand-Lindsay 2019 (Joliette, QC) • 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) • Chapelle historique du Bon-Pasteur 2017 (Montreal, QC) • Concerts Ponticello 2015 (Gatineau, QC) • Odyscène 2015 (Ste-Thérèse, QC)

**UNITED STATES** Hill and Hollow 2022 (Saranac, NY) • Gothic Early Music Scene 2022 (New York, NY) • Co-production with Ars Musica 2022 (Chicago, NY) • Early Music Now 2022, 2017 (Milwaukee, WI) • Friday Musicale 2020 (Jacksonville, FL, USA) • Kindred Spirits 2019 (Milford, PA, USA) • Indianapolis Early Music Festival 2017 (Indianapolis, IN) • Houston Early Music 2017 (Houston, TX) • 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** St. John's on the Lake Retirement Community 2022, 2017 (Milwaukee, WI) • University of Florida 2020 (Gainesville, FL) • Dingman-Delaware Middle School 2019 (Dingmans Ferry, PA) • Delaware Valley High School 2019 (Milford, PA) • Mendel Elementary School 2017 (Houston, TX) • Capitol University 2017 (Kenosha, WI) • Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra 2017 (Milwaukee, WI) • Worthingway Middle School (Worthington, OH)

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



## CONTACT

### BOOKING

#### Latitude 45 Arts

[Barbara Scales\\_scalesb@latitude45arts.com](mailto:Barbara_Scales_scalesb@latitude45arts.com)

Phone: +1 (514) 276-2694

Fax: +1 (514) 905-4143

[www.latitude45arts.com](http://www.latitude45arts.com)

107 Boulevard Saint-Joseph West  
Montreal, QC H2T 2P7  
Canada



### GENERAL INFORMATION

Sallynee Amawat

+1 (514) 441-1009 • [infusionbaroque@gmail.com](mailto:infusionbaroque@gmail.com)

583 Avenue Maplebrook • Beaconsfield, QC H9W 3J9

 <http://www.infusionbaroque.com>  <http://www.facebook.com/infusionbaroque>  
 [goo.gl/MKDzXk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MKDzXk)  <http://www.instagram.com/infusionbaroque>

### 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)



Conseil  
des arts  
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Conseil des arts  
du Canada

