

# Infusion Baroque

Alexa Raine-Wright, Baroque flute & recorder  
Sallynee Amawat, Baroque violin  
Andrea Stewart, Baroque cello  
Rona Nadler, Harpsichord

## Long bio


*"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 is known for its unique touring programs including the interactive murder-mystery soirée "Who Killed Leclair" with actor Mike Fan; the intercultural collaboration "East is East" with Amir Amiri (santur), Hamin Horari (tombak and daf), and Vidita Kannicks (soprano); and the tour-de-force "Virtuosa" which tells the stories of remarkable women musicians of the Baroque era.

Infusion Baroque has released three recordings with the Canadian label Leaf Music to critical acclaim. Their latest double album, *Virtuosa*, showcases the work of an array of female composers and performers from the Baroque, Classical, and early Romantic eras. Infusion's world-premiere recording of quintets by Georg Anton Kreüsser was nominated for an Opus Prize by the Conseil Québécois de la musique. 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 a CD recording released in 2022.

Infusion Baroque has appeared with major early music presenters across North America including the San Francisco Early Music Society, Early Music Now (Milwaukee), Gotham Early Music Scene (New York City), Arts Musica Chicago, 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.

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## Infusion Baroque

### Medium bio

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Infusion Baroque performs with "polish, energy, and finely-honed style... merrily breaking established traditions" (Milwaukee Journal Sentinel). Their 2019 recording of newly discovered quintets by G.A. Kreüsser was nominated for an Opus Prize by the Conseil Québécois de musique, and was praised as "superb... combining spontaneity and abandon with technical perfection" (Fanfare). 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, including concerts, a web video series, and an upcoming recording and documentary.

The ensemble is known for its unique touring programs including the interactive murder-mystery soirée "Who Killed Leclair" with actor Mike Fan; the intercultural

collaboration “East is East” with Amir Amiri (santur), Hamin Honari (tombak and daf), and Vidita Kannicks (soprano); and the tour-de-force “Virtuosa” devoted to the stories of remarkable women musicians of the Baroque era.

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## Infusion Baroque

### Short bio

Infusion Baroque draws new audiences to early music through a truly captivating concert experience, deftly combining seasoned musicianship with theatrical elements. Described as “dynamic and alive” (*Early Music America*) with “polish, energy, and finely-honed style... merrily breaking established traditions” (*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*), the four women of Infusion Baroque enthrall audiences across North America with their creative and interactive programming.

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### Members bio

#### **ALEXA RAINE-WRIGHT Baroque flute and 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 is on faculty at the Schulich School of Music of McGill University, and is artistic director of the vocal ensemble One Equall Musick, the Blue Dawn Quartet, and Le Nouvel Opéra. 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.