



*Les
Sirènes*

41 Oakview Terrace #3 • Boston, MA 02130 • www.lesirenesmusique.com

Biographies

Boston-based soprano duo Les Sirènes takes audiences on an exploration of the soprano voice and the Baroque repertoire, offering appealing programs that engage our listeners with both fiery virtuosity and anguishing beauty.

Les Sirènes were one of 6 finalist groups in Early Music America's 2012 Baroque Performance Competition. Formed in 2009, the ensemble is composed of acclaimed sopranos Kathryn Mueller and Kristen Watson, joined by Michael Sponseller on harpsichord and Cora Swenson on baroque cello. As soloists, the members of Les Sirènes have performed with such groups as the American Bach Soloists, Handel and Haydn Society, Boston Baroque, Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Mark Morris Dance Group, Washington Bach Consort, Bach Collegium San Diego, and the Carmel Bach Festival. As Les Sirènes, they bring a collective experience to interpreting this rare and remarkable repertoire, charming audiences with diverse programming and inspired performances.

Les Sirènes have been praised for their “exquisitely matched style and phrasing” (The Boston Musical Intelligencer). They have collaborated with emerging baroque violinists Beth Wenstrom and Adriane Post as well as chamber groups such as Cambridge-based Sarasa. Past performances include concerts in Boston, Tucson, Brattleboro, VT, and at Trinity Wall Street in New York City. Their 2012-2013 engagements include the San Francisco Early Music Society, Arizona Early Music Society, Phoenix Early Music Society, Syracuse University, and Providence, RI’s Museum Concerts.



Soprano **Kathryn Mueller** has appeared as a soloist with American Bach Soloists, the Washington Bach Consort, Santa Fe Pro Musica, the New Mexico Symphony, Phoenix Symphony, and Winston-Salem Symphony. She was a 2011 Carmel Bach Festival Adams Fellow and a finalist in the 2012 Oratorio Society of New York competition. Kathryn has made two Grammy-nominated albums with Seraphic Fire and is featured on recordings with New Trinity Baroque, the Santa Fe Desert Chorale, and Tucson Chamber Artists.



Soprano **Kristen Watson** has made solo debuts with the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Mark Morris Dance Group, Boston Baroque, Handel & Haydn Society, and Emmanuel Music at such venues as the Walt Disney Concert Hall, Cathedral of St. John the Divine, and Boston’s Symphony Hall. Recognized by the Concert Artists Guild, Oratorio Society of New York, American Bach Society, and Louisville Bach Society competitions, other solo performances include the Boston Early Music Festival and the Carmel Bach Festival.



Harpsichordist **Michael Sponseller** holds degrees from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and the Royal Conservatory of Music in The Hague. Winner of the American Bach Soloists Competition, Jurow International Harpsichord Competition, and Festival of Flanders International Harpsichord Competition (Bruges), he can be heard on recordings from Electra, Vanguard Classics, Naxos, Delos and Centaur. Michael is the founder of Ensemble Florilege, dedicated to the performance of lesser-performed repertory of the 17th/18th centuries.



Cellist **Cora Swenson** has a BM in Cello Performance from the Eastman School of Music and a MM in Cello Performance from Boston University. She is a member of Boston Baroque and the Cape Cod Symphony Orchestra, as well as a substitute cellist with the Handel and Haydn Society and the New World Symphony. Cora has attended the Aspen and Pacific Music Festivals, performing under the baton of David Zinman, Fabio Luisi, Leonard Slatkin, and Nicholas McGegan. She has also worked with distinguished musicians such as James Dunham and Rachel Barton Pine. Cora's primary teachers have been Alan Harris and Marc Johnson.