



Les Sirènes

Programs

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

Current Program Offerings:

Virtuosi Italiani: The florid style of Monteverdi and Handel

Two of the greatest composers of the flamboyant Baroque style were Monteverdi and Handel. Though separated by a more than a century, both composers clearly reveled in writing for the soprano voice. Handel was greatly influenced by the Italian operatic tradition begun by Monteverdi and his contemporaries. This program includes Handel's *tour de force* duet "No, di voi non vo fidarmi" (whose themes Handel borrowed for several *Messiah* choruses) and the luscious final duet from Monteverdi's opera *L'incoronazione di Poppea*.

Les Sirènes + continuo

L'Angoisse et L'extase: The French Baroque

This program explores the passionate and sensual music of the French Baroque, with sacred and secular works by Couperin and Charpentier. The centerpiece of this program is François Couperin's masterpiece for two sopranos, the *Troisième Leçon de Ténèbres Pour le Mercredi Saint*, an exquisite setting of the Lamentations of Jeremiah written in 1714 for the abbey of Longchamps. The program concludes with a scene from Charpentier's delightful divertissement *Les Plaisirs de Versailles*.

Les Sirènes + continuo

Sirens and Shepherds: pastoral and mythological soprano duets

Frequent themes in baroque music are the shepherds and nymphs of the pastoral world, and the wrathful gods of love. Our program explores the Italian and English takes on these themes, beginning with dramatic duets by Monteverdi, Strozzi, Steffani and Lotti. The second half showcases the two masters of the English Baroque--Purcell and Blow--with mad songs, theater music, and charming songs and duets.

Les Sirènes + continuo

Handel in Italia: Cantatas & Arias for two sopranos and Sonatas for two violins

Early in his career Handel spent a few years in Italy, where he was inspired by the dramatic and virtuosic style of Italian composers. He carried these Italian musical influences into his work back in Germany and then England. This program includes Arcadian duets and violin sonatas from both his Roman and London periods, as well as duets and arias from some of Handel's best-loved Italian operas and oratorios.

Les Sirènes + continuo and 2 violins