



*Les Sirènes*

lessirenesmusique@gmail.com

## Programs

Les Sirènes takes audiences on an exploration of the soprano voice and the Baroque vocal repertory. The members of Les Sirènes, sopranos Kathryn Mueller and Kristen Watson, and harpsichordist Michael Sponseller, are young stars in the world of early music, with solo careers spanning the United States, Europe, and Asia.

As Les Sirènes, Kathryn, Kristen and Michael create thought-provoking and appealing programs that engage audiences with crisp and dynamic music-making, sparkling coloratura, and lavish suspensions.

### 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 "Non, di voi non vo fidarmi" (whose themes Handel later borrowed for several *Messiah* choruses) and the luscious final duet from Monteverdi's opera *L'incoronazione di Poppea*.

#### **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.

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**Mailing Address:** 2500 N. Desert Links Drive, Apt. 11104 – Tucson, AZ 85715

**Phone:** 520-240-9853