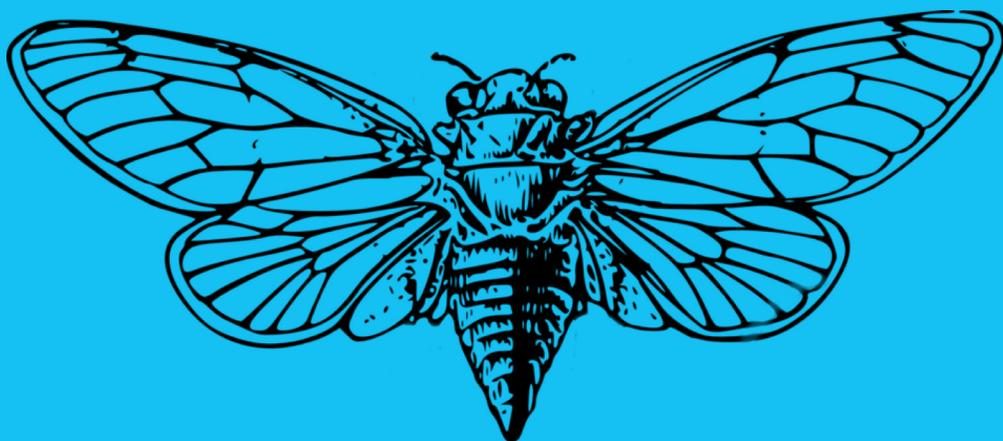


ENSEMBLE LA CIGALE  
MUSIQUE ANCIENNE | EARLY MUSIC



# ENSEMBLE LA CIGALE

## MUSIQUE ANCIENNE | EARLY MUSIC



MADELEINE OWEN *Artistic Director, lutes, Baroque guitar*  
SARA LACKIE *Baroque harp*  
VINCENT LAUZER *recorders*  
MARIE-LAURENCE PRIMEAU *viola da gamba*  
SARI TSUJI *Baroque violin*

The cicada develops slowly, secretly, over a period of years before presenting itself in style with a song which everyone can hear and appreciate. In the well-known fable, the ants belittled the cicada for doing nothing but sharing its music. Perhaps they forgot how the cicada's song lightened their labour and allowed them to dream, to rejoice, to love and also to weep...

Formed in 2006 in Montreal, the early music ensemble La Cigale takes its name from this most musical insect and hopes in turn to share its music with anyone who would like to listen.

La Cigale specializes in music of the Renaissance and Baroque eras on period instruments. The group creates programs that juxtapose formal and traditional styles, explore the links between literature and music, and bring to light little-known masterpieces. The musicians of La Cigale have been praised for the warmth of their performances and for the complicity they share with each other and their audiences.

In 2013, the ensemble released a first CD, *Tiorba Obbligata*, with an unusual program of early Italian works featuring the theorbo as an obbligato instrument. Several pieces on the CD were world premiere recordings, and La Cigale is one of the rare groups to make this repertoire their own. *Tiorba Obbligata* was nominated in Québec for a Prix Opus in the category “Disc of the Year—Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque and Classical music.” The ensemble’s second disc, *Up in the Morning Early*—Baroque music from Celtic Countries, was released to international critical acclaim in January 2017 on Halifax’s Leaf Music label.

The ensemble is often featured in concert series and festivals and pursues a wide variety of musical activities. Ensemble La Cigale has been featured at the Montreal Baroque Festival, at an exhibition opening at the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Gatineau, and for festivities at the Montreal Botanical Gardens. In their quest to share their musical passion, the group has performed outdoors on Rigaud Mountain (International Walking Day), in a gallery of modern art, and in a Montréal beauty salon. Musicians from the group have also had the pleasure of introducing music lovers to Baroque music (in a concert-conference at La Grande Bibliothèque du Québec) and have performed for conferences of the Cercle interuniversitaire d’étude sur la République des Lettres (CIERL, Université Laval) devoted to interdisciplinary research bringing together literature, iconography and music. The ensemble has produced programs of music traversing the ages from Spanish Baroque chaconnes to songs by the Rolling Stones.

In 2015, the ensemble received support from the Canada Arts Council to perform at the Agapé sacred music festival in Saltillo, Mexico. The ensemble has since returned to Mexico several times to perform at the Festival Cultural Sinaloa and the Festival Cultural Amado Nervo in Nayarit.

For more information about Ensemble La Cigale and its activities, please visit our website at [ensemblelacigale.ca](http://ensemblelacigale.ca).



# ENSEMBLE LA CIGALE

## MUSIQUE ANCIENNE | EARLY MUSIC

### CONCERT OFFERINGS

#### UP IN THE MORNING EARLY

BAROQUE MUSIC FROM CELTIC COUNTRIES

*(5 or 4 musicians: recorders and/or Baroque violin, lute and theorbo, Baroque harp, viola da gamba)*

La Cigale is pleased to offer *Up in the Morning Early*, a program of Celtic instrumental music of the Baroque. Discover works of the 17th and 18th centuries played on period instruments. The program explores a wide variety of music, from masterpieces by the famous harpist Turlough Carolan to variations on traditional melodies, from Scottish pieces for the lute to works in the Celtic style by Italian composers active in the British Isles, as well as arrangements by the musicians of La Cigale.

#### TIORBA OBBLIGATA

ITALIAN INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC OF THE EARLY BAROQUE

*(5 or 4 musicians: recorders and/or Baroque violin, theorbo, Baroque harp, viola da gamba)*

In this colorful and dramatic program, La Cigale presents Italian instrumental music of the early Baroque written for the theorbo as an obbligato instrument. This is a rarely performed repertoire but one which is very accessible to the public. The Italian composers of the 17th century wrote masterpieces of stunning virtuosity and expressivity for the instruments of La Cigale. The pieces on the program contrast the popular and formal musical styles of this music which integrates sophisticated writing with free improvisation. The concert includes works by Kapsberger, Piccinini and Pittoni Ferrarese.

# LA GRAZIA DELLE DONNE (THE GRACE OF WOMEN)

MUSIC OF THE ITALIAN BAROQUE BY WOMEN COMPOSERS

AND THE MEN WHO ENCOURAGED THEM

*(6 musicians: soprano, recorders, Baroque violin, lute and theorbo, Baroque harp, viola da gamba)*

“Who does not know that without women we can feel no content or satisfaction throughout this life of ours, which but for them would be rude and devoid of all sweetness and more savage than that of wild beasts? Who does not know that women alone banish from our hearts all vile and base thoughts, vexations, miseries, and those turbid melancholies that so often are their fellows?”—  
Baldassare Castiglione, *The Book of the Courtier* (1528)

La Cigale proposes a celebration of femininity with a program of Italian music of the Baroque. The program features works by master women composers: Barbara Strozzi, Francesca and Settima Caccini, Vittoria Aleotti and Isabella Leonarda; as well as pieces by some of the men who encouraged feminine creativity: Giulio Caccini and Antonio Vivaldi.

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Additional programs are available upon request.



*Saltillo, Mexico, 2015*

# ENSEMBLE LA CIGALE

## MUSIQUE ANCIENNE | EARLY MUSIC

### DISCOGRAPHY



#### TIORBA OBBLIGATA

ITALIAN INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC  
OF THE EARLY BAROQUE

*Nominated for a Prix Opus: Disc of the Year—Medieval,  
Renaissance, Baroque and Classical Music*

Released May 2013

“The mastery and sensitivity of Madeleine Owen on theorbo are highlighted by the nuanced support of the ensemble members ...”

—Pascale Boquet, *Le joueur de luth* (Journal of the Société française de luth), [September 2013](#)

“... a delightful slice of early Italian repertoire ...”

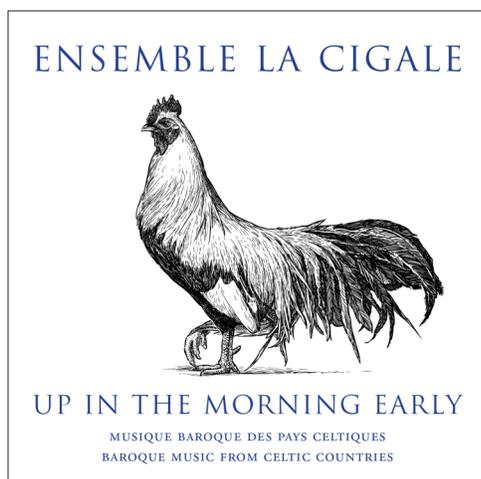
—Richard Todd, *Classical Music Sentinel*, [November 2013](#)

“There is an energy and richness to the sound Ms. Owen elicits from the instrument that immediately attracts us, especially in combination with other instruments ... Also, Vincent Lauzer’s impeccable recorder playing merits special mention.”

—Howard Kadis, *Lute Society of America Quarterly*, [Winter 2013](#)

“... full of Italian sunshine, a delight from beginning to end ... Madeleine Owen is capable of both full-blooded and passionate playing ... and of delicacy ...”

—Chris Goodwin, *Lute News—The Lute Society Magazine*, Number 109, [April 2014](#)



## UP IN THE MORNING EARLY

BAROQUE MUSIC FROM CELTIC COUNTRIES

Released January 2017

“ ... La Cigale has a hit on its hands with this collection of Baroque instrumental music from Celtic countries ... a range of performances from the witty to the danceable to thoughtful to florid.”

—Tiina Kiik, *The Whole Note*, [28 February 2017](#)

“ ... expertly played ... on appropriate instruments ... a warm and engaging recording.”

—Benjamin Dunham, *Early Music America*, [June 2017](#)

“Each [piece] is a delightful gem: melody-driven with a refined affect.”

—Kiersten Van Vliet, *La Scena Musicale*, [Summer 2017](#)

“What stands out is the tightness of the ensemble, with all the musicians playing as one instrument.... Both musicianship and recording quality are professional, and the musicians show a commitment to authentic sound without sacrificing expressiveness.”

—Chan Goerzen, *Lute Society of America Quarterly*, [Winter 2016](#)

“It is wonderful to see a Canadian group of this calibre contributing to this vast but largely untapped repertory ... ”

—Dorothy De Val, *CAML Review*, [April 2017](#)

“ ... an instrumentation without harpsichord where the lute (or theorbo) and harp are used to maximum effect, an ensemble where we can feel a combination of hard work and complicity!

—Pascale Boquet, *Le joueur de luth* (Journal of the Société française de luth), [Summer 2017](#)

“Superbly played by Ensemble La Cigale, these pieces are endearing and lively. The ... instruments [are] as beautiful in their timbres as in their gracious execution.”

—*Le Parnasse Musical*, [July 2017](#)

# ENSEMBLE LA CIGALE

## MUSIQUE ANCIENNE | EARLY MUSIC

### IN CONCERT

January 13, 2019, Salle Saint-François-Xavier, Prévost QC  
PAYSAGES CELTIQUES  
Presented by Diffusions Amal'Gamme.

November 18, 2018, Pierrefonds Cultural Centre, Pierrefonds QC  
HEADING TO CELTIC LANDS  
Presented by the City of Montreal.

October 31, 2018, Chapelle historique du Bon-Pasteur, Montreal QC  
PROJET CASTLEVANIA  
Presented by the City of Montreal.

October 25, 2018, Maison de la culture Claude-Léveillée, Montreal QC  
EN ROUTE VERS LES PAYS CELTIQUES  
Presented by the City of Montreal.

October 20, 2018, Ranchito del Rey y María Madre, Saltillo, Mexico  
UP IN THE MORNING EARLY  
Presented by Festival Agape.

October 7, 2018, Marché des arts Desjardins, Sorel-Tracy QC  
PASSAGGI  
Presented by Azimut Diffusion.

July 28, 2018, Saint-Antoine-de-Padoue Church, Miscou NB  
UP IN THE MORNING EARLY  
Presented by the Lamèque International Baroque Music Festival.

June 23, 2018, Church of St. John the Evangelist, Montreal QC  
FAREWELL TO MUSIC  
Presented by the Montreal Baroque Festival.

March 4, 2018, Peter B. Yeomans Cultural Centre, Dorval QC  
EN ROUTE VERS LES PAYS CELTIQUES  
Presented by Divertissimo.

January 21, 2018, Maison de la culture Notre-Dame-de-Grâce  
EN ROUTE VERS LES PAYS CELTIQUES  
Presented by La maison de la culture Notre-Dame-de-Grâce.

September 3, 2017, Mont-Tremblant QC  
UP IN THE MORNING EARLY  
Presented by La Fête de la Musique de Tremblant.

*Three performances in Mexico:*

November 19, 2016, La Catedral de Tepic  
November 20, 2016, La Plaza Principal del Municipio de Acoponeta  
November 22, 2016, La Explanada de la Universidad Autonoma de Nayarit  
UP IN THE MORNING EARLY  
Presented by the Festival Cultural Amado Nervo.

September 25, 2016, Stewart Hall, Pointe-Claire QC  
LA DIVINA CIACONNA  
Presented by the Stewart Hall Cultural Centre.

July 17, 2016, Place d'Armes, Montréal QC  
EN ROUTE VERS LES PAYS CELTIQUES  
Presented by The Music Zone.

June 25 and 26, 2016  
LA CIGALE AT THE MONTREAL BAROQUE FESTIVAL  
Presented by the Montreal Baroque Festival.

April 10, 2016, Place des Citoyens, Sainte-Adèle QC  
EN ROUTE VERS LES PAYS CELTIQUES  
Presented by La Ville de Sainte-Adèle.

April 3, 2016, Café-théâtre Les Beaux Instants, Sorel-Tracy QC  
FOLIES BAROQUES  
Presented by Les p'tits dimanches ensoleillés.

February 14, 2016, Église Saint-René-Goupil, Montréal QC  
LAISSER DURER LA NUIT : AIRS DE COUR AND INSTRUMENTAL  
PIECES OF THE FRENCH BAROQUE  
Presented by the Maison de la Culture de Villeray–Saint-Michel–Parc-Extension.

January 10, 2016, La Belle Chapelle, Sherbrooke QC  
LA DIVINA CIACONNA  
Presented by La Belle Chapelle.

November 22, 2015, Trinity United Church, Huntsville ON  
TIORBA OBBLIGATA  
Presented by the Concert Association of Huntsville.

November 1, 2015, St. James Church, Hudson QC  
LA CIGALE ET LE ROI SOLEIL  
Presented by the Hudson Chamber Music Series.

*Three performances in Mexico:*

October 21, 2015, Teatro Angela Peralta, Mazatlán  
October 22, 2015, Teatro Pablo de Villavicencio, Culiacán  
October 23, 2015, Teatro del IMSS, Los Mochis  
TIORBA OBBLIGATA  
Presented by El Festival Cultural Sinaloa.

August 23, 2015, Toronto Music Garden, Harbourfront Centre, Toronto ON  
UN BRIN DE FANTAISIE: ITALIAN INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC OF THE EARLY  
BAROQUE  
Presented by Summer Music in the Garden.

July 26, 2015, Parc historique De La Broquerie, Boucherville, QC  
EN ROUTE VERS LES PAYS CELTIQUES  
Presented by Rendez-vous champêtres Desjardins 2015.

April 24, 2015, Ranchito del Rey y Maria Madre, Saltillo, Mexico  
TIORBA OBBLIGATA  
Presented by Festival Agapé Mexico.

March 15, 2015, Chalet Delpha-Sauvé, Salaberry-de-Valleyfield QC  
EN ROUTE VERS LES PAYS CELTIQUES  
Presented by Classival.

February 15, 2015, Église de la Visitation, Montreal QC  
EN ROUTE VERS LES PAYS CELTIQUES  
Presented by the Maison de la culture Ahuntsic-Cartierville.



*Toronto, Ontario, 2015*

# ENSEMBLE LA CIGALE

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### CONTACT US

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[ENSEMBLELACIGALE.CA](http://ENSEMBLELACIGALE.CA)