



## *Glorious Vivaldi* - Meet the Artists

Versatile Canadian violinist **Elyssa Lefurgey-Smith** grew up in Nanaimo, BC. She began her violin studies at age 5, with an inspiring teacher, which led her to a career as a professional violinist. In over a decade of performing with several Toronto ensembles, Elyssa cherished her time with Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra, which inspired her to pursue a specialty in early music. In 2016, Elyssa returned to her island roots, settling in Victoria to be closer to family. Excited to pursue new opportunities, and warmly welcomed by her west coast colleagues, she now holds permanent positions in Victoria Baroque and Pacific Baroque Orchestra (Vancouver).

Elyssa is an enthusiastic and passionate educator - involved in teaching, coaching and program development for over 15 years. In Toronto, Elyssa was the Director of the Strings program at the Kingsway Conservatory of Music (KCM), founding the KCM orchestral program and summer chamber music academies, and was the assistant strings teacher at Havergal College Senior School. Since moving to Cowichan Bay, Elyssa has founded the Cowichan String Academy, teaching a busy studio of students, ages 5-17. Elyssa has been on faculty at the Victoria Baroque Summer Academy since its inception in 2016 and has been invited as a guest coach to the Collegium Ensemble at UVic. In 2018, Elyssa became the coordinator of the Junior Summer String Academy at the Victoria Conservatory of Music and most recently founded the Victoria Baroque Youth Orchestra in 2022.

Canadian/British soprano **Eve Daniell** has performed across Europe, North America, and Asia in concert, recital, and opera. She has appeared on CBC's *North by Northwest*, BBC's *The Archers*, and *In Tune*, on *A Prairie Home Companion* with Garrison Keillor, and was a soloist in the BBC's *Last Night of the Proms* - singing Vaughan Williams' *Serenade to Music*. She's sung with the Victoria Symphony Orchestra, the RAM Song Circle, and Kohn Foundation Bach Cantata Series, at

venues including the Powell River Academy of Music, Wilton's Music Hall, Colston Hall, Trafalgar Square, the National Portrait Gallery (UK), St John's Smith Square, and sang BC composer Tobin Stokes' *Canoe* at Canada House for Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Philip, and Governor General David Johnston.

Eve holds ARCT Performance diplomas in piano and in voice, the latter earning her a national gold medal. She holds a BMus from UVic, an MA and an Advanced Diploma in Opera from the Royal Academy of Music where she won the Pavarotti Prize. Eve is grateful for the support of the BC Arts Council, Koerner Foundation, International Opera Foundation, and the Sainsbury Family Charitable Trust.

Mezzo-soprano **Ciara Beaudin** studied music at the Académie Rainier III in Monaco before attending the Swiss Opera Studio (Bienne, Switzerland). Operatic roles include Cherubino (*Le Nozze di Figaro*), Angelina (*Cenerentola*), Dorabella (*Così fan tutte*), Nerone (*The Coronation of Poppea*) and Venus (*King Arthur*, Purcell). She is a laureate of *les saisons de la voix* (Gordes, France), a prize winner in the Nei Stëmmen competition (Luxembourg) and a finalist in several competitions including Beziers and Bordeaux.

Ciara has appeared as a soloist in concert with the Orchestre Philharmonique de Monte-Carlo, the Orchestre régional de Cannes, the Civic Orchestra of Victoria, regional choirs in the Provence Côte d'Azur region and in Victoria. Now residing on Vancouver Island, when not singing, Ciara can be found working as an ICU nurse at Nanaimo Regional General Hospital or chasing after her children.

**Charlotte Wilson** is a singer-songwriter from Vancouver Island. She creates warm tones on vocals and violin and enjoys writing in pop and R&B genres. She studied classical voice at Queen's University. Charlotte enjoys performing her original works, and participating in musical theatre and vocal ensembles in British Columbia. She collaborates primarily with writer and producer Marek David in Victoria, BC as Charlotte Germaine. Charlotte finds inspiration in her lived experiences as a nurse and nature lover.

**Artistry & Outreach**, founded in 2019, is a project that brings together local musicians, of all ages, to collaborate and create concert programmes. Featuring singers, pianists, and string players, the programmes are then toured to various locations in the Cowichan Valley with a focus on performances in care homes. The music is chosen with a view to balancing what will be familiar to audiences while also letting the musicians stretch their artistic and musical wings.

**Victoria Baroque** presents dynamic, personal, and engaging performances of music from the Baroque and Classical periods.

Founded in 2011, the ensemble brings together early music specialists from Vancouver Island and beyond for explorations of chamber, orchestral, vocal and choral works. Guest directors have included Pacific Opera Victoria's Timothy Vernon; Tafelmusik's Jeanne Lamon; the leader of the English Baroque Soloists, Kati Debretzeni; and British harpsichordist Steven Devine. Guest soloists have included internationally acclaimed singers soprano Nancy Argenta and tenor Benjamin Butterfield.

Nurturing emerging talent is close to Victoria Baroque's heart. Choral collaborations with St John Chamber Singers, educational workshops with the Greater Victoria Youth Orchestra, and the Baroque Instrument Summer Program at the Victoria Conservatory of Music have exposed and immersed young artists in the world of Baroque performance.

The **Victoria Baroque Youth Orchestra** was founded in 2022. This small ensemble plays without a conductor and focuses on collaborative opportunities including concertos featuring its members, projects with singers, and the opportunities to play alongside members of Victoria Baroque. Student instrumentalists have to be playing at a certain grade level to participate in the project and have been rehearsing the project over the autumn season.

In December, 2024, the orchestra collaborated with Sylvan United Church to present their first oratorio youth project - *Messiah: Part I*. They return this spring to present *Glorious Vivaldi*, further nurturing their presence and connection with audiences and students across Vancouver Island.

