



Download photo:

Photo Caption: [Ian Pritchard](#), curator/harpsichord

Photo Credit: Courtesy of Artist

For Immediate Release

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**Tesserae Baroque Ensemble Holds Court at Sierra Madre Playhouse
with Program of Ravishing Renaissance Vocal Music from
Italy's Celebrated 16th-Century Ferrarese Court**

**Concert Features Curator Ian Pritchard on Harpsichord
Joined by Sopranos Anna Schubert and Addy Sterrett, and baritone John Buffett**

Saturday, December 7, 2024, 7:30PM, at Sierra Madre Playhouse

(Sierra Madre, CA – November 5, 2024) The acclaimed **Tesserae Baroque Ensemble** returns to **Sierra Madre Playhouse** to present an intimate evening of exquisite Renaissance music from the late 16th-century Ferrarese Court, considered among the era's most sophisticated courts in Europe and noted for attracting celebrated musicians, writers, and artists, and spawning magnificent works of art, on Saturday, December 7, 2024, 7:30 pm.

The program features music that was likely performed at the Duke of Ferrara's *musica secreta*—exclusive and intimate private concerts held at the court. The most famous performers at the *musica secreta* were the *concerto delle donne*, one of the first professional female vocal ensembles created in Europe. Established in Ferrara and celebrated for its extraordinary virtuosity and musicianship, the ensemble was quickly imitated at other courts in northern Italy. In Ferrara, the group's female singers were occasionally joined by the Neapolitan knight Giulio Cesare Brancaccio, known for his powerful bass voice in addition to his incredibly eccentric personality.

Ian Pritchard, who curated the program and will be featured on harpsichord, is joined by sopranos **Anna Schubert** and **Addy Sterrett**, and baritone **John Buffett**.

Tickets and Information

Tickets to **Tesserae** (\$35 - \$45), which include complimentary champagne for those 21 and older, are on sale now. For tickets and information, please call 626.355.4318 or visit

www.sierramadreplyhouse.org. Sierra Madre Playhouse is located at 87 West Sierra Madre Boulevard, Sierra Madre, CA 91024.

SIERRA MADRE PLAYHOUSE, a vibrant Southern California cultural hub with a rich history spanning a century, energizes audiences and the community with distinctive theatrical productions and captivating live performances. Hailed as a “jewel” (*Pasadena Weekly*) and “a landmark theater” (*ABC7 Los Angeles*), the performing arts center has garnered tremendous accolades for its varied repertoire and thought-provoking education and outreach programs curated with social impact in mind. The *Los Angeles Times* proclaims, “This is theater from the heart.” As one of San Gabriel Valley’s only performing arts center presenting a broad spectrum of performance genres, including theater, music, dance, film, comedy, and family-friendly productions featuring eminent local and national professional artists, the treasured artistic beacon draws audiences from across the Southland. The intimate 99-seat Sierra Madre Playhouse offers an up-close and personal connection to performances that resonate deeply, earning multiple Ovation Awards, NAACP Awards, and LA Times Critics’ Choice honors. It is nestled into a historic building on the inviting Main Street of Sierra Madre, a charming village in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains. Retaining its distinctive movie theater façade and instantly recognizable marquee, the structure has undergone numerous transformations since opening in 1910, from furniture emporium to silent movie theatre to the artistic institution that now stands as a vibrant embodiment of the region’s rich cultural legacy. The Sierra Madre Playhouse fosters creativity that aspires to bridge divides and spark dialogue, all while celebrating the rich tapestry of the American experience and the enduring pursuit of shared understanding.

EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

WHAT:

Sierra Madre Playhouse Presents Music @ The Playhouse: Tesserae Baroque – Musica Secreta

Ian Pritchard, curator/harpsichord

Anna Schubert, soprano

Addy Sterrett, soprano

John Buffett, baritone

WHEN:

Saturday, December 7, 2024, 7:30 pm

PROGRAM:

An intimate evening of Renaissance vocal music from the late 16th-century Ferrarese court

WHERE:

Sierra Madre Playhouse

87 West Sierra Madre Boulevard

Sierra Madre, CA 91024

TICKETS AND INFORMATION:

Tickets: \$35-\$45

(626) 355-4318

www.sierramadreplyhouse.org

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