



### NOBIL DONNA • Music at the Barberini Palace

ACD2 2605

**Suzie LeBlanc** SOPRANO

**La Nef | Alexander Weimann** CONDUCTOR

- **Suzie LeBlanc** joins **La Nef** under the direction of **Alexander Weimann** to recreate Renaissance Music as it was heard and presented in Rome at the Barberini Palace.
- The Barberinis surrounded themselves with illustrious thinkers, musicians, artists, and poets, and formed an extended papal family which shared artworks, silver and servants. They mounted lavish theatrical productions, outdoor pageants, presented private music, commissioned art works, and utilized architects. They maintained separate houses but employed many of the same composers, performers, instruments, and performing spaces which linked them all to a common intellectual and artistic program.
- Internationally renowned, Acadian soprano **Suzie LeBlanc** has established an extraordinary career specializing in Baroque and Classical repertoire. Since its beginning, **La Nef** has been attentive to the historical and theatrical settings of its musical-theatrical shows, and historical and literary themes underpin all its early and traditional music concerts.

### ORLANDO DI LASSO • LAGRIME DI SAN PIETRO Spiritual madrigals for seven voices

ACD2 2509

**Studio de musique ancienne de Montréal | Christopher Jackson** CONDUCTOR

- On May 24, 1594, three weeks before his death, Orlando di Lasso completed his last work, the *Lagrima di San Pietro* (Saint-Peter's tears). It consists of 21 pieces for seven voices; 20 spiritual madrigals in Italian, and a final motet in Latin, sung a cappella.
- Di Lasso had produced a substantial body of work, demonstrated his mastery of all the musical genres of the Renaissance era, and was hailed by French poet Ronsard as "more than divine Orlando."
- Since 1974, the Studio de musique ancienne de Montréal has enjoyed a reputation of excellence for its inspired interpretations of the Renaissance and Baroque vocal repertoire. Under the direction of organist and harpsichordist Christopher Jackson, the Studio's ensemble is composed of remarkable singers, appreciated for the clarity and purity of their voices.



### JOHN ADAMS • PHILIP GLASS *China Gates, Phrygian Gates; Orphée Suite for Piano*

ACD2 2556

**David Jalbert** PIANO

- Canadian pianist **David Jalbert** plays three works for solo piano by John Adams and Philip Glass, two living composers that have greatly influenced the musical landscape of American contemporary music.
- Mr. Jalbert performs regularly as a soloist and recitalist across North America and Europe. A national and international prize-winner, David Jalbert has won two Opus Awards (from the Conseil Québécois de la Musique) and was the 2007 laureate of the prestigious Virginia Parker Prize of the Canada Council for the Arts. He is now on the piano faculty at the University of Ottawa.



### BRITTEN • DIVINE MUSICK The late works for tenor and harp

ACD2 2623

**Lawrence Wiliford** TENOR | **Jennifer Swartz** HARP

- For his first solo ATMA recording, acclaimed Canadian tenor **Lawrence Wiliford** sings late works for voice and harp by Benjamin Britten, accompanied by **Jennifer Swartz**, Principal harpist with Montreal Symphony Orchestra.
- This CD features vocal pieces by Britten with harp instead of the usual piano accompaniment. The Five Songs from *Harmonia Sacra*, a collection of 17th-century sacred song, have an intensity which is characteristic for a composer's late works. This is the first time these works have been recorded with harp.
- Much more light-hearted are some folk song arrangements. Six of them appear here, and had become a regular part of the unique repertory of legendary tenor Peter Pears and harpist Osian Ellis which this recording commemorates.

