

La Tour Baroque Duo

Based in the province of New Brunswick on the east coast of Canada, the **La Tour Baroque Duo** brings together outstanding early music performers Tim Blackmore (harpsichord & recorders) and Michel Cardin (baroque lute & theorbo) to present inspired programs of 17th and 18th century music on period instruments. The Duo derives its name from Charles St-Étienne de La Tour, Lieutenant-General of the French colony of Acadie in the 17th century.

Formed in 2009, the La Tour Baroque Duo has performed throughout eastern Canada, Québec, Ontario and the far north as well as in France and in the USA, receiving accolades such as “exquisitely played” and “spellbinding” from critics and audiences alike. Their début CD *Les caractères de la danse* (2011) has been broadcast throughout Canada and in the USA and was nominated for an East Coast Music Award. Their second CD of Scottish Baroque music *The Last Time I Came O’er the Moor* was released in 2012. The Duo has presented programs at the Fredericton Baroque Music Festival, the Sackville Early Music Festival, the Northwest Territories International Lute Festival, the Lamèque International Festival of Baroque Music and in major centres in Canada and abroad such as Toronto, Montreal, Hamilton, Paris and New York. In 2013 the Duo’s activities will include performances in Paris and London, a three-week residency at the Fortress of Louisbourg as part of Louisbourg’s 300th anniversary, and the release of their third CD of French music, *Music at the Time of Louisbourg*. The La Tour Baroque Duo has become known for its engaging and relaxed style of presentation in both the English and French languages.

Tim Blackmore

Recorder player and harpsichordist **Tim Blackmore** has received praise in Canada and abroad as a musician of ‘*undaunted enterprise, formidable technical powers and lyrical expressiveness*’ (London Daily Telegraph). A graduate of the Montreal Conservatoire (Premier Prix, Piano), the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia and the Guildhall School of Music in London (AGSM, Piano and Clarinet; Concert Diploma, Piano), he also possesses degrees in French Linguistics and in Education from the University of Toronto and the University of New Brunswick. He has made numerous solo broadcasts for CBC Radio, Radio-Canada and BBC Radio and has recorded CDs of keyboard and recorder music by composers as varied as Byrd, Frescobaldi, J.S. Bach, Telemann, Quantz and Boismortier. He is the founder and Artistic Director of the Early Music Studio of Saint John.

Michel Cardin

A native of Montreal, **Michel Cardin** has gained international recognition as a teacher, performer, musicologist and producer. Professeur of guitar and lute at the University of Moncton, which in 1992 awarded him the status of a PhD, he obtained a Premier Prix in guitar from the Montreal Conservatoire in 1977. He has recorded on twelve CDs the complete works for solo lute and for flute and lute from the *London Manuscript* of Sylvius Leopold Weiss, has given concerts and lectures in Europe, Canada, the USA, Japan and Africa, and has published musicological articles in six languages. He has received twelve ECMA nominations and been awarded New Brunswick’s Éloize, Étoile and Excellence in Music prizes, the OPUS prize in Quebec and the Geocities 2000 Award for Outstanding Merit for the New Millennium.