

BOURBON BAROQUE

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Bourbon Baroque returns home to Louisville in new partnership *Violinist Alice Culin-Ellison joins artistic team*

Louisville, KY ~ June 12, 2017 ~ After a season of unexpected transition, the Board of Directors and Founding Artistic Director **John Austin Clark** have selected **Alice Culin-Ellison** as artistic partner for Bourbon Baroque effective immediately. In preparation for the ensemble's upcoming eleventh season, Clark will return home this Fall to the ensemble's flagship city of Louisville, Kentucky to "recalibrate" the organization through a renewed look at the group's strategic plan, mission, and vision.

"By partnering with violinist **Alice Culin-Ellison** for the leadership of Bourbon Baroque, I am confident the goals, mission, and vision we set will be realized and executed with dignified flare securing the future success of the ensemble while at the same time memorializing the foundation established passionately by our dear founder and violinist **Nicolas Fortin**," Founding Artistic Director **John Austin Clark** states.

The move back to Louisville, Kentucky is sparked not only by the new appointment of Culin-Ellison but also a personal decision motivated by Clark's recent move to New York City, a move that brought a new appreciation for the city in which Bourbon Baroque was realized and nurtured. "Great ideas can be created on one's own but far greater things can be envisioned and formulated in the trusting hands of a partnership steeped in passion," says Clark. "Alice embodies all of the qualities that Bourbon Baroque needs going forward having allowed time to reflect after Nico's passing. I knew that the decision would be made clear at some point and having Alice continue in this new role leaves me at ease that the future of Bourbon Baroque is a bright one with all the hope and possibility that Nico and I shared the day we named the group in the Summer of 2007. I couldn't be happier with the decision."

Louisville native **Alice Culin-Ellison** is a versatile historical performer with professional experience in Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, and Romantic era performance. Primarily a violinist, she also plays the viola, Medieval vielle and rebec, Renaissance violin and viola, baroque dances, and dabbles in renaissance sackbut. Culin-Ellison is currently in her final year at Case Western Reserve University Historical Performance Program, pursuing a Doctor of Musical Arts degree. She also holds a Master of Music degree from the Historical Performance Institute at Indiana University and a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Michigan.

Passionate about ensemble playing, both large and small, Culin-Ellison's professional engagements include Bourbon Baroque, Indianapolis Baroque Orchestra, Apollo's Fire, and the Princeton Festival Baroque Orchestra, among others. In addition to performing across the United States, she has also performed in Canada, France, England, China, and Japan.

Pursuing her interest in teaching, Culin-Ellison lectured on Historical Performance to ESL students at the Cleveland Institute of Music, and gave a baroque violin masterclass to violin students at Valdosta State University. Her current research focuses on the beginnings of violin fingerings in the 18th century, and music performed in the United States during the 18th and 19th centuries. In her 3rd year of serving as an officer on CWRU's Music Graduate Student Association, she has held the position of Historical Performance Program Member-At-Large, and is currently the Vice-President of Communications.

Culin-Ellison performs as a soloist with the CWRU baroque orchestra and holds a rotating concertmaster position of that ensemble. As concertmaster, she led the orchestra, singers, and chorus for a production of Handel's opera *Acis and Galatea*, and danced with the baroque dance ensemble during interludes. During the Summer 2017 season, she will serve as concertmaster for Purcell's opera *King Arthur* during the Amherst Early Music Baroque Academy.

In addition to studying full time with Julie Andrijeski at CWRU, Stanley Ritchie at IU, and Aaron Berofsky at the University of Michigan, Culin-Ellison has received instruction from Lucie van Dael, Jeanne Lamon, Rachel Podger, Pavlo Beznosiuk, Elizabeth Blumenstock, and others. Various young artists programs have taken her to England and France where she performed under the direction of Christophe Rousset, Christian Curnyn and Philippe Herreweghe.

Awards include a 2017 Career Center/Humanities@Work Scholarship through the CWRU Baker-Nord and Career Centers, a 2015 Early Music America Summer Scholarship, and the Jason Paras Memorial Scholarship at Indiana University. In March 2017, Apollo's Fire accepted Culin-Ellison as a Young Artist Apprentice.

In a recent statement of acceptance, Culin-Ellison expresses her gratitude and excitement. "I am honored and excited to be named a co-director of Bourbon Baroque, an ensemble I became a member of in 2010. I share the mission of the ensemble- to promote public interest in the arts, culture, and lifestyle of the Baroque, through collaboration and strategic partnerships- and will work with Austin and the ensemble to further these goals. I believe my knowledge of Historical Performance, commitment to innovation and education in the field, as well as my strong ties to Louisville, place me in a position to help grow and strengthen Bourbon Baroque as one of the leading ensembles in Kentucky. I hope to help facilitate Bourbon Baroque in expanding our performance reach, throughout Kentucky and the eastern United States, and tying in educational outreach to our performances. I am forever indebted to former co-director **Nicolas Fortin**, who encouraged me to study historical performance, and who without, I would not be the performer I am today. Thank you to my parents, Cassandra Culin and Kyle Ellison, who have supported me through my journey of becoming a professional musician- beginning with the Louisville Suzuki Institute, and who continue to support me in all that I do, (including being a main source of homestay arrangements for our out-of-town colleagues!). Finally, thank you to Austin Clark, a dear friend and colleague, who has been a support through all of my schooling and growth as a violinist. I am looking forward to many years of music-making and merriment!"

Bourbon Baroque makes its celebratory homecoming this Fall in a concert honoring the centennial of the Ursuline Sisters Motherhouse Chapel at 3105 Lexington Road in Louisville, Kentucky Saturday September 23, 2017 at 7 p.m. The concert is free and open to the public and will feature music of the Ursuline order from 18th century New Orleans, **Alice Culin-Ellison** as soloist in Antonio Vivaldi's *L'autunno* concerto (*Il Quattro Stagioni*), and soprano **Teresa Wakim** in Georg Frideric Händel's motet *Silete Venti*.

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