Tafelmusik

George Frideric Handel

Sing-Along *Messiah*

December 19, 2010
Massey Hall

Christine Brandes *soprano*
Daniel Taylor *countertenor*
Rufus Müller *tenor*
Brett Polegato *baritone*

TAFELMUSIK CHAMBER CHOIR

TAFELMUSIK BAROQUE ORCHESTRA

Directed by the composer, G.F. Handel

Sinfonia	
Comfort ye my people	Tenor Recitative
Ev'ry valley shall be exalted	Tenor Air
And the glory of the Lord	Chorus
Behold, a virgin shall conceive	Alto Recitative
O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion	Alto Air and Chorus
For behold, darkness shall cover the earth	Bass Recitative
The people that walked in darkness	Bass Air
For unto us a child is born	Chorus
Pifa	
There were shepherds abiding in the fields	Soprano Recitative
But lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them	Soprano Arioso
And the angel said unto them	Soprano Recitative
And suddenly there was with the angel	Soprano Recitative
Glory to God	Chorus
Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion	Soprano Air
Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened	Alto Recitative
He shall feed his flock	Alto and Soprano Duet
His yoke is easy, and his burthen is light	Chorus

INTERMISSION

Behold the Lamb of God	Chorus
He was despised	Alto Air
Surely he hath borne our griefs	Chorus
And with his stripes we are healed	Chorus
All we like sheep have gone astray	Chorus
All they that see him laugh him to scorn	Tenor Recitative
He trusted in God	Chorus
Thy rebuke hath broken his heart	Tenor Recitative
Behold, and see if there be any sorrow	Tenor Air
He was cut off out of the land of the living	Soprano Recitative
But thou didst not leave his soul in hell	Soprano Air
Hallelujah	Chorus
I know that my redeemer liveth	Soprano Air
Since by man came death	Chorus
Behold, I tell you a mystery	Bass Recitative
The trumpet shall sound	Bass Air
Worthy is the Lamb that was slain	Chorus
Amen	Chorus

Tafelmusik is delighted once again to welcome George Frideric Handel as guest director of its annual Sing-Along *Messiah*. Tafelmusik first asked Mr. Handel to take on this role 24 years ago, undaunted by the fact that he'd been dead some 227 years. That first performance of the Sing-Along *Messiah* caused quite a stir in the artistic community — it marked not only Mr. Handel's Toronto debut, but also his first performance in North America. Tafelmusik scored another coup when it convinced Mr. Handel to sign an exclusive "lifetime" contract. Unlike the many crates of fine vintage claret that are a significant bargaining point in his contract, Mr. Handel has not mellowed with age, and his legendary rapier wit and fiery Saxon temper are as sharp as they were over 250 years ago. His annual appearance at Massey Hall has become a true Toronto tradition.

Any resemblance of Mr. Handel to any persons living and/or dead, in particular Tafelmusik choir director Ivars Taurins, is unintentional, but not entirely coincidental.