

Tafelmusik

Baroque Summer Institute

Jeanne Lamon, Music Director
Ivars Taurins, Director, Chamber Choir

TAFELMUSIK BAROQUE SUMMER INSTITUTE

by Charlotte Nediger *Artistic Coordinator*

ON JUNE 6TH we welcomed 90 advanced students and professional musicians to the ninth annual Tafelmusik Baroque Summer Institute (TBSI), a two-week intensive course in baroque repertoire and performance practice. As Artistic Coordinator, each year I oversee a busy and varied daily schedule that includes masterclasses, orchestra and choir rehearsals, chamber ensembles, private lessons, and a wide array of lectures and workshops. At the Faculty of Music of the University of Toronto, we take over ten classrooms, three teaching studios and three rehearsal halls, replacing the resident pianos with 14 harpsichords and three chamber organs. The sounds of baroque music resonate throughout the building.

In the weeks leading to the Institute, I work closely with faculty members, especially Music Director Jeanne Lamon and Choir Director Ivars Taurins, to create class outlines and choose repertoire suited to the particular group of participants attending. TBSI is unique among summer workshops in that the faculty is drawn from an orchestra and choir, allowing us to share not only our individual expertise with the participants, but also our rich communal experience as one of the world's leading period-performance ensembles. To complete our faculty team, we welcome musicians with whom Tafelmusik has collaborated for many years: singers Ann Monoyios and Rufus Müller, Opera Atelier Co-Directors Marshall Pynkoski and Jeannette Lajeunesse Zingg, and Toronto Consort Artistic Director David Fallis.

Over the past nine years, TBSI has not only grown in size and reputation, but has also become increasingly international. We have welcomed musicians from across Canada, as well as from Europe, Russia, the Middle East, Asia, South Asia, Australia, New Zealand, Mexico, Central America and South America. The members of this evergrowing list of TBSI alumni form a rich and vibrant musical community. Several alumni sing and play on the Tafelmusik stage, here in Toronto and around the world, and many others can be heard performing with other baroque orchestras, choirs and chamber ensembles.

Many of the instrumental participants you are hearing this week are being introduced to period instruments for the first time at TBSI, bravely undertaking the adventure of playing "chinless" violins and keyless wind instruments alongside their more experienced colleagues. Singers have opened their minds and voices to explore new concepts. All in all, TBSI is a challenging and exhilarating experience, one we are delighted to share with you through our free summer series of faculty and participant concerts as part of the Tafelmusik Baroque Summer Festival.

The Tafelmusik Baroque Summer Institute would not be possible without the remarkable efforts of the entire Tafelmusik staff under the leadership of Managing Director Tricia Baldwin. I would like to extend a special thank-you to the staff who work with me at the Institute itself: the always-welcoming people behind the desk at the TBSI Office, Suzanne Einstoss Rapoport and Beth Anderson; and our dynamic production team of Steven McKay, Joanna Jurychuk and Mac Hillier. Their commitment of time, energy and enthusiasm is greatly appreciated.

As Artistic Coordinator of TBSI, I clock in long hours, trying to keep one step ahead of the needs of the faculty and participants while teaching harpsichord and continuo. These long hours are amply rewarded with musical discoveries, warm friendships, and glorious music-making. Thanks to all the faculty for sharing their gifts and knowledge so generously, and to the participants for their hard work and enthusiasm.