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For Immediate Release

**Tafelmusik Announces the 2009/2010 Season:  
Debut at Kent Nagano's Festival in Italy,  
Tours to Europe, California and Mexico's Cervantino International Festival  
Earth Day® Project + Mendelssohn, Purcell and Handel Anniversaries**

*"One of the world's top baroque orchestras"*  
- Gramophone Magazine

Toronto (Canada) ... The **Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra and Chamber Choir** announce the details of its 2009/2010 season, which is marked by vigorous growth and innovation in many areas. In addition to performing over 50 concerts at home in Toronto, Tafelmusik takes the world by storm with its international festival debut at the **Reate Festival** in Rieti, Italy at the invitation of **Kent Nagano**. Tafelmusik will take its acclaimed *Galileo Project* to the prestigious **Cervantino International Festival** in Mexico, and later to California for a feature engagement at the **Walt Disney Concert Hall**. In Europe, Tafelmusik will celebrate its 17th year as Orchestra-in-Residence at the **Klang und Raum Festival** in Germany in September, 2009, and will tour Belgium, the Netherlands, Spain and Portugal in May 2010 with conductor **Bruno Weil**. Highlights of the Toronto season include a double-orchestra season launch with Montreal's **Arion Baroque Orchestra**, a special performance with soprano **Karina Gauvin**, and concerts marking the anniversaries of landmark composers Mendelssohn, Handel and Purcell. There will be special programmes created by orchestra members, including Julia Wedman's multimedia *Forces of Nature* concerts in partnership with **Earth Day Canada®**, and Alison Mackay's cross disciplinary *Bach in Leipzig* concerts.

A leader in artist training and education programmes, Tafelmusik is investing in the future by developing artists and audiences through the **Tafelmusik Baroque Summer Institute**, **Baroque Education Day** and the online **Baroque Learning Centre**. The orchestra also reaches millions of people through its award-winning recordings and online presence, and 2009 / 2010 will be an active year for Tafelmusik's film projects and online initiatives. Tafelmusik's status as the most active baroque orchestra in North America is all the more remarkable considering the organization has also remained deficit-free producing balanced budgets for nine consecutive years while growing its special artistic and strategic funds, as well as its endowment funds.

"2009 / 2010 is a season full of new adventures for Tafelmusik. I am especially excited to collaborate with Kent Nagano in Italy, with Earth Day Canada for our *Forces of Nature* concert, and to be returning to Europe for an amazing tour of Spain, Portugal, Belgium and the Netherlands with conductor **Bruno Weil**. I am thrilled to bring **Ronald Brautigam**, fortepianist, for his Toronto debut, and to bring back Italian violin virtuoso Stefano Montanari," states Music Director **Jeanne Lamon**.

**TAFELMUSIK REPRESENTS CANADA ON THE WORLD STAGE**

As one of Canada's most highly-regarded cultural ambassadors, Tafelmusik receives new and renewed invitations each season, including its sold-out Carnegie Hall debut in February 2009. During the 2009 / 2010 season alone, Tafelmusik will spend more than 60 days on the road, performing in seventeen cities

and nine different countries. Next season's globetrotting begins in August 2009 with Tafelmusik's debut at the inaugural **Reate Festival** in Rieti, Italy. The Festival's Artistic Director **Kent Nagano** extended this invitation immediately following Tafelmusik's sold out "landmark performances" (*Montreal Gazette*) in January 2009 of Bach's Mass in B Minor on the subscription series of l'Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal. Tafelmusik performs three different programmes, including Mozart's opera *Don Giovanni* in Rieti's splendid Teatro Flavio Vespasiano. In late August, Tafelmusik returns to Irsee, Germany for its 17th year as Orchestra-in-Residence at the **Klang und Raum Festival** under Artistic Director **Bruno Weil**. Tafelmusik will then perform a concert in the historic Bavarian **Goldener Saal** (Golden Hall) in Augsburg, Germany, the birthplace of Leopold Mozart. These concerts are in commemoration of the 200th anniversary of Haydn's death and the 200th anniversary of Mendelssohn's birth.

Closer to home, Tafelmusik joins **Arion Baroque Orchestra** for joint concerts in Toronto and Montreal to kick off both orchestras' home seasons. Later in the month, Tafelmusik travels to Mexico to perform its critically acclaimed, multidisciplinary *Galileo Project* concert programme in Mexico at the **Cervantino International Festival**, which has selected Galileo as the theme of this year's festival. *The Galileo Project* is also featured on a tour of the United States in February 2010, when the orchestra returns to the Frank Gehry-designed Walt Disney Concert Hall for a concert on the Los Angeles Philharmonic's series. In May, Tafelmusik embarks on a major nine-city European tour performing classical repertoire by Mozart and Haydn with long-time collaborator, German conductor **Bruno Weil**, and Dutch fortepianist **Ronald Brautigam**. The tour includes concerts in Gent and Brugge, Belgium; Heerlen and Eindhoven in the Netherlands; Lisbon, Portugal; and Valencia, Bilbao, Barcelona and Pamplona, Spain.

## RECORDING

Tafelmusik's impressive discography of 76 CDs has brought the orchestra world-wide recognition, including nine JUNO Awards and a Grammy Award nomination. The orchestra's most recent recording, **Beethoven Symphonies Nos. 7 & 8** directed by Bruno Weil, was nominated for a 2009 JUNO Award. The recording garnered a rave review in *Gramophone Magazine*, which singled out "the intensity of the interpretations ... played with a rare blend of zeal and sensitivity. The Tafelmusik Orchestra delivers to thrilling effect." In the 2009-2010 season Tafelmusik will be working on film projects for release on television and the internet.

## TORONTO SEASON

The vitality of Tafelmusik's artistic vision clearly resonates with its audiences at home, which continue to grow and diversify, contributing to an extraordinary subscription renewal rate of over 82 percent. The 2009/2010 Toronto season kicks off with a bang when Tafelmusik is joined by Montreal's **Arion Baroque Orchestra** to mark the 250th anniversary of Handel's death with performances of *Music for the Royal Fireworks*, September 23 to 27. Co-directed by **Jeanne Lamon** and **Jaap ter Linden**, the programme includes the Grand Overture for double orchestra by J.C. Bach, and an instrumental suite from Rameau's opera *Les Paladins*.

The focus switches to Tafelmusik's superb string ensemble in *Sizzling Strings*, October 15 to 18, with concerts that celebrate the 200th anniversary of Felix Mendelssohn's birth. **Aisslinn Nosky** is the featured soloist in Mendelssohn's rarely performed Violin Concerto in D Minor. The programme, which spans almost 150 years, demonstrates the orchestra's breadth of scope and includes music by Corelli, Locatelli and C.P.E. Bach.

From November 12 to 15, Tafelmusik toasts the 350th anniversary of Henry Purcell's birth with a concert version of the semi-opera *King Arthur*, based on a play by John Dryden. Audience favourite **R.H. Thomson** returns to Tafelmusik to narrate Dryden's drama about warrior kings, fair maidens, and scheming sorcerers. **Ivars Taurins** directs the Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra and Chamber Choir, who are joined by a stellar cast of soloists: soprano **Suzie LeBlanc**, tenor **Charles Daniels** and bass **Nathaniel Watson**.

Following his stunning Tafelmusik debut last September, violinist **Stefano Montanari** returns December 2 to 8 for performances of Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*. Of his Tafelmusik debut last fall, *The Globe and Mail* declared, "Stefano Montanari ... electrified the musicians and had them playing as if their lives and happiness depended on every twitch of his volatile elbow, every swish of his bow ..."

From December 16 to 20, Tafelmusik rings in the festive season with five performances of Handel's *Messiah*, a cherished annual tradition that includes a Sing-Along *Messiah* at Massey Hall. **Ivars Taurins** directs the Orchestra and Chamber Choir and guest soloists. A perennial favourite, Tafelmusik's *Messiah* prompted one critic to write, "I cannot remember a *Messiah* presentation as uniformly "spot-on" as this year's by Ivars Taurin's Tafelmusik Chamber Choir and Baroque Orchestra... As for the choir, they, if anything, outdid the soloists in the crispness and brilliance of their coloratura." (*The Globe and Mail*)

Tafelmusik launches 2010 with *Intimate Bach*, January 21 to 26, a programme comprising a reconstruction of the first version of Bach's Orchestral Suite no. 2, and the 1727 solo cantata no. 82 *Ich habe genug*, featuring Canadian baritone **Tyler Duncan**. Winner of the 2008 Oratorio Society of New York's Lyndon Woodside Solo Competition and the Johann Sebastian Bach competition in Leipzig, Duncan is known to Tafelmusik audiences for the "elegant phrasing and resonant power" demonstrated during his 2007 performance in Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*. (*Toronto Star*)

Toronto audiences can look forward to hearing a sneak preview of Tafelmusik's European tour repertoire during the *Mostly Mozart* concerts February 17 to 21, 2010. Long-time collaborator **Bruno Weil** directs the orchestra in Mozart's *Eine kleine Nachtmusik*, Haydn's Symphony no. 97, and Mozart's Piano Concerto no. 20, featuring **Ronald Brautigam** in his Toronto debut on fortepiano. Weil describes his unique relationship with Tafelmusik as a "real friendship that grows, that comes naturally and that I don't have with any other orchestra in the world. That's what makes it so special. That's why I love working with them."

Tafelmusik bassist **Alison Mackay** has created another imaginative conceptual concert, *Bach in Leipzig*, premiering March 10 to 14, 2010. **Jeanne Lamon** and **Ivars Taurins** direct the Orchestra and Chamber Choir in this narrated programme that brings Bach's years in Leipzig to life with words and music. Mackay's previous creations include *Metamorphosis*, *Four Seasons: A Cycle of the Sun* and *The Galileo Project*—programmes that have resonated with audiences around the world.

From March 25 to 30, 2010, Tafelmusik welcomes back the superb JUNO Award-winning soprano **Karina Gauvin** for *Enchantress*, featuring the music of Vivaldi and Handel. Gauvin's 2007 collaboration with Tafelmusik coaxed superlatives from music critics: "Gauvin's voice ... seems utterly free, entering generously the very heart of what she is singing. Her baroque ornamentation and her trill are impeccable. Add to that the redoubtable orchestra ... and you have all you need to make Handel's music riveting and unforgettable." (*The Globe and Mail*)

The 2008 / 2009 season saw a highly-acclaimed collaboration between Tafelmusik and astronomers with *The Galileo Project: Music of the Spheres*, a concert programme that combines arts and science. In 2009 / 2010 Tafelmusik launches another new partnership fusing art and the environment. In collaboration with **Earth Day Canada®**, Tafelmusik presents a one-of-a-kind Earth Day celebration entitled *Forces of Nature*, April 7 to 11, 2010. Violinist **Julia Wedman** conceived this programme as a "journey with our Earth through the course of a single day." *Forces of Nature* features music by Rameau, Lully, Vivaldi, Telemann and Haydn performed against a backdrop of stunning photographic visuals and specially designed lighting.

Tafelmusik concludes its 2009 / 2010 season May 29 to June 1, 2010 with one of the most brilliant choral works ever composed, Handel's oratorio *Israel in Egypt*. These concerts feature the Tafelmusik Chamber

Choir performing this work that colourfully depicts Moses' journey leading the Israelites out of Egypt. **Ivars Taurins** directs the Orchestra and Chamber Choir, who are joined by soloists **Teri Dunn**, soprano, **Matthew White**, countertenor, **Lawrence Wilford**, tenor, and **Sumner Thompson**, bass. The May 30 performance marks Tafelmusik's debut in the newly-built Koerner Hall at the Royal Conservatory's **Telus Centre for Performance and Learning**.

Tafelmusik's other GTA performances for 2009/2010 include a three-concert series at the George Weston Recital Hall in North York. The series includes Vivaldi *Four Seasons* with **Stefano Montanari** on December 8; *Intimate Bach* on January 26, 2010; and *Enchantress* with **Karina Gauvin** on March 30, 2010.

During the 2009/2010 season, Tafelmusik continues its two decade-long collaboration with **Opera Atelier** and joins the company for two productions at the Elgin Theatre: *Iphigénie en Tauride* by C.W. Gluck from October 31 to November 7, 2009, conducted by **Andrew Parrott**, and Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* from April 24 to May 1, 2010, conducted by **David Fallis**.

### ARTIST TRAINING

Committed to building an international centre of musical excellence while making baroque and classical music fully relevant in a 21st-century context, Tafelmusik continues to develop and invest in resources into ongoing music education and outreach programmes for music lovers of all ages. From **Baroque Education Day** and the online **Baroque Learning Centre** which includes curriculum-based study guides for teachers and students and interactive educational web games, to the **Tafelmusik Baroque Summer Institute** for professional musicians learning about period performance practice and being the **Baroque Orchestra-in-Residence at the Faculty of Music, University of Toronto**, the scope of these programmes is remarkable. Tafelmusik continues to develop the next generation of local, national and international musicians, together with the audiences that will support and appreciate their endeavours for decades to come.

Tafelmusik is thrilled to welcome back **Sun Life Financial** as Season Presenting Sponsor for the eighth consecutive year.



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