

## BIOGRAPHY

### JEANNE LAMON, C.M.

*"Tafelmusik has a gift in Jeanne Lamon. Since taking over the then two-year old orchestra in 1981, she has helped build it into one of the foremost period-performance ensembles in the world."*

*Toronto Star*

Music Director of Tafelmusik since 1981, JEANNE LAMON C.M., has been praised by critics in Europe and North America for her virtuosity as a violinist and her strong musical leadership. Under her direction, Tafelmusik has achieved international stature and is considered *"one of the world's top baroque orchestras"* (Gramophone Magazine).

In addition to performing with and directing Tafelmusik, Ms. Lamon regularly guest directs symphony orchestras in North America and abroad. Recent and upcoming engagements include The Detroit Symphony, Les Violons du Roy, l'Orchestre Métropolitain de Montréal, le Jeune Orchestre Atlantique (France), Symphony Nova Scotia, Victoria Symphony and Orchestra London.

A passionate educator, Jeanne Lamon teaches at the University of Toronto and Toronto's Royal Conservatory of Music. In recognition of her outstanding leadership and contribution to music education in Canada, Ms. Lamon received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Mount Saint Vincent University in the spring of 2007.

Ms. Lamon has won numerous awards for her work with Tafelmusik. She received an honorary Doctor of Letters from York University in 1994. In 1996 Ms. Lamon became the first recipient of the Muriel Sherrin Award, which is presented by the Toronto Arts Council Foundation to artists and creators who have excelled at international initiatives in the fields of music or dance. In 1997 the Alliance Française of Toronto awarded Ms. Lamon with its newly created *Prix Alliance* for her contributions to cultural exchanges and artistic ties between Canada and France. In September 1997 Ms. Lamon received the *Joan Chalmers Award* for Creativity and Excellence in the Arts for her artistic direction of Tafelmusik. Jeanne Lamon received the Canada Council's prestigious *Molson Prize* in 1998 for her lifelong commitment to the arts and excellence in her field. In July 2000 Ms. Lamon was appointed a Member of the Order of Canada in recognition of her exceptional achievements as a baroque violinist, teacher, and Music Director of Tafelmusik. In April 2004 Ms. Lamon received the *Musician of the Year Award* from the Toronto Musicians' Association for outstanding Canadian musical achievement and artistic excellence. Ms. Lamon was the 2006 recipient of the Roy Thomson Hall Award of Exceptional Achievement in Music and the 2007 recipient of the Betty Webster Award for Musical Leadership.

"Lamon's playing had a delicately contoured, high-metabolic, airborne swiftness in its intricate detail that seemed able to dispense with anything like sawing or slashing. It just flew. The beautiful central Largo movement, in contrast, was sombre and poignant."

*The Globe and Mail*

“Watching Lamon play is part of the joy of a Tafelmusik concert. She is constantly in motion, partly to lead her group, partly moved by the music itself, but always full of the emotional depth of the works she is performing.”

*The Globe and Mail*

“The orchestra, led by Lamon from her concertmaster's chair, made the score glow and vibrate with rare warmth. Most importantly, it made the music sound as fresh as if it were created on the spot. This is music at its most powerful – a living force, not a museum piece.”

*Toronto Star*

“Jeanne Lamon has developed a crack ensemble which, in the main baroque and classical repertoires from Vivaldi, Telemann, Bach and Handel to Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven (with a few rarities to spell them off), can be counted upon to give superb, idiomatic performances.”

*The Globe and Mail*

“Beyond its impeccable discipline and luminous textures, the group displays an expressive sensibility that transcends the instruments, whether strung with gut or wire. That expressive empathy is most powerfully conveyed in the *Adagio* of the E-Major Concerto, where, over a measured tread, Jeanne Lamon spins out a radiant, sad line that might be a wordless aria from a Bach Passion.”

*The New York Times*

“Lamon is a true virtuoso. There are few better baroque violinists in the world today and she led the ensemble of eighteen musicians in a concert that sounded like a non-playing conductor was choreographing every move.”

*Continuo*

“In violinist Jeanne Lamon Tafelmusik has a leader who's first among equals, an engaging pro who knows how to put together a program of entertainment informed by a strong sense of history.

*Chicago Reader*

“Jeanne Lamon has kept the focus on period integrity, crafting a sound with sheen and zest. Excellence extends to the vocals; under Ivars Taurins, the chamber choir exemplifies baroque virtues of clarity, transparency and vigour.”

*Toronto Life*