

BIOGRAPHY

IVARS TAURINS

Ivars Taurins is founding director of the Tafelmusik Chamber Choir, now in its 29th season. He was also principal violist of the Tafelmusik Orchestra for its first 23 years. Under his direction the Tafelmusik Chamber Choir has been widely praised for its clarity, nuance and brilliance, and in 1991 was awarded the Canada Council's Healey Willan Prize "in recognition of the consistently high level of achievement by the choir and its unique contribution to choral art in Canada."

A dynamic conductor, Ivars Taurins has impressed audiences with his exuberant and compelling performances. His regular appearances as conductor of the Tafelmusik Chamber Choir and Orchestra have received widespread critical acclaim and are frequently heard on CBC Radio. He has conducted the Tafelmusik Chamber Choir on recordings for the Hyperion and CBC labels. His recordings (CBC Records) with Tafelmusik of the complete choruses from Handel's *Messiah*, the complete Bach motets, and a CD of French 19th- and 20th-century *a capella* music entitled *Chants sacrés et profanes* have all received critical acclaim and JUNO nominations. The Tafelmusik Chamber Choir's 5th CD, *Gloria in Excelsis Deo*, featuring the music of Bach, Vivaldi and Mondonville, was released on CBC Records in 2007 to celebrate the choir's 25th anniversary.

The Tafelmusik Chamber Choir was featured at the Toronto International Choral Festival in 2002, and participated in Canadian Voices (February 2004), a festival celebrating 50 years of professional choral singing in Canada. Ivars Taurins and the choir have premiered works by R. Murray Schafer, Omar Daniels, Chan Ka Nin, Brian Cherney and Paul Frehner with Soundstreams Canada. The choir has also premiered works by Imant Raminsh and Christos Hatzis.

Equally at home conducting symphonic and choral repertoire, Ivars Taurins is Principal Baroque Conductor of the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra since 2001, and is also active as a guest conductor with orchestras and choirs across Canada. Guest appearances include the Edmonton, Kitchener-Waterloo, Victoria, Saskatoon and Windsor Symphonies, Orchestra London (Canada), the Canadian Chamber Ensemble, Symphony Nova Scotia, Symphony New Brunswick, Thirteen Strings (Ottawa), Vancouver Chamber Choir, Pro Coro Canada, the Elora Festival Singers, the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir, and the Amabile Youth Choir. Mr. Taurins was director of the 2000 and 2009 Ontario Youth Choir, the 2003 Nova Scotia Youth Choir and the 2004 Alberta University and College Choir. He was also guest director of the Nova Scotia Youth Orchestra. He has also collaborated with the Canadian Brass as musical advisor and conductor for various recording projects

A passionate lecturer and teacher, Mr. Taurins teaches conducting and baroque ensembles at the University of Toronto. He is in demand as a guest lecturer, adjudicator and clinician. He was guest lecturer at Podium 2000, the conference of the Association of Canadian Choral Conductors. He has been a guest teacher at the Université de Sherbrooke in Quebec; Queen's University; the Universities of Western Ontario, Alberta, Calgary and Windsor; and at the Glenn Gould Professional School in Toronto. In 2007, Mr. Taurins directed a Respighi opera at the Glenn Gould School.

Mr. Taurins is director of the vocal/choral programme at the annual Tafelmusik Baroque Summer Institute.