



February 8, 2011:
For Immediate Release

Tafelmusik Announces the 2011/2012 Season:

House of Dreams co-production with The Banff Centre

Tafelmusik's Debut in Australia with *The Galileo Project*

Return Engagements: Carnegie Hall; *Klang und Raum* Festival in Irsee, Germany

30th Anniversaries for Jeanne Lamon & Tafelmusik Chamber Choir

Three Koerner Hall programmes: *Messiah*, Handel's *Hercules* and
Beethoven's *Eroica* Symphony with Bruno Weil

"One of the world's top baroque orchestras"

- Gramophone Magazine

Toronto (Canada) ... **Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra and Chamber Choir** announced the details of the 2011/2012 season, which sees Tafelmusik's scope extend further than ever before with new projects and artistic collaborations, including *House of Dreams*, a new co-production with The Banff Centre, and one of Tafelmusik's biggest and most ambitious artistic creation to date. Reaffirming its role as Canada's cultural ambassador and expanding its reach into new markets, Tafelmusik takes *The Galileo Project* to **Australia** for its debut appearance there. The Orchestra's international calendar includes a U.S. tour with a return engagement at **Carnegie Hall**, and its 19th year as Orchestra-in-Residence at the **Klang und Raum Festival** in Germany. **Jeanne Lamon** celebrates her 30th anniversary as Music Director with a staged version of the Tafelmusik debut of Handel's musical drama *Hercules* at Koerner Hall. Lamon has invited world-renowned guest directors **Alfredo Bernardini**, oboe and **Rachel Podger**, violin to make their debuts with Tafelmusik in the 2011/12 season, along with conductor **Bruno Weil**, who returns to conduct Beethoven's *Eroica* Symphony. The Tafelmusik Chamber Choir celebrates its 30th anniversary with a *Choral Anniversary* led by Choir Director **Ivars Taurins**. Tafelmusik is grateful for the support of Sun Life Financial for Jeanne Lamon's 30th Anniversary as Music Director and the 30th Anniversary of the Tafelmusik Chamber Choir.

For the first time, Tafelmusik presents three different programmes at Koerner Hall, TELUS Centre for Performance and Learning: four performances of Handel's *Messiah*; Beethoven's Symphony No. 3, *Eroica* and Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 4 "*Italian*"; and Handel's *Hercules* directed by Jeanne Lamon and stage directed by Opera Atelier's Co-Artistic Director **Marshall Pynkoski**. In addition to the concerts performed in its home venue of Trinity-St. Paul's Centre, Tafelmusik continues a three-concert series at the George Weston Recital Hall at the Toronto Centre for the Arts.

"I feel Tafelmusik is at an all-time high with the new projects and artistic collaborations we have been creating. The orchestra is enjoying much success on the national and international stage. Our recording projects have been both creative and stimulating, as has been our exploration of broader repertoire. We have been working with tremendously talented young musicians not only in our training programmes, but now on our mainstage. In my 30 years at Tafelmusik, I have never experienced such an outpouring of talent and creativity," says Lamon.

OPERA ATELIER

Tafelmusik continues its long and celebrated partnership with **Opera Atelier**, joining the company for its season at the Elgin Theatre. The virtuoso Italian violinist and frequent Tafelmusik guest director **Stefano Montanari** leads performances of Mozart's *Don Giovanni* from October 29 to November 5, 2011, and **David Fallis** directs Lully's *Armide* from April 14 to 21, 2012.

TAFELMUSIK ON THE WORLD STAGE

As one of Canada's most highly-regarded cultural ambassadors, Tafelmusik receives new and renewed invitations each season, including its debut at the prestigious Beijing Music Festival last October. Next season, Tafelmusik will perform on three continents.

Klang und Raum Festival, Germany

From August 27 to September 4, 2011, Tafelmusik returns to Irsee, Germany for its 19th and final year as Orchestra-in-Residence at the **Klang und Raum Festival** under Artistic Director **Bruno Weil**. In addition to a mixed baroque programme and symphonies by Haydn and Mozart, the repertoire for Irsee includes major works for choir and orchestra led by Maestro Weil: Haydn's *Creation*, which Tafelmusik has recorded for SONY, and Beethoven's Symphony No. 9, completing the orchestra's 10-year Beethoven symphony cycle at the Festival.

Carnegie Hall and U.S. Tour

Tafelmusik returns to New York City's legendary Carnegie Hall on November 18, 2011, following a sold-out debut there in February 2009: "Tafelmusik offered a well-paced and vigorous interpretation, with stately, buoyant, and crisply etched playing..." (*The New York Times*). This engagement is part of a tour of the U.S. Eastern seaboard from November 14 to 20, 2011.

Tafelmusik's Australia Debut: *The Galileo Project*

Tafelmusik's creative multidisciplinary concerts continue to open doors around the world, and the 2011/12 season is no exception. From March 1 to 20, 2012 both Tafelmusik and *The Galileo Project* travel to Australia for the first time. One of Tafelmusik's most successful international exports, *The Galileo Project* has been seen in China (in Mandarin), Malaysia, Mexico (in Spanish), Canada and the United States. Tafelmusik also has an extensive European tour of *The Galileo Project* in planned for November 2012.

Canadian Tours and Residencies:

The Banff Centre

After the successful collaboration of Tafelmusik and The Banff Centre on *The Galileo Project*, Tafelmusik conducts a 12-day residency at the Centre from January 24 to February 4, 2012, culminating with the world premiere performances of the fully memorized and staged *House of Dreams*. (See full description below). The Banff Centre residency functions as a creative lab, allowing for a unique collaborative process with stage, set and lighting professionals. *House of Dreams* will be presented in Toronto February 8 to 12, 2012.

Ontario

Closer to home, from May 8 to 16, 2012 Tafelmusik travels to communities in Ontario for concerts and outreach/artist training programmes.

ANNIVERSARIES + CO-PRODUCTIONS

30th Anniversary: Jeanne Lamon Directs Handel's *Hercules* at Koerner Hall

Tafelmusik celebrates **Jeanne Lamon's** 30th anniversary as Music Director with performances of Handel's *Hercules* at Koerner Hall, January 19 to 22, 2012. Handel's "Musical Drama in Three Acts" about jealousy and power was inspired by a Greek tragedy written by Sophocles more than 2,500 years ago. Lamon directs the orchestra, chamber choir and guest soloists **Nathalie Paulin**, soprano; **Allyson McHardy**, mezzo-soprano; **Colin Balzer**, tenor;

and **Sumner Thompson**, baritone, in Handel's dramatic score, with stage direction by **Marshall Pynkoski**, Co-Artistic Director of Opera Atelier.

House of Dreams: Co-production with The Banff Centre

House of Dreams, February 8 to 12, 2012, is one of Tafelmusik's biggest and most ambitious artistic creations to date following the international success of *The Galileo Project*, *Four Seasons Mosaic* and *Mozart Noir* projects. *House of Dreams* is a new multi-media concert event programmed by Tafelmusik bassist **Alison Mackay**. A magical journey to the meeting places of baroque music and art, *House of Dreams* takes the audience to five European houses. The musicians perform exquisite works by Bach, Handel, Vivaldi, Purcell, and Marais, among others, from memory with a narrator against a backdrop of stunning images and paintings by Vermeer, Canaletto and Watteau. *House of Dreams* is a co-production with The Banff Centre and will have its Toronto premiere at Trinity-St. Paul's Centre, Tafelmusik's home in Toronto.

Tafelmusik Chamber Choir celebrates 30th Anniversary

Founded in 1981 by Choir Director **Ivars Taurins**, the Tafelmusik Chamber Choir is regarded as one of the world's finest chamber choirs — "*I doubt there's a better choir anywhere.*" (*The Globe and Mail*). From March 27 to April 1, 2012, Tafelmusik salutes the ensemble's three decades of artistic excellence with *Choral Anniversary: Celebrating 30 Years*, a concert of music specially selected by Taurins. The programme includes works by Bach, Purcell, Rameau, Poulenc and Saint-Saëns. To mark this special occasion, Canadian composer **James Rolfe** has been commissioned to write a piece for the choir.

Handel's Messiah at Koerner Hall

25th Anniversary: Sing-Along Messiah at Massey Hall

For the first time in its history, Tafelmusik rings in the festive season with four performances of Handel's *Messiah* in the intimate and acoustically stunning Koerner Hall, December 14 to 17, 2011. **Ivars Taurins** directs the Orchestra and Chamber Choir and a splendid line-up of guest soloists including **Karina Gauvin**, soprano, and **Brett Polegato**, baritone. On December 18, Tafelmusik celebrates the 25th anniversary of *Sing-Along Messiah* in grand style at Massey Hall. This cherished annual tradition is directed by Herr Handel himself dressed in full period garb. *Sing-Along Messiah* was recently filmed by Canada's 90th Parallel Productions for national television broadcast on Bravo!

GUEST ARTISTS

As period music specialists who regularly collaborate with some of the world's leading artists, Tafelmusik musicians continue to challenge themselves and deepen their understanding and interpretation of the music they perform. During the 2011/12 season, Tafelmusik welcomes outstanding guest artists who bring fresh perspectives to a range of music that spans more than 200 years:

Italian-born oboe virtuoso **Alfredo Bernardini** makes his Tafelmusik debut as guest director and soloist from December 1 to 4, 2011 for *Baroque Splendour: The Golden Age of Dresden*, a programme of dazzling music by Fasch, Pisendel, Telemann and Vivaldi. Bernardini's "sparkling and communicative approach" (*Gramophone*) is well-known to fans of his ensemble Zefiro, which performs regularly at major European, Asian and South American festivals.

British violinist **Rachel Podger**, whose "*infectious charm and unaffected musicianship are hard to resist,*" (*BBC Music Magazine*) makes her Tafelmusik debut as director and soloist in *Bach and Friends*, May 2 to 6, 2012. The programme includes Bach's Violin Concerto in E Major, Brandenburg Concerto No. 4, Vivaldi's Concerto for Violin from *La Cetra*, and Telemann's Concerto for 3 Violins in F Major.

Tafelmusik's esteemed collaborator, German conductor **Bruno Weil**, leads the orchestra in Beethoven's landmark Symphony No. 3 in E-flat Major, the *Eroica*, and Mendelssohn's Symphony No. 4 in A Major, the *Italian*, at Koerner Hall from May 24 to 27, 2012.

Soprano **Karina Gauvin** and baritone **Brett Polegato** — two superb Canadian singers with high-profile international careers — join Tafelmusik Chamber Choir and Orchestra for their performances of Handel's *Messiah* at Koerner Hall December 14 to 17, 2011 and the 25th Anniversary performance of *Sing-Along Messiah* at Massey Hall on December 18.

RECORDINGS + BROADCASTS

Thousands of new audience members worldwide have access to Tafelmusik through new ventures, including the national broadcast of a live performance of *Sing-Along Messiah* on Bravo! last December, which reached a total of 87,000 viewers, and which will be released on DVD during the 2011/12 season. Further recording initiatives will be announced at a later date.

Tafelmusik's impressive discography of 78 recordings has brought the orchestra international recognition, including nine JUNO Awards (four of which were awarded in the last decade) and a Grammy Award nomination. The orchestra's recordings — available world-wide through iTunes and other digital distributors — represent a permanent legacy and their excellence continues to resonate around the globe. A new recording with violinist **Stefano Montanari**, whose "overwhelming energy ... goes well beyond phenomenal technique," (*Toronto Star*) will feature music by Italian composers and is slated for future release.

The Internet brings Tafelmusik to the world through live performances, recordings and interviews, and many fans who have never heard the orchestra and choir perform live have nonetheless expressed their devotion through comments on Tafelmusik's YouTube channel, Facebook and MySpace pages, Twitter and personal blogs. Next season, Tafelmusik's "breathtaking" (CBC.ca) *Galileo Project* will reach thousands more when a film version will be available.

ARTIST TRAINING

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. Now in its tenth year, the **Tafelmusik Baroque Summer Institute** organized by **Charlotte Nediger** offers pre-professional musicians the opportunity to learn about period performance practice. The ancillary Tafelmusik Baroque Summer Festival includes a number of free community concerts in June. Tafelmusik is also the **Baroque Orchestra-in-Residence at the Faculty of Music, University of Toronto**. This season, Tafelmusik launched **Baroque Mentors** training programmes that allow emerging artists to learn directly from Tafelmusik musicians and distinguished guest artists through university residencies and guest artist masterclasses. Many of the students reached through **Baroque Mentors** are being introduced to period performance for the first time, while experienced period players or singers are able to access training at the highest level. This successful programme has been expanded for the 2011/12 season.

EDUCATION

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 ongoing music education and outreach programmes for music lovers of all ages. These include **Baroque Education Day**, the online **Baroque Learning Centre** with its curriculum-based study guides for teachers and students, **Free Education Concerts and in-school visits**, and interactive educational web games. On tour, Tafelmusik animates smaller communities with live performances, education and artist training, and provides study guides and other tools to open doors for continued exploration long after the applause has ended.

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



Tafelmusik gratefully acknowledges the support of its partners in government:



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High-resolution photos of Tafelmusik and Jeanne Lamon are available for download in the Media Room at www.tafelmusik.org.