



For immediate release: November 22, 2010

**Hallelujah!**  
**Tafelmusik's Sing-Along *Messiah* featured in**  
**Bravo! television broadcast premiere,**  
**Monday December 6 at 9 pm ET**

with Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra and Chamber Choir  
Directed by **Maestro Handel** (aka Chamber Choir Director Ivars Taurins)

*Featuring*

**Suzie LeBlanc**, soprano  
**Daniel Taylor**, countertenor  
**Rufus Müller**, tenor  
**Locky Chung**, baritone

**Website:** [www.tafelmusik.org](http://www.tafelmusik.org) / [www.facebook.com/tafelmusik.org](http://www.facebook.com/tafelmusik.org)

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Toronto, Canada ... On December 6 at 9 pm ET on Bravo!, Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra and Chamber Choir will be featured in the premiere television broadcast of its popular annual **Sing-Along *Messiah***, produced by 90<sup>th</sup> Parallel Productions. This historic television event was recorded live last January at The Royal Conservatory's acclaimed Koerner Hall, and is produced by **Gordon Henderson** and **Stuart Coxe** and directed by **Dave Russell**. The broadcast complements Tafelmusik's four **live** performances of Handel's *Messiah* from December 15th to 18th in the intimate and enchanting setting of Trinity-St. Paul's Centre, and a performance of Sing-Along *Messiah* on Sunday December 19th at Toronto's Massey Hall.

Resplendent in his powdered wig and 18<sup>th</sup>-century garb, **Maestro Handel** (aka Chamber Choir Director **Ivars Taurins**) makes his television debut leading Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra and Chamber Choir, a stellar cast of soloists — soprano **Suzie LeBlanc**, countertenor **Daniel Taylor**, tenor **Rufus Müller**, and baritone **Locky Chung** — and a mass audience choir made up of more than 1000 Tafelmusik fans as they perform highlights of Handel's baroque masterpiece.

A Toronto tradition beloved by thousands, Tafelmusik's annual Sing-Along *Messiah* has become a cherished family ritual for many Torontonians over the past 23 years. **Toronto's largest sing-along event**, Tafelmusik's Sing-Along *Messiah* sells out every year, and participants are moved by the experience of joining their voices with hundreds of others to make music.

Tafelmusik's Managing Director **Tricia Baldwin** says, "This partnership with 90<sup>th</sup> Parallel Productions and Bravo! is amazing. For years, thousands of people have flocked to our live performances of Sing-Along *Messiah*, and to capture this on film for a television audience across the country is very exciting for Tafelmusik's Choir Director **Ivars Taurins** and our orchestra and choir. It was an honour to be approached by 90<sup>th</sup> Parallel Productions, one of

Canada's top documentary producers, to do this project. **Gordon Henderson's** commitment to excellence in all aspects of this film is inspiring."

Executive Producer **Gordon Henderson** founded 90th Parallel Productions — now one of Canada's busiest high-end documentary production companies — in 1987. Henderson has directed, written and produced hundreds of documentaries and current affairs programs over the past three and half decades. From 2002 to 2008, Henderson sat on the Tafelmusik Board of Directors and is past President of the Board for Dixon Hall. He currently sits on the Board for Opera Atelier. Henderson remarks, "As a long-time fan and supporter of Tafelmusik I am thrilled to bring this unique and glorious performance to television. We hope this will be a wonderful addition to Bravo! holiday programming for years to come."

Producer **Stuart Coxe** has more than two decades of experience in news, documentary and current affairs programming. He has launched four series currently airing on CBC TV including the Canadian version of **Dragon's Den**, which won the 2009 Gemini Award for Best Reality Show. Coxe's documentaries have twice been nominated for the national Donald Brittain Award for feature documentary of the year.

Director **Dave Russell** has more than 25 years of music television experience. A JUNO Award nominee and four-time Gemini nominee, he has won two Gemini Awards for the 2004 and 2006 *MuchMusic Video Awards*. He is best known for his work on *Spectacle: Elvis Costello with ...*, as well as his work with an extensive list of top artists including U2, Madonna, Bruce Springsteen, Arcade Fire, Coldplay, Sting, David Bowie, Elton John, Elvis Costello and Diana Krall, among many others.

Tafelmusik's other film/television projects include the upcoming *The Galileo Project* DVD (producer: Gordon Henderson, 90<sup>th</sup> Parallel); as well as *The Galileo Project* short films (producer: Dave New, co-produced with The Banff Centre); a live performance of Beethoven Symphonies Nos. 7 & 8 (producer: Nick de Pencier); *The Four Seasons Mosaic* (producer: Media Headquarters); *Le Mozart Noir* (producer: Media Headquarters), and *Dido and Aeneas* (Rhombus Media).

Inspired by the fierce loyalty audiences have for Handel's famous oratorio, Tafelmusik has just launched its second annual **Sing-Along Messiah Video Contest** at [www.tafelmusik.org](http://www.tafelmusik.org). Fans are invited to show the world their finest Sing-Along voices by recording their best rendition of a favourite *Messiah* excerpt in a two-minute video that will be viewable worldwide. **Viewers will vote for their favourite video, and the Grand Prize will be awarded to the video with the most votes.** Link to Sing-Along *Messiah* video contest details on Tafelmusik's homepage at [www.tafelmusik.org](http://www.tafelmusik.org)

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*Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra, led by Music Director Jeanne Lamon and founded in 1979, is one of the world's leading period performance ensembles. All members of the Orchestra are specialists in historical performance practice, and their collaboration results in a delightful transparency, vitality and richness of sound. Tafelmusik performs over 50 concerts a year at home in Toronto, tours extensively around the world, has released over 75 CDs and has received nine JUNO Awards. In 2005, Tafelmusik received a Grammy Award nomination. Tafelmusik is the Baroque Orchestra-in-Residence at the Faculty of Music, University of Toronto and operates its annual Tafelmusik Baroque Summer Institute which attracts pre-professional and professional musicians from around the world. The Tafelmusik Chamber Choir, specializing in baroque performance practice and vocal technique, was founded in 1981 by Ivars Taurins to complement the Orchestra. Tafelmusik made its sold-out Carnegie Hall debut in February, 2009. This season, Tafelmusik embarks on major tours to Europe, Asia, Ontario and Western Canada and will be featured in a television broadcast of Sing-Along Messiah on Bravo! on December 6 at 9 PM ET.*

For media information or to arrange an interview, please contact:

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