

Tafelmusik
Baroque Orchestra and Chamber Choir

Jeanne Lamon, Music Director
Kenneth Solway & Susan Graves, Founders

Media Release

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seasons to celebrate!

Tafelmusik and The Banff Centre present...
The Galileo Project: Music of the Spheres
Programmed and scripted by **Alison Mackay**

A co-production with:



The Banff Centre
inspiring creativity

World premiere performance: Banff, Alberta, January 9, 2009

Date + Times: Trinity-St. Paul's Centre
Wednesday January 21 at 7PM
Thursday January 22 – Saturday January 24 at 8PM
Sunday January 25 at 3:30PM

Ticket Prices: \$15 - \$72
PWYC Fridays for Face the Musik: Friday January 23

Venue: Trinity-St. Paul's Centre, 427 Bloor Street West

Box Office: Trinity-St. Paul's Centre: 416.964.6337 / www.tafelmusik.org

Website: www.tafelmusik.org / www.myspace.com/mytafelmusik

Tafelmusik commemorates the International Year of Astronomy with a concert programme designed by Tafelmusik's **Alison Mackay** and co-produced with **The Banff Centre**. ***The Galileo Project: Music of the Spheres*** is a concert programme celebrating the fusion of arts and science, and Tafelmusik has assembled a multidisciplinary team including the Orchestra, astronomers, a stage director, a filmmaker, a set and lighting designer, astronomical photographers, and a recording engineer.

"The creativity of our artistic partners and the orchestra's amazing commitment to performing this concert from memory is allowing us to explore new ways of sharing our emotional connection to baroque music with our audience," states **Alison Mackay**. "The Galileo project has been a wonderful opportunity for Tafelmusik to collaborate with scientists and artists from different disciplines, allowing us to expand into new arenas as we fuse arts, science and culture."

In the spring of 2007, **Dr. John Percy**, Professor of Astronomy at the University of Toronto emailed Tafelmusik and proposed a concert in celebration of the 400th anniversary of Galileo's development and use of the astronomical telescope in conjunction with UNESCO's International Year of Astronomy in 2009. Dr. Percy suggested that the subject matter might inspire **Alison Mackay** (creator of the *Metamorphosis*

& *Sacred Spaces, Sacred Circles Festivals; The Four Seasons: A Cycle of the Sun, Chariots of Fire, and In the Garden of Delights: Music from the Song of Songs* concert programmes; and the JUNO Award-winning TafelKIDS™ recording *Baroque Adventure: The Quest for Arundo Donax*).

In late 16th-century Florence, the house of lutenist and composer Vincenzo Galilei was a fertile breeding ground for important innovations in the realms of music and science. Later in the year 1609, two exciting events took place in the city of Venice: the publication of Monteverdi's *Orfeo*, and Galileo Galilei's first public demonstration of the telescope. The worlds of astronomy and music were often intertwined throughout the baroque period.

"The International Year of Astronomy, 2009, is a global effort initiated by the International Astronomical Union and UNESCO to help the citizens of the world rediscover their place in the Universe through the day- and night-time sky, and thereby engage a personal sense of wonder and discovery."
(www.astronomy2009.org)

The Banff Centre Residency: "The Creative Team" January 3 – 9, 2009

From January 3 to 9, 2009, Tafelmusik will hold a seven-day residency at The Banff Centre to workshop and develop this multidisciplinary programme.

Artistic collaborators at The Banff Centre include Vice-President of Programming **Sarah Iley**, Director of Music Programs **Barry Shiffman**, Senior Recording Engineer **John D.S. Adams** Director of Production (Theatre Arts) **John Avery**, Director of Digital Film and Media Production **Kerry Stauffer**, and Technical Director (Theatre Arts) **Robert Rombough**.

Tafelmusik is also working with Opera Atelier co-Artistic Director **Marshall Pynkoski** who is engaged as Stage Direction Consultant for the project. In addition, Tafelmusik is collaborating with Set & Lighting Designer **Glenn Davidson**, Astronomical Photographer **Alan Dyer**, and Film Producer **David New**, Actor/narrator **Shaun Smyth**, will all be a part of the creative process for the premiere of *The Galileo Project: Music of the Spheres* concert at The Banff Centre on January 9, 2009 before bringing it back to Toronto audiences.

Collaborating with Film Producer David New, Tafelmusik is creating three short films in The Banff Centre's green screen studio with astronomical photographs from the Hubble Space Telescope in the post-production period. These will be available on Tafelmusik's YouTube, myspace, Facebook sites as part of Tafelmusik's ongoing audience development and recording initiatives.

Vice President of Programming **Sarah Iley** comments, "The Galileo Project is an exciting project that combines many of the resources The Banff Centre has to offer with the talents of Canada's internationally renowned baroque orchestra. We are delighted to be hosting the world premiere of this new work before it begins its international tour."

"For close to 30 years, Tafelmusik has illuminated the works of the past by showering them with extraordinary imagination and commitment to performance practice that is both informed by historical knowledge and free from the constraints of tradition. The Galileo project is a natural extension of these remarkable three decades," states Director of Music Programs **Barry Shiffman**. "The Centre's partnership with Tafelmusik brings a wealth of resources to the realization of this program supporting the needs of this remarkable ensemble, while allowing other artists on campus the opportunity to witness the creation of this bold undertaking. The Banff Centre is thrilled to partner in the creation of the creation of this exciting program."

“The Canada Council is very pleased to provide support to this extraordinary project. Funding recommendations at the Council are made by peer assessment committees. The peer assessors who considered this project were very exuberant about both the Galileo Project itself and about the extraordinary way that innovative ideas come forward from within the organization. Tafelmusik continues to be recognized by its peers as a highly effective and creative music organization,” states **Russell Kelley**, head of Canada Council’s Music Section.

Upon the completion of this residency at The Banff Centre, Tafelmusik brings the Galileo concert programme back to Toronto audiences, and then on their upcoming Ontario tour in February and March, 2009. Tafelmusik is currently developing international tours for The Galileo Project in the USA, Mexico and Asia in 2009 and 2010.

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Full concert programme includes:

The Harmony of the Spheres I

Concerto for 2 violins in A Major, op. 3, no. 5
Allegro - Largo Antonio Vivaldi

Music from Phaeton

Ouverture Jean-Baptiste Lully
Suite des quatre saisons (Dances for the four seasons)
Entrée des furies (Entrance of the furies)
Chaconne

Music from the time of Galileo

Ritornello, from *Orfeo* Claudio Monteverdi
Ciaccona, after *Zefro torna* C. Monteverdi
Ciccaona Tarquinio Merula

Toccatà for solo lute, Michelangelo Galilei
From Il primo libro d'intavolatura di liuto
Passacaglia Biagio Marini
Moresca, from *Orefo* C. Monteverdi

The Dresden Festival of the Planets

Entrée de Jupiter (Entrance of Jupiter), Jean-Philippe Rameau
from Hippolyte et Aricie
Allegro, from Concerto grosso in D Major, op. 3 no. 6 George Frideric Handel
Entrée de Venus (Entrance of Venus) J-P. Rameau
from Les surprises de l'Amour
Allegro, from Concerto for 4 violins in D Major G.P. Telemann
Adagio ma non troppo, from Sonata in F Major Jan Dismas Zelenka
ZVV 181/1
Entrée de Mercure (Entrance of Mercury) J-P. Rameau
from Platée
Air pour les Suivants de Saturne J-B. Lully
(Air for the followers of Saturn) from Phaeton
Allegro, from Concerto for lute in C Major Silvius Leopold Weiss
The Astronomical Drinking Song Anonymous, 18th century

The Harmony of the Spheres II

Sinfonia “*Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern*” Johann Sebastian Bach
(How brightly shines the morning star), after BWV 1
Sinfonia, after BWV 29 J.S. Bach

Tafelmusik would like to thank its partners for their generous support of The Galileo project:



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TD Canada Trust Music and **NOW Magazine**.

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

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