



October 26, 2005 – For Immediate Release

### **TAFELMUSIK and ANALEKTA LAUNCH TafelKIDS™ RECORDINGS**

#### ***Baroque Adventure: The Quest for Arundo Donax / Aventure Baroque: La Quête de L'arundo Donax***

Tafelmusik and Analekta proudly present the inaugural **TafelKIDS™** recording, *Baroque Adventure: The Quest for Arundo Donax*, a unique and exciting orchestral odyssey in 18th-century Europe that will capture the imaginations of young listeners and parents alike! Created by Tafelmusik's **Alison Mackay**, *Baroque Adventure: The Quest for Arundo Donax* was recorded in both French and English and features the Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra, narration by **Blair Williams** (in English) and **Albert Millaire** (in French), and striking booklet illustrations by **Katy Lemay**. This recording was made possible through the generous support of the **RBC Foundation** and the **Ontario Trillium Foundation**.

*Baroque Adventure: The Quest for Arundo Donax* is the first of several recordings in the new **TafelKIDS™** series. **TafelKIDS™** is an exciting undertaking which introduces Canadian children, students, parents and teachers to baroque and classical music. "Through the imaginative combination of beautiful music and captivating storytelling, this recording enables Tafelmusik to develop the next generation of listeners," states Tafelmusik's Music Director, **Jeanne Lamon**. "We have performed this programme on tour, both in Canada and the United States, for young audiences and they just loved it."

Combining some of the greatest music ever written with a captivating story of adventure and intrigue, *Baroque Adventure: The Quest for Arundo Donax* was conceived, programmed and scripted by principal bassist **Alison Mackay**, one of Tafelmusik's founding members. "This musical adventure has been an experiment in introducing young people to the music of some of Tafelmusik's favourite composers — Henry Purcell from England, Antonio Vivaldi from Italy, and Marin Marais from France. I wanted to find a fun way of demonstrating the wonderful colours of the special baroque instruments that we play in Tafelmusik, without being academic — each instrument plays a little solo that is woven into the story," says **Mackay**.

Analekta has created a new partnership with the **Coalition for Music Education in Canada** and will donate \$1 for each CD sold in Canada to help ensure that Canadian children have access to music education. *"It is imperative for our youth to have the chance to discover the wealth that arts and music represent in their life, whichever the style of the hour may be. Classical music, more specifically from the baroque era in this case, is a good example. With Baroque Adventure we bring fun and culture, discovery and adventure together. It is essential to maintain arts programmes in our schools in order to build a dynamic, creative and open-minded society. This is why Analekta has decided to support the Coalition for Music Education in Canada by donating \$1 for every CD sold in Canada,"* states founder and President of Analekta, Mario Labbé.

### ***Baroque Adventure: The Quest for Arundo Donax***

Arundo donax is a bamboo-like plant native to France that is used to make reeds for oboes and bassoons. In 1704, Queen Anne of England is distraught: at war with France, the English are fast running out of arundo donax. When it's all gone, so is the music! So the Queen sends two of her youngest subjects, Frances and Edward Purcell (children of the late composer Henry Purcell) on a quest for the famous plant. The journey takes them from Venice to Versailles. Along the way, they meet Antonio Vivaldi and Louis XIV, but also spies and many dangers. Will the youngsters succeed in their quest?

This recording would not be possible without the generous support of the RBC Foundation. *"RBC Financial Group supports organizations, initiatives and events that contribute to Canada's communities through nurturing and celebrating artistic expression. Our goal is to support programs, such as TafelKIDS™, that help bring the arts to children"* states **Stephen Voisin**, Executive Director, RBC Foundation.

For the past three years, the Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra has been performing *Baroque Adventure: The Quest for Arundo Donax* in concert for students in Canada and the United States. On November 19, 2005, Tafelmusik will perform *The Quest for Arundo Donax* family concerts at 1:30PM & 3:00PM. Featuring Blair Williams and the Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra, both live concerts are **FREE** and will take place at Trinity-St. Paul's Centre (427 Bloor Street West). Please call 416-964-6337 for further information.

*Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra, led by Music Director Jeanne Lamon, 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. Founded in 1979, Tafelmusik performs 50 concerts a year at home in Toronto and tours extensively around the world. Tafelmusik has released over 70 CDs and has received seven Juno Awards. In 2005, Tafelmusik received a Grammy Award nomination. Tafelmusik is the Baroque Orchestra-in-Residence at the Faculty of Music of the University of Toronto. The Tafelmusik Chamber Choir, specializing in baroque performance practice and vocal technique, was formed in 1981 to complement the orchestra. Tafelmusik's commitment to music education is exemplified by its local, national and international education and outreach activities. In 2002, Tafelmusik created its Baroque Learning Centre, an online resource dedicated to providing music education resources for teachers, parents and children.*

Tafelmusik thanks the **RBC Foundation** and the **Ontario Trillium Foundation** for their generous support of *Baroque Adventure: The Quest for Arundo Donax*. **CLASSICAL 96.3FM** in Toronto and **Radio-Classique 99.5FM** in Montreal are the proud media sponsors of this initiative.

For further information, please visit:

[www.tafelmusik.org](http://www.tafelmusik.org) / [www.analekta.com/tafelKIDS](http://www.analekta.com/tafelKIDS) / [www.coalitionformusiced.ca](http://www.coalitionformusiced.ca)

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***Baroque Adventure: The Quest for Arundo Donax*** (cf. AN 2 9832) is available as of November 1, 2005 at music retailers across Canada.

Visit <http://www.analekta.com/pochettes.html> and click on AN 2 9832-3 to download CD cover.

Tafelmusik gratefully acknowledges the generous support of:



Through RBC Foundation

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