



For immediate release: November 4, 2010

Tafelmusik presents annual *Handel Messiah* and *Sing-Along Messiah* performances

Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra and Chamber Choir
Conducted by Ivars Taurins
Featuring
Christine Brandes, soprano,
Daniel Taylor, countertenor,
Rufus Müller, tenor,
Brett Polegato, baritone

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- Date + Times:** Handel's *Messiah* at Trinity-St. Paul's Centre
Wednesday December 15th – Saturday December 18th at 7:30PM
- Sing-Along *Messiah* at Massey Hall
Sunday December 19th at 2PM
- Ticket Prices:** Trinity-St. Paul's Centre: \$45 - \$95
Face the Musik for 30 and under: from \$25
- Massey Hall: \$41 (\$31 for ages 65+ and groups of 6 or more)
Face the Musik for 30 and under: \$26
- Venue:** Trinity-St. Paul's Centre, 427 Bloor Street West
Massey Hall, 178 Victoria Street
- Box Office:** Trinity-St. Paul's Centre: 416.964.6337 / www.tafelmusik.org
Massey Hall / Roy Thompson Hall: 416.872.4255 / www.masseyhall.com
- Website:** www.tafelmusik.org / www.facebook.com/tafelmusik.org

Tafelmusik rings in the festive season with five performances of Handel's *Messiah*, a cherished annual tradition that includes *Sing-Along Messiah* at Massey Hall. **Ivars Taurins** directs the Orchestra and Chamber Choir and a stellar cast of guest soloists — **Christine Brandes**, soprano; **Daniel Taylor**, countertenor; **Rufus Müller**, tenor; and **Brett Polegato**, baritone — from December 15th to 18th in the intimate and enchanting setting of Trinity-St. Paul's Centre. On Sunday December 19th at Toronto's historic Massey Hall, Tafelmusik presents **Sing-Along Messiah**. Led by a feisty **Maestro Handel** in full period costume, 2,700 voices join the Chamber Choir, Orchestra and guest soloists as they bring Handel's beloved oratorio to life. The premiere television broadcast of Tafelmusik's *Sing-Along Messiah* film takes place on **Monday, December 6** at 9:00 pm on **Bravo!**

Ivars Taurins founded the highly acclaimed Tafelmusik Chamber Choir in 1981, and has been credited with developing a sound and style appropriate to the repertoire they perform. Mr. Taurins has conducted *Messiah* performances with this ensemble for 30 consecutive years, “*building, shaping and honing this masterpiece oratorio for more than two decades.*” (*Toronto Star*). The ensemble is now recognized as one as a contender for “*the best period-performance choir anywhere in the world,*” (*The Globe and Mail*), and was awarded the Canada Council’s Healey Willan Prize in 1991.

Mr. Taurins conducts symphonic and choral repertoire with equal expertise, and is active as a guest conductor with orchestras and choirs across Canada. As Principal Baroque Conductor of the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra since 2001, he has directed that orchestra’s annual *Messiah* performances for the past decade. Watch a brief [video](#) of Ivars Taurins discussing Handel’s *Messiah*.

“Superhuman”, “spot-on”, “crisp” and “inspired” are just a few of the words critics have used to describe Tafelmusik’s *Messiah*. A perennial favourite with audiences and critics alike, Tafelmusik’s *Messiah* has garnered glowing reviews year after year. “I cannot remember a *Messiah* presentation as uniformly ‘spot-on’ as this year’s by Ivars Taurins’ Tafelmusik Chamber Choir and Baroque Orchestra ... As for the choir, they, if anything, outdid the soloists in the crispness and brilliance of their coloratura.” (*The Globe and Mail*).

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. 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

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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 formed in 1981 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.

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

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