



January 7, 2009:
For Immediate Release

Tafelmusik's Sing-Along *Messiah* to be featured in live television recording by 90th Parallel Productions for Bravo! Canada

with Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra and Chamber Choir
Directed by **Ivars Taurins**

Featuring

Suzie LeBlanc, soprano

Daniel Taylor, counter tenor

Rufus Müller, tenor

Locky Chung, baritone

Toronto (Canada) ... On January 9, 2010 at the critically-acclaimed Koerner Hall, Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra and Chamber Choir will be featured in a performance film of highlights from its popular annual **Sing-Along *Messiah***, produced by 90th Parallel Productions for future broadcast on Bravo! Canada. This historic television event is produced by **Stuart Coxe** and directed by **Dave Russell**, and will also be available on DVD.

Resplendent in his powdered wig and 18th-century garb, **Maestro Handel** (aka Chamber Choir conductor **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 CTV celebrities and more than 1000 Tafelmusik fans as they perform Handel's baroque masterpiece.

A Toronto tradition beloved by thousands, Tafelmusik's annual Sing-Along *Messiah* has become a revered 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 genuinely 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 90th Parallel Productions and Bravo! Canada is amazing. For years, thousands of people have flocked to our live performances of Sing-Along *Messiah*, and to capture this on film is very exciting for Tafelmusik's Choir Director **Ivars Taurins** and our orchestra and choir. It was an honour to be approached by 90th 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! Canada's 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 in Canada, including **The Next Great Prime Minister** and 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.

In Canada, 90th Parallel documentaries have been broadcast on CBC, CTV, Global Television, TV Ontario, Discovery Channel Canada, documentary, and Bravo! Internationally, broadcasters have included Channel Four in the United Kingdom as well as ARTE in France and Germany, Discovery Channel, National Geographic Channel International, Smithsonian Networks and PBS in the United States.

Tafelmusik's other film/television projects include *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).

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Tafelmusik supporters:



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 five major tours to Europe, Mexico and the U.S.

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