

Tafelmusik
Baroque Orchestra and Chamber Choir

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

Media Release

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seasons to celebrate!

December 22, 2008:
For Immediate release

Kent Nagano invites the
Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra and Chamber Choir
for a performance of Bach's Mass in B Minor as part of
L'Orchestre Symphonique de Montréal's Signature Series

Date + Times: January 16, 2009 at 8:00PM
January 18, 2009 at 2:30PM

Venue: Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier at Place des Arts
175 Saint-Catherine Street West
Montreal, Quebec

Box Office: (514) 842-9951 / www.osm.ca

Websites: www.tafelmusik.org / www.osm.ca

"If Bach, who never heard the B Minor Mass in his lifetime, could choose a performance to listen to, this one by Tafelmusik would have been worth his while."

- The Globe and Mail, 2006

On January 16 and 18, 2009, the Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra and Chamber Choir travel to Montreal for perform Johann Sebastian Bach's *Mass in B Minor* under the baton of Maestro **Kent Nagano**. The Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra and Chamber Choir are joined by a cast of internationally acclaimed soloists: soprano **Sibylla Rubens**, mezzo-soprano **Renata Pokupic**, tenor **Christoph Genz**, and bass **Detlef Roth**. Also for the occasion, the Orchestra and Choir have been expanded with local period performers from Montreal.

"When Kent Nagano called and asked me about the possibility of Tafelmusik and the OSM collaborating on this great work by Bach, I was delighted," states Music Director **Jeanne Lamon**. "The musicians and choristers of Tafelmusik are very excited about this wonderful opportunity to work with Maestro Nagano, one of today's great conductors."

In the last years of his life, Johann Sebastian Bach set about composing a series of works which would represent a summation of his life's work. The works were not written for specific occasions, but rather as testimonials to his achievements. Much has been written as to why Bach, a devout Lutheran, would have chosen a setting of the Roman Catholic Ordinary as a testament to his choral work. A plausible explanation is that Bach wished to leave to posterity a great Latin mass, a century-old symbol of Western culture, and a musical form which had challenged generations of composers.

The OSM played excerpts from the Mass as far back as 1935 in its first season, and offered the complete masterpiece two years later under Wilfrid Pelletier. Subsequent performances have been led by Sir

Thomas Beecham (1941), Désiré Defauw (1950), Igor Markevitch (1959) and Charles Dutoit (1985). Tafelmusik last performed the Mass in B Minor in its 2005-2006 Toronto Season.

For more information about Tafelmusik, please visit: 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 70 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. In 2007-2008, Tafelmusik embarked on five major tours to three continents. Last season Tafelmusik also celebrated the release of their 74th and 75th CDs, well as the DVD release of the critically acclaimed The Four Seasons Mosaic documentary. This season, Tafelmusik will embark on seven tours and will celebrate its Carnegie Hall debut in February, 2009.

Tafelmusik's 30th Anniversary Season Presenting Sponsor is:



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

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