



*Tafelmusik*  
Baroque Orchestra and Chamber Choir

## MEDIA RELEASE

JEANNE LAMON, CHIEF ARTISTIC ADVISOR | IVARS TAURINS, DIRECTOR, CHAMBER CHOIR | KENNETH SOLWAY & SUSAN GRAVES, FOUNDERS



### Tafelmusik reports 14<sup>th</sup> consecutive surplus budget at AGM

Toronto (Canada), October 31, 2014 ... At the Annual General Meeting on October 30, 2014, Chair **Andy Kenins** and Treasurer **Jeff Bennett** of Tafelmusik's Board of Directors announced the organization's **14th consecutive operating surplus** of \$41,014 on a budget of \$5.4MM. This remarkable accomplishment is set against the backdrop of an ambitious \$3MM capital campaign launched in 2013 to revitalize Tafelmusik's home venue of Trinity-St. Paul's Centre, Jeanne Lamon Hall. The capital campaign has exceeded its goal, raising \$3.2MM to date.

"I am happy to report that we achieved our 14th successive balanced budget, while raising \$3.2MM for the renovation of our home venue. Since 2000, we have doubled operating revenues, increased the endowment from \$312,000 to \$5 MM, eliminated Tafelmusik's accumulated deficit, and created balance sheet funds of \$800,000 for upcoming and long-term artistic and strategic initiatives. This has been done while significantly growing artistic activity as well as ensuring fair compensation levels for our excellent musicians," said Managing Director **Tricia Baldwin**.

2013/14 was especially significant as it was **Jeanne Lamon's** final season of as full-time music director, and celebrations were held throughout the season to recognize her exceptional leadership over the past 33 years. Lamon is now Tafelmusik's Chief Artistic Advisor and will become the Music Director Emerita when her successor is appointed.

In addition to a very busy 2013/14 home season, Tafelmusik's presence on the national and international scene was reinforced by a series of prestigious engagements: the orchestra made its debut at **Leipzig Bachfest**, returned to **Carnegie Hall**, toured Alison Mackay's *The Galileo Project* in **Japan** and **Korea**, performed in **Versailles, France** with **Opera Atelier**, and presented concerts and education activities throughout **Ontario**, with a run-out to **Québec**.

The 2013/14 season also marked the first performances in the superb acoustics of Tafelmusik's newly-revitalized Jeanne Lamon Hall. "The results of the renovations, part of a \$3-million revitalization of Trinity-St. Paul's, were astonishing, exceeding their wildest expectations ... If a hall is the orchestra's instrument, Tafelmusik has just traded the violin that your mom bought you for an Amati, if not a Stradivarius." (*Globe and Mail*)

The renovations to Tafelmusik's home venue represent one of largest contributions to the future development of the orchestra and choir. Phase Two renovations were recently completed and include the enhancements of the lobby (narthex), structural and accessibility improvements, and a new theatrical lighting system. Phase One renovations were completed in 2013 and include the improvement of acoustics, installation of a new stage, floors and seats, increased seating for wheelchairs, and the painting of the sanctuary. Tafelmusik expressed gratitude to Trinity-St. Paul's United Church, ERA Architects and Clifford Restoration for their hard work.

Tafelmusik is poised to expand its activities in the key areas of international touring, recording, audience development, education and outreach while remaining fiscally responsible. The organization's stability and long-standing excellence in financial management is thanks in large part to the vision and persistence of Managing Director **Tricia Baldwin**, who recently announced that she will be leaving Tafelmusik to become the Director of the new Isabel Bader Centre for the Performing Arts at Queen's University in Kingston after 14 extraordinary years.

Ms. Baldwin leaves Tafelmusik in excellent shape, with building blocks in place for a vibrant future for many years to come. During her tenure, the organization saw the development of future audiences and artists through the expansion and diversification of Tafelmusik's venue programmes in Toronto to include Koerner Hall and the George Weston Recital Hall, and the realization of major education, outreach and artist training initiatives including the Tafelmusik Baroque Summer Institute created by **Jeanne Lamon** and harpsichordist **Charlotte Nediger**.

**Andy Kenins** thanked Music Director **Jeanne Lamon** and acknowledged the Board's gratitude, respect and affection for her three-plus decades of leadership. Mr. Kenins also thanked Choir Director **Ivars Taurins**, all the musicians and staff team, and the Tafelmusik Board of Directors for an outstanding season. He made special mention of Managing Director **Tricia Baldwin**, saying, "This is my opportunity to personally thank Tricia for her dedication and service to Tafelmusik. 14 years of great accomplishment and I have seen the last seven of those first-hand. Tricia displayed an amazingly wide range of abilities, taking on projects that were not in her training or background – such as developing the Tafelmusik Media record label, or arranging and overseeing substantial renovations to a 120 year old historical building. Accomplishing this with complete success was a testament to her vision, leadership, and persistence."

Tafelmusik's own record label **Tafelmusik Media** offers new digital, live performance, studio CD and DVD recordings, and re-releases of previous Tafelmusik recordings from SONY Classical and CBC Records. During the 2013/14 season, Tafelmusik released a two-CD set of Beethoven Symphonies 1 to 4 under **Bruno Weil**, a DVD/CD recording of *House of Dreams* with the Tritonus recording team and film producer **Gordon Henderson** of 90<sup>th</sup> Parallel Productions, and *Baroque Virtuoso*, a special limited edition recording celebrating **Jeanne Lamon's** 33-year leadership. Tafelmusik's future digital concert hall continued to be developed by **Réjean Tremblay**, with increased audio and video recordings of Tafelmusik.

Jeanne Lamon thanked Tricia Baldwin for her vision, wisdom, integrity and perseverance over the past 14 years. Lamon remarked, "You might well wonder, where to from here? The ideas generated throughout the orchestra have been inspiring. Yes, Tafelmusik is ready for the next leap. We have always stayed true to our artistic mandate, and I'm confident that the next big steps will be taken with vision and thoughtfulness, and with our eyes on excellence as we always have done. I feel very proud and privileged to have led this talented and committed group of musicians."

Celebrated guest artists who joined Tafelmusik during the 2013/14 season included fortepianist and guest director **Kristian Bezuidenhout**, soprano **Isabel Bayrakdarian**, conductor **Bruno Weil**, and guest directors/violinists **Manfredo Kramer** and **Cecilia Bernardini**. **Aruna Narayan Kalle**, sarangi, **Wen Zhao**, pipa, and Inuit throat singers **Aqsarniit** joined the orchestra for a remount of **Alison Mackay's** *The Four Seasons: A Cycle of the Sun*. The orchestra premiered *Aiga-Faros*, a commissioned work by flutist and composer **Grégoire Jeay**. Handel's epic oratorio *Saul* with the **Tafelmusik Chamber Choir** led by Choir Director **Ivars Taurins** was the choral highlight of 2014/14. The season's culminating moment was a musical tribute by orchestra members celebrating Jeanne Lamon's 33 seasons at the helm of Tafelmusik.

Tafelmusik produced a number of initiatives last season to cultivate the next generation of musicians and concert-goers: the Orchestra attracted 37 pre-professional and professional musicians from around the world to study at the 2013/14 **Tafelmusik Baroque Summer Institute** (TBSI), which was organized by Artistic Co-ordinator **Charlotte Nediger**. The second **Tafelmusik Winter Institute** was held for advanced students and professional players of baroque string and continuo instruments; and the **Baroque Mentors** artistic training programme also continued with masterclasses by guest artists. **Tafelscene**, a free membership programme for people age 35 and under, was expanded to include **Baroque + Beer**, a popular event at the Tranzac Club.

Treasurer **Jeff Bennett** noted that the total of \$1.1 MM in Net Assets puts Tafelmusik in a strong position to invest in a number of upcoming new initiatives. A tremendously successful

joint gala with the University Health Network and Artists' Health Centre Foundation in May 2014 raised more than \$130,000 in support of Tafelmusik's concert and education programmes.

Outgoing Board Chair **Andy Kenins** was warmly thanked for his thoughtful and knowledgeable leadership, as well as the many hours he dedicated to the organization over the last seven years. Tafelmusik also welcomed new board members **Anne-Marie Applin, Susan Doniz, David Kilburn, Jay Nadarajah** and **Augusto Patmore**.

Tafelmusik thanked its sponsors and donors at the Annual General Meeting, with a special mention of Season Presenting Sponsor **Sun Life Financial** for its leadership support. **BMO Financial Group** was thanked for its significant support of the Tafelmusik Baroque Summer Institute. Tafelmusik also thanked its partners in government, the Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council, Toronto Arts Council, Canadian Heritage and City of Toronto.

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*Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra, founded in 1979, is one of the world's leading period performance ensembles. The Tafelmusik Chamber Choir, under the direction of Ivars Taurins, was formed in 1981 to complement the Orchestra. The orchestra performs more than 50 concerts each year at home in Toronto, and travels extensively around the world. The choir and orchestra's multi-platform recording label Tafelmusik Media was launched in January 2012, along with the Watch and Listen site, Tafelmusik's digital concert hall. Tafelmusik's rich discography of more than 80 CDs have been recorded on the Sony Classical, CBC Records, Analekta and Tafelmusik Media labels. Since 1991, Tafelmusik has received ten JUNO Awards and a Grammy Award nomination. Tafelmusik is the Baroque Orchestra-in-Residence at the Faculty of Music, University of Toronto and operates its annual artist training programmes, Tafelmusik Baroque Summer Institute and Tafelmusik Winter Institute. Tafelmusik has been led by Jeanne Lamon since 1981. In June 2014, Ms. Lamon stepped down as Music Director, and is continuing as Tafelmusik's Chief Artistic Advisor until her successor is appointed.*

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