Elisa Citterio, Guest Director

“Tafelmusik ... offered a vigorous and well-paced interpretation, with stately, buoyant and crisply etched playing.” – The New York Times (on Water Music)

Toronto, Canada, August 26, 2016 ... Following her stunning Tafelmusik debut in last November’s Baroque Masters concerts, the “brilliant and refined” Italian violinist Elisa Citterio (Critica Classica) returns as guest director for the opening concerts of the 2016/17 season. Citterio leads the orchestra in a program of baroque treasures including Handel’s festive Water Music, Bach’s Orchestral Suite no. 4 in D, and orchestral excerpts from Rameau’s extravagant opera-ballet, Les indes galantes, Sep 22 to 25, 2016 at Koerner Hall, and Sep 27, 2016 at Toronto Centre for the Arts.

Last performed by Tafelmusik as part of the orchestra’s Carnegie Hall debut in 2009, Water Music features a large orchestra with glorious winds and brass — the perfect way to celebrate the launch of the new season. Composed in 1717 for a royal barge party on the River Thames, King George enjoyed Handel’s new piece so much that he reportedly requested the musicians play it three times.

The opening program of the season includes celebratory music by two of Handel’s contemporaries, J.S. Bach and Jean-Philippe Rameau. Tafelmusik brings its “invigorating and freshly imagined approach” (Classics Today) to Bach’s Orchestral Suite no. 4 in D, a work the orchestra recorded in 2003. For the first time, Tafelmusik performs orchestral movements — Tambourin and Chaconne — from Rameau’s Les indes galantes, an opera-ballet inspired by Enlightenment-era Europe’s fascination with then-exotic lands.

Elisa Citterio grew up in a musical family, and her composer mother enjoyed listening to baroque music at home. From the age of fifteen, Citterio and her flutist sister played sonatas by Handel and Corelli, accompanied on harpsichord.
Citterio studied violin and viola at the L. Marenzio Conservatory in Brescia, graduating with the highest honours. Post-graduate work included baroque violin studies with Enrico Onofri, Luigi Mangiocavallo, and Chiara Banchini. She divides her artistic life between orchestral work and a busy schedule as a chamber musician. She has recorded and toured with ensembles such as Dolce & Tempesta, Europa Galante, Accademia Bizantina, Accordone, Zefiro, La Venexiana, La Risonanza, Ensemble 415, Concerto Italiano, Orchestra del Monsalvat, and Il Giardino Armonico. Citterio has collaborated with violinist Stefano Montanari, who is well-known to Tafelmusik audiences. Since 2004 she has been a member of the Orchestra of La Scala in Milan.

Elisa Citterio returns **May 4 to 7, 2017** to direct Tafelmusik’s debut performances of Haydn’s Symphony no. 98 in B-flat Major at Koerner Hall, part of the Mozart Mass in C Minor concerts that close the 2016/17 season.

Tickets for all of Tafelmusik's 2016/17 concerts at Trinity-St. Paul's Centre, Jeanne Lamon Hall, Massey Hall, Heliconian Hall, Koerner Hall, and Toronto Centre for the Arts are now on sale at tafelmusik.org.

**LISTING INFORMATION:**

Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra presents Handel Water Music, the opening concerts of its 2016/17 season, with guest director Elisa Citterio

**Dates + Times:**

Koerner Hall (KH), TELUS Centre for Performance and Learning
Thu Sep 22, Fri Sep 23, Sat Sep 24 at 8pm
Sun Sep 25 at 3:30pm

George Weston Recital Hall (GWRH), Toronto Centre for the Arts
Tue Sep 27 at 8pm

**Ticket Prices:**

**Koerner Hall: Regular:** Start at $49 | **65+:** Start at $40 | **35 & Under:** $26 - $91

**GWRH: Regular:** Start at $38 | **65+:** Start at $33 | **35 & Under:** $15 - $70

**Venues:**

Koerner Hall, 273 Bloor St. West, Toronto
George Weston Recital Hall, Toronto Centre for the Arts, 5040 Yonge St

**Box Office:**

Koerner Hall, Weston Family Box Office: (416) 408-0208
George Weston Recital Hall Box Office: 1 (855) 985-2787

**ABOUT TAFELMUSIK**

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 discography of 80-plus CDs has been recorded on the Sony Classical, CBC Records, Analekta and Tafelmusik Media labels. Since 1991, Tafelmusik has received nine JUNO Awards and a Grammy Award nomination. Tafelmusik is the Baroque Orchestra-in-Residence at the Faculty of Music, University of Toronto and operates annual artist training programs, Tafelmusik Baroque Summer Institute and Tafelmusik Winter Institute. Tafelmusik has been led by Jeanne Lamon since 1981, with Managing Director William Norris joining the team in 2015. In June 2014, Ms. Lamon stepped down as Music Director and continues her association with Tafelmusik as Music Director Emerita.

2016/17 SEASON PARTNERS

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