



BIOGRAPHY

JEANNE LAMON, C.M.

"Tafelmusik has a gift in Jeanne Lamon. Since taking over the then two-year old orchestra in 1981, she has helped build it into one of the foremost period-performance ensembles in the world."

— *Toronto Star*

Music Director of Tafelmusik since 1981, JEANNE LAMON C.M., has been praised by critics in Europe and North America for her virtuosity as a violinist and her strong musical leadership. Under her direction, Tafelmusik has achieved international stature and is considered "*one of the world's top baroque orchestras*" (Gramophone Magazine).

In addition to performing with and directing Tafelmusik, Ms. Lamon regularly guest directs symphony orchestras in North America and abroad. Recent engagements include The Detroit Symphony, Les Violons du Roy, l'Orchestre Métropolitain de Montréal, Symphony Nova Scotia, Victoria Symphony and Orchestra London.

Described as "a toweringly influential figure in the musical life of Canada" by the Canada Council for the Arts, Jeanne Lamon is a passionate educator who teaches at the University of Toronto and Toronto's Royal Conservatory of Music. In recognition of her outstanding leadership and contribution to music education in Canada, Ms. Lamon received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from Mount Saint Vincent University in the spring of 2007.

Jeanne Lamon was born and raised in New York State and attended Brandeis University, where she earned her Bachelor of Arts in Music degree. She began to specialize in baroque violin in the early 1970s, during her studies in Amsterdam with **Sigiswald Kuijken**. From 1972 to 1981 she was engaged as concertmaster of many period orchestras, both European and North American, including Il Complesso Barocco, Boston Baroque, Studio de Musique Ancienne de Montréal, and The Smithsonian Chamber Players of Washington, among others. In 1980, Lamon was invited to Toronto by Tafelmusik's founders, Kenneth Solway and Susan Graves, and was appointed music director in 1981.

Ms. Lamon has won numerous awards for her work with Tafelmusik. She received an honorary Doctorate of Letters from York University in 1994. In 1996 Ms. Lamon became the first recipient of the Muriel Sherrin Award, which is presented by the Toronto Arts Council Foundation to artists and creators who have excelled at international initiatives in the fields of music or dance. In 1997 the Alliance Française of Toronto awarded Ms. Lamon with its newly created *Prix Alliance* for her contributions to cultural exchanges and artistic ties between Canada and France. In September 1997 Ms. Lamon received the *Joan Chalmers Award* for Creativity and

Excellence in the Arts for her artistic direction of Tafelmusik. Jeanne Lamon received the Canada Council's prestigious *Molson Prize* in 1998 for her lifelong commitment to the arts and excellence in her field. In July 2000 Ms. Lamon was appointed a Member of the Order of Canada in recognition of her exceptional achievements as a baroque violinist, teacher, and Music Director of Tafelmusik. In April 2004 Ms. Lamon received the *Musician of the Year Award* from the Toronto Musicians' Association for outstanding Canadian musical achievement and artistic excellence. Ms. Lamon was the 2006 recipient of the Roy Thomson Hall Award of Recognition, and the 2007 recipient of the Betty Webster Award for Musical Leadership.

Ms. Lamon is a nature enthusiast who spends much time at her cottage in the Kawarthas which she shares with her partner, cellist Christina Mahler. Looking out over the lake and paddling a canoe has provided the inspiration for many Tafelmusik programmes, and a welcome antidote to a busy concert and touring schedule. Ms Lamon's hobbies include cooking, walking, reading and painting.

"Lamon's playing had a delicately contoured, high-metabolic, airborne swiftness in its intricate detail that seemed able to dispense with anything like sawing or slashing. It just flew. The beautiful central Largo movement, in contrast, was sombre and poignant."

The Globe and Mail

"Watching Lamon play is part of the joy of a Tafelmusik concert. She is constantly in motion, partly to lead her group, partly moved by the music itself, but always full of the emotional depth of the works she is performing."

The Globe and Mail

"The orchestra, led by Lamon from her concertmaster's chair, made the score glow and vibrate with rare warmth. Most importantly, it made the music sound as fresh as if it were created on the spot. This is music at its most powerful – a living force, not a museum piece."

Toronto Star

"Jeanne Lamon has developed a crack ensemble which, in the main baroque and classical repertoires from Vivaldi, Telemann, Bach and Handel to Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven (with a few rarities to spell them off), can be counted upon to give superb, idiomatic performances."

The Globe and Mail

"Beyond its impeccable discipline and luminous textures, the group displays an expressive sensibility that transcends the instruments, whether strung with gut or wire. That expressive empathy is most powerfully conveyed in the Adagio of the E-Major Concerto, where, over a measured tread, Jeanne Lamon spins out a radiant, sad line that might be a wordless aria from a Bach Passion."

The New York Times

"Lamon is a true virtuoso. There are few better baroque violinists in the world today and she led the ensemble of eighteen musicians in a concert that sounded like a non-playing conductor was choreographing every move."

Continuo

"In violinist Jeanne Lamon Tafelmusik has a leader who's first among equals, an engaging pro who knows how to put together a program of entertainment informed by a strong sense of history."

Chicago Reader