

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
University



Jeanne Lamon will teach Baroque masterclass at Laurier

Music director of Tafelmusik will teach performance techniques for Baroque instruments

For Immediate Release

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WATERLOO – A leading expert of Baroque style and techniques will deliver a public masterclass at Wilfrid Laurier University.

Jeanne Lamon, music director of the Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra and Chamber Choir, will teach a small group of students to perform using techniques from the Baroque period. She will lead the class from 5 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 22.

“This really is a rare opportunity for our students to learn about a style of playing that is not formally taught anywhere in Canada,” said Jeremy Bell, artist-in-residence at Laurier and violinist with the Penderecki String Quartet. “Jeanne Lamon has led the Baroque scene, nationally and internationally, and Tafelmusik has achieved international recognition with its concerts and recordings.”

The performance practice movement has permeated the music industry and has greatly influenced the manner in which artists of all backgrounds interpret early music. Tafelmusik’s 18 orchestra members are specialists in historical performance practice and perform on original instruments or modern replicas faithful in design and construction to the original.

Lamon’s violin has been restructured to replicate the early 18th-century physical construct of the violin, with a shorter fingerboard, thinner bass bar and open-gut strings. While students taking the masterclass will play on instruments with a contemporary design, she will show them how to adopt the Baroque style within the possibilities of their modern instruments

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Lamon is donating her services in order to support her form of music and music development at Laurier. She has been praised by critics in Europe and North America for her virtuosity on the violin and her strong musical leadership.

Music director of Tafelmusik since 1981, Lamon regularly guest directs symphony orchestras across Canada. Recent engagements include the Victoria Symphony, Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony, Orchestra London, Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra and frequent appearances with Symphony Nova Scotia.

Awards she's earned include the Prix Alliance from the Alliance Francaise, the 1997 M. Joan Chalmers National Award for Artistic Direction from the Ontario Arts Council, an honorary doctorate of letters from York University and one of the prestigious Molson Prizes from the Canada Council for the Arts. In 2000, she was named a member of the Order of Canada in recognition of her role in Tafelmusik and in 2003 was named musician of the year by her peers in the Toronto Musicians' Association.

Lamon is passionate about teaching young professionals. She teaches at both the University of Toronto and the Royal Conservatory of Music. This year, she is undertaking an extended period of teaching in France.

Lamon will teach the Laurier masterclass in room 221 of the John Aird Centre. The masterclass is open to members of the public, though the room can only accommodate a limited number of spectators.