



IVARS TAURINS

CONDUCTOR

Equally at home conducting symphonic and choral repertoire, **Ivars Taurins** is founding director of the Tafelmusik Chamber Choir, now in its 37th season. He was also founding member and principal violist of the Tafelmusik Orchestra for its first 23 years. Under his direction the Tafelmusik Chamber Choir has been widely praised for its clarity, nuance and brilliance.

Ivars Taurins appears regularly with the Calgary Philharmonic, with whom he was Principal Baroque Conductor of the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra from 2001-2011. He is also active as a guest conductor with orchestras and choirs across Canada, including the Edmonton, Victoria, Winnipeg, Kitchener-Waterloo, Regina, and Windsor Symphonies, Calgary and Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestras, Orchestra London, Symphony Nova Scotia, Manitoba Chamber Orchestra, Thirteen Strings (Ottawa), Vancouver Chamber Choir, Pro Coro Canada, Toronto Mendelssohn Choir, Winnipeg Singers, Halifax Camerata Singers, the Elora Festival Orchestra and Singers, and at the Festival International de Musique Baroque de Lamèque. In September 2011, Ivars Taurins was guest choir director for the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal, preparing a combined chorus of Tafelmusik Chamber Choir and members of the OSM Chorus for performances and a recording (Analekta) of Beethoven's Symphony No. 9, directed by Kent Nagano at the gala opening of the new Maison symphonique in Montreal. In 2017, Mr. Taurins went to Havana, Cuba to co-direct the Schola Cantorum Coralina together with its founding director Alina Orraca in a special concert celebrating the 85th anniversary of Glenn Gould's birth and Canada's 150th birthday. This season he looks forward to guest conducting engagements with the Regina Symphony and the Hamilton Philharmonic.

Mr. Taurins was director of the 2012 National Youth Choir of Canada, touring Ontario and Quebec. He was also director of the 2000 and 2009 Ontario Youth Choirs, the 2003 Nova Scotia Youth Choir and the 2004 Alberta University and College Choir, as well as guest director of the Nova Scotia, Calgary and London Youth Orchestras. In 2016, he directed Handel's *Alcina* for the Glenn Gould School vocal programme and the Royal Conservatory Orchestra, collaborating with veteran stage director Leon Major. A dynamic conductor, Ivars Taurins has impressed audiences with his exuberant and compelling performances. His regular appearances conducting the Tafelmusik Chamber Choir and Orchestra have received widespread critical acclaim and are frequently heard on CBC Radio. His recordings with Tafelmusik (CBC Records, Tafelmusik Media), have all received critical acclaim and Juno nominations. His most recent recording is a live-performance recording of Handel's *Messiah*, released on the Tafelmusik Media label.

Mr. Taurins was nominated for a 2011 Gemini Award for his performance as George Frideric Handel in *Sing-Along Messiah*, filmed by 90th Parallel Productions for Bravo! Television, and released on DVD by Tafelmusik Media.

Ivars Taurins and the Tafelmusik Chamber Choir have premiered works by R. Murray Schafer, Omar Daniels, Chan Ka Nin, Brian Cherney and Paul Frehner with Soundstreams Canada. The Tafelmusik Chamber Choir has also commissioned and premiered works by Jeffrey Ryan, Imant Raminsh, James Rolfe, Christos Hatzis, and Ruth Watson Henderson.

A passionate lecturer and teacher, Mr. Taurins teaches conducting at the University of Toronto. He is also on the faculty of the Glenn Gould Professional School, RCM in Toronto. He is in demand as a guest lecturer, adjudicator and clinician, and has been a guest teacher/conductor at the universities of Sherbrooke (Quebec), Queen's, Western (Ontario), Alberta, Calgary and Windsor. Mr. Taurins is director of the vocal/choral programme at the annual Tafelmusik Baroque Summer Institute.

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