

THEATRE OF EARLY MUSIC – 2011 US TOUR

Biographies

Daniel Taylor (Montreal)

Countertenor, Founder and Artistic Director

An exclusive recording artist for **Sony Classical Masterworks**, Daniel Taylor is one of the most sought-after countertenors in the world.

Daniel appears on more than eighty recordings which include Bach Cantatas/Monteverdi Choir/Gardiner (for Deutsche Grammophone Archiv and SDG); Renaissance duets with Bowman /Actor Ralph Fiennes/TEM (BIS); Handel's Rinaldo with Bartoli /AAM/Hogwood (Decca); Cantatas "Before Bach" with Collegium Vocale /Herrewege (Harmonia Mundi); Sakamoto's pop-opera "Life" with the Dalai Lama and Salman Rushdie (Sony); Bach Cantatas with Bach Collegium Japan (BIS); a Bach recital with the Theatre of Early Music (Sony); Vivaldi Gloria with the Bethlehem Bach Choir/Fumfgeld (Analekta); Vivaldi's Stabat Mater (BIS); four recordings of Handel's Messiah, these being with the Kammerchor Stuttgart (Carus), with the American Bach Soloists (Koch) and most recently a CD/DVD with Tafelmusik (Bravo Television) and a live recording with the New York Philharmonic. Daniel has recorded the CD/DVD of the Bach B minor Mass with the Ensemble Orchestrale Paris/Nelson (EMI Virgin) and also a CD with the Kammerchor Stuttgart/Bernius (Carus). Upcoming recordings include Handel's Jephtha with the Gabrieli Consort/McCreesh (Deutsche Gramophone Archiv), Bach Solo Cantatas with Lamon/Tafelmusik (Analekta), Bach St. Matthew Passion with the Kammerchor Stuttgart/Bernius (Carus) and Handel Judas Maccabeus with Clarion/Fox (Harmonia Mundi).



Daniel's debut at Glyndebourne in Handel's Theodora (recorded for Erato) followed on his operatic debut in Jonathan Miller's production of Handel's Rodelinda (EMI). He took the title role in Gluck's Orfeo at the Edinburgh Festival. His North American operatic debut was in Handel's Cesare at the New York Metropolitan Opera.

Daniel receives invitations from an ever-widening circle of the world's leading early and contemporary music ensembles, appearing in opera (Metropolitan Opera, Glyndebourne, San Francisco, Rome, Welsh National Opera, Canadian Opera, Opera North, Montreal Opera and Munich); oratorio (Gabrieli Consort, Monteverdi Choir/English Baroque Soloists, Bach Collegium Japan, Les Arts Florissants, Berlin Akademie fur Alte Musik, Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, King's Consort); symphonic works (Cleveland, St. Louis, Lisbon, Philadelphia, Tonhalle Zurich, Toronto, Gothenburg, Rotterdam, Montreal); recital (Vienna Konzerthaus, Frick Collection, New York, Forbidden Concert Hall, Beijing, Lufthansa Baroque Festival and Wigmore Hall, London) and film (Podeswa's Five Senses for Fineline - winner at Cannes and also of a Genie).

Daniel Taylor is recognized as "Canada's star countertenor" and "Canada's most prolific recording artist".

Highlights of past engagements include Handel's Messiah with San Francisco Symphony/Christophers; Handel's Rinaldo with the Academy of Ancient Music/Hogwood (with Bartoli for Decca); Handel's Israel in Egypt with the Cleveland Orchestra/McGegan; Messiah with the St. Louis Symphony/Christophers; Orff's Carmina Burana with the Toronto Symphony/Oundjan; Bach Christmas Oratorio with the National Arts Centre/Pinnock; Handel's Rinaldo at the Munich Opera/Bickett; Bernstein's Chichester Psalms with the Philadelphia Orchestra/Dutoit; Handel's Saul with Bachakademie Stuttgart/ Rilling (for Hänssler Classics); Buxtehude Cantatas with the Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra/Koopman (for Channel Classics); Orff's Carmina Burana with the Taiwan National Symphony/Grossman (for Koch) and Schnittke's Faust Cantata with the Rotterdam Philharmonic/Gergiev. Daniel also sang at a Pow-Wow of First Nations in Alberta and on Parliament Hill for Queen Elizabeth and the Prime Minister of Canada. He appeared on

German Television for the Prime Minister of Germany, on Spanish Television for the Queen of Spain and in a recital for the King and Queen of Sweden. With the Gabrieli Consort/McCreesh, Daniel toured Europe in Purcell's Odes, appeared in recital on Polish Television and toured Purcell's Dido and Aeneas; he also appeared in the Bach Christmas Oratorio with the Tonhalle Zurich Orchestra/McCreesh. With the Madrid National Orchestra/Goodwin, he sang in the Bach St. Matthew Passion on Spanish Television. With the Monteverdi Choir/Gardiner, Daniel appeared in Handel's Israel in Egypt on British Television at the BBC Proms; returning to the BBC Proms in recital with the Berlin Akamus. In March 2010 Daniel made his debut at New York's Carnegie Hall with composer/conductor Thomas Ades.

During the 2010 - 2011 season, new recordings were released : Handel Messiah with the Montreal Symphony/Nagano (for Sony), Bach St. John Passion with the Bethlehem Bach Choir/Funfgeld (Analekta). Daniel also appeared on the new soundtrack with the Cirque du Soleil (Universal) and on a pop album with Jonathan Reilly-Roe. Handel Messiah performances include Dallas Symphony/Rilling, Tafelmusik, the Montreal Symphony/Nagano and a return to the San Francisco Philharmonia Baroque/McGegan. Daniel returned to the St. Louis and Cleveland Orchestras and performed the Pergolesi Stabat Mater with both the National Arts Centre/McGegan and the Netherlands Bach Society/Cremonesi. Recital tours took him across Canada as well as to Europe and South America. Dame Emma Kirkby and Michael Chance appeared with Daniel and the Theatre of Early Music.

Highlights of 2011-2012 include the Bach B minor Mass in Los Angeles and San Francisco with the Philharmonia/McGegan, Handel Duets with Deborah York and Bach's setting of Pergolesi's Stabat Mater with Dame Emma Kirkby on tour across North America, Bach St. Matthew Passion (recording for Carus) with the Kammerchor Stuttgart/Bernius, Orff Carmina Burana with National Arts Centre Orchestra /Matheus and Bach Christmas Oratorio with Orchestre Métropolitain/Nezet-Séguin. Daniel joins the Faculty of the Carmel Bach Festival for concerts, lectures and masterclasses as well as the Faculty of the Victoria Conservatory Summer Academy. This season sees the worldwide release of Daniel's new recital disc "Come Again, Sweet Love" on Sony.

Daniel is a Professor of Voice at the University of Ottawa, an Adjunct Professor at McGill University and a Visiting Artist at the University of Toronto and the University of Victoria. Daniel is Artistic Director and Conductor of the Choir and Orchestra of the Theatre of Early Music. The Theatre of Early Music performs more than 30 concerts every year in concert halls all over

Deborah York, Soprano (England)

The English soprano, Deborah York, graduated from Manchester University with a First Class Honors Degree in music and went on to study at The Guildhall School of Music and Drama, London, with Laura Sarti. She now studies with Janice Chapman. Deborah York has established a reputation as one of the finest baroque singers and performs regularly with many of Europe's leading baroque ensembles. These include The King's Consort, Collegium Vocale Gent, The English Concert, the Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra, Freiburger Barockorchester and La Stagione, Frankfurt. In 2004, she formed the Amrita Ensemble with a group of fellow musicians to explore more fully the baroque solo cantata repertoire for soprano in an intimate chamber music setting. Also much in demand in operatic roles and classical repertoire, Deborah York performs and broadcasts regularly all over Europe. Her extensive discography includes cantatas by J.S. Bach with Philippe Herreweghe and with Ton Koopman, St Matthew Passion with the Gabrieli Consort and a Grammy-winning version of Stravinsky's The Rake's Progress with the London Symphony Orchestra and John Eliot Gardiner.



Cynthia Roberts, Violin (USA)

Cynthia Roberts is one of America's leading baroque violinists. She is concertmaster of New York's Concert Royal and Dallas Bach Society, and performs regularly with Tafelmusik, Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, New York Collegium and Handel & Haydn Society. She has performed with London Classical Players and the Taverner Players, and is a principal player at the Carmel Bach Festival. Performance highlights include Bach violin sonatas at the Mostly Mozart Festival, chamber music at the Prague Festival, solo performances in conjunction with the Boston Early Music Festival, and Four Seasons for the New York Baroque Dance Company. Cynthia Roberts is a member of the faculties of the University of North Texas and the Oberlin Baroque Performance Institute and is a Kulas Visiting Artist at CWRU. Her extensive recording and broadcast credits include Sony Classical, BMG/Deutsche Harmonia Mundi, NPR, CBC and WDR.



Edwin Huizinga, Violin

David Miller, Viola (USA)

A devoted performer of chamber music on period instruments and a pioneer of early music performance in this country, he is a founding member of the Classical Quartet, the Red Cedar Trio, the Haydn Baryton Trio, the Bach Ensemble and Concert Royal, as well as guest artist with the Mozartean Players and Helicon. Mr. Miller has served as principal violist for numerous Baroque and Classical orchestras including the Boston Early Music Festival, the Handel & Haydn Society, the New York Collegium, and the American Classical Orchestra. Notable chamber music appearances at summer festivals include Mostly Mozart at Lincoln Center; Tanglewood; the Festival of Perth, Australia; the Lufthansa Festival of London; and the Esterhazy Palace in Eisenstadt, Austria. His many recordings of solo and chamber works can be heard on Centaur, Decca Dorian, EMI, Fleur de Son Classics, Harmonia Mundi, the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Smithsonian Collection of Recordings, among others.



Amanda Keesmaat, Cello (Montréal)

Amanda Keesmaat has been a vibrant presence in the Montreal early music community for more than 10 years. Playing continuo, she has recorded with prominent singers such as Daniel Taylor, Natalie Paulin, Susie Le Blanc, Marie-Nicole Lemieux, Shannon Mercer and Matthew White, as well as renowned ensembles such as Arion, Les Voix Baroques, Skye Consort and Les Boréades. Amanda appears regularly on concert series with Ensemble Caprice, Clavecin en Concert, Studio Musique Ancienne de Montréal and at festivals such as Montreal Baroque, Ottawa Chamber Music Festival and Vancouver Early Music Festival (Festival Vancouver). Amanda holds degrees from McGill University and the University of Western Ontario.



Reuven Rothman, Double Bass (Montreal)

Reuven Rothman studied at the University of Toronto, McGill University, and the Conservatoire de Québec à Montréal. He has performed with the MSO, the Canadian Opera Company, the Windsor Symphony, Daniel Taylor's Theatre of Early Music, the Montreal Baroque Orchestra and the Vermont Symphony.



Eric Milnes, Harpsichord

David Jacques , Lute & Baroque Guitar (Québec)

David Jacques was born in Saint-Georges de Beauce, Quebec in 1978 and has a Doctorate in the interpretation of early music from the Université de Montréal. He began his studies of classical guitar at the Cégep de Sainte-Foy, continuing at Université Laval and later at the Québec Conservatory. He has recorded more than 15 CDs on the XXI-21, ATMA and Analekta labels and collaborated on numerous other productions. His Pièces de guitare de Mr Rémy Médard (Productions XX-21) won the Conseil Québécois de la Musique's 2008 Prix Opus Disc of the Year award in the early music category. David has also published several arrangements for guitar for Les Productions d'OZ. Active both in Canada and internationally, he has performed over 2000 concerts in 30 countries on all five continents. He is currently Professor of Classical Guitar at Université Laval and the Cégep de Sainte-Foy and is frequently invited by other musical organizations to give master classes and workshops.

