



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION  
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**MANITOBA OPERA'S 2014/15 SEASON TO INCLUDE BEETHOVEN'S *FIDELIO*,  
IN COMMEMORATION OF THE OPENING OF  
THE CANADIAN MUSEUM FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**

*Fidelio*, Beethoven's only opera and his powerful ode to freedom, will kick off Manitoba Opera's 42<sup>nd</sup> season **November 22, 25, and 28** at the Centennial Concert Hall. Selected to commemorate the opening of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, this will be the first time in the company's history that this opera has been staged.

The season will close with Puccini's final opera *Turandot* on **April 18, 21, and 24**. Set in ancient Peking, *Turandot*, with its breathtaking pageantry and lush music, is music drama par excellence and has not been presented by Manitoba Opera since 1996.

"I am very excited about the operas we are presenting next season: Beethoven's inspiring opera *Fidelio* and Puccini's breathtaking spectacle *Turandot*, featuring the beautiful aria "Nessun Dorma," commented Larry Desrochers, General Director & CEO. "*Fidelio*'s themes of personal sacrifice and heroism and the struggle for liberty and justice will offer a fitting celebration of the opening of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights."

Beethoven worked on his masterpiece for 12 years, constantly revising and reshaping the work. 2014 marks the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his final version of the opera which celebrates courage in the face of tyranny.

*Fidelio* tells the story of the courageous wife Leonore and her plan to rescue her husband. She disguises herself as a man in order to gain access to the prison in which her beloved is being wrongfully held. Against all odds and at great danger to herself, she succeeds in seeing him set free.

Conceived and staged by the acclaimed Serbian opera director **Dejan Miladinovic**, this production of *Fidelio* is set in a prison in Eastern Europe at the height of the Cold War.

## 2. MB Opera 2014/15 Season Announcement

The story of *Turandot* centres on the beautiful, but icy Princess Turandot who announces that she will marry the man who can solve her three riddles, but gravely punish those who cannot. Heads roll until one clever prince appears and is determined to win over the princess or die trying. He solves her trio of challenges and then offers Turandot his life if she can solve the riddle he presents to her.

Puccini's spectacular masterpiece features one of the most profoundly beautiful scores in all of opera.

Manitoba Opera continues its commitment in the 2014/15 season, to develop Canadian artists by offering opportunities for them to debut roles with the company. **David Pomeroy** will make role debuts in both *Fidelio* and *Turandot* as Florestan and Calaf, respectively. Pomeroy is one of Canada's leading tenors and is well equipped to move into this heavier repertoire. Canadian soprano **Ileana Montalbetti** will make her Canadian debut as Leonore in *Fidelio*, having sung the role for the first time last year in Detroit. **Michael Colvin** will make his role debut as Jacquino. Winnipegger **Lara Secord-Haid**, a recent graduate from the Julliard School in New York, will make her Manitoba Opera debut as Marcellina.

Canadian bass **Valerian Ruminski** will sing the role of the prison warden, Rocco. American baritone **Kristopher Irmiter** will sing the role of Pizarro. Irmiter last performed for the company in the title role of *The Marriage of Figaro* in 2006.

In *Turandot*, Russian soprano **Mlada Khudoley**, who sang Salome for the company in 2011, will return to sing the role of the icy princess. Winnipeg soprano **Lara Ciekiewicz** (Musetta in this season's *La Bohème*) will make her role debut as Liù, and **Ben Covey** will make his role debut as Ping. Former Winnipegger **Keith Klassen** will sing Pang and **Christopher Mayell** will make his MO debut as Pong. **Gene Wu** will make his MO debut in the role of the Mandarin.

Both productions will be conducted by **Tyrone Paterson**, Manitoba Opera's Music Advisor and Principal Conductor, with the **Manitoba Opera Chorus** and the **Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra**.

*Fidelio* will be sung in German and *Turandot* will be sung in Italian. Both productions will feature projected English translations above the stage.

Tickets to the 2014/15 season are now on sale. Save up to 75% over single ticket prices with a subscription. Subscriptions start at \$60. Discounts for youth (14 and under), students and seniors are available. To purchase tickets or for more information, call 204-957-7842 or go to [www.manitobaopera.mb.ca](http://www.manitobaopera.mb.ca)

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