



MANITOBA OPERA

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MANITOBA OPERA INVITES FORMER REFUGEES TO APPEAR IN *FIDELIO*

Manitoba Opera is looking for approximately 100 volunteers who arrived in Winnipeg as refugees, to appear in the season-opening production of Beethoven's *Fidelio* in November at the Centennial Concert Hall.

"*Fidelio* tells the story of Leonore, a young woman who disguises herself as a young man so that she can work in a jail where her husband is a political prisoner," explains Larry Desrochers, General Director & CEO. "In the final scene of the opera, she successfully frees her husband, as well as the other prisoners, and the community gathers to witness their release. The former refugees would appear in this scene as part of the community seeing the prisoners released."

Manitoba Opera has programmed *Fidelio* to celebrate the opening of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights. Volunteers participating in the production will have the unique opportunity to take part in a powerful expression of humanity's right to be free of oppression.

"As we worked on the opera, we began to see how universal the story really is. Though written 200 years ago, it is still, unfortunately, relevant today. So many people have suffered terribly under oppressive regimes, and many of them have sought refuge in our province. It only seemed right to include them somehow. The story of *Fidelio* is their story," adds Desrochers.

"Participants from a wide variety of cultural backgrounds and ages who came to Canada as refugees are invited to participate, although children must be 12 years of age or older and accompanied by an adult," explains Livia Dymond, Manitoba Opera Education and Outreach Coordinator.

2. Manitoba Opera looking for 100 Volunteers

“We are also very pleased to be working with a number of organizations in the city on this project including Hospitality House Refugee Ministry; Manitoba Interfaith Immigration Council/Welcome Place; Accueil francophone; and Immigrant Centre Manitoba, to name a few.”

Volunteers are not required to sing and no previous stage experience is necessary, however, instructions will be provided in English. There will be rehearsals at the Centennial Concert Hall prior to the first performance.

For more information or to volunteer, phone Manitoba Opera at 204-944-8824 or contact Livia Dymond at ldymond@manitobaopera.mb.ca. More information is also online at www.manitobaopera.mb.ca

Fidelio will be presented by Manitoba Opera November 22, 25, and 28 at the Centennial Concert Hall. For tickets, call 204-944-8824 or go to www.manitobaopera.mb.ca.