



## MANITOBA OPERA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
November 10, 2016

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
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### ***Falstaff*, Verdi's Brilliant Comic Opera, opens Manitoba Opera's 2016/17 Season November 19, 22, 25**

***"All the world's a jest...he who laughs last, laughs best!"***

What could possibly go wrong when a well-aged knight who thinks he's still "got it," sends identical love letters to two married women? Plenty! ***Falstaff***, one of the operatic world's greatest comedies, opens Manitoba Opera's 2016/17 season with three performances **Saturday, November 19 (7:30 pm), Tuesday, November 22 (7 pm), and Friday, November 25 (7:30 pm)** at the Centennial Concert Hall. A Manitoba Opera (MO) premiere, ***Falstaff*** is the musical retelling of Shakespeare's *Merry Wives of Windsor* and features disguises, cross dressing, a late-night forest prank, plots, and counterplots. It is the crowning achievement and final opera of the great Italian composer, Giuseppe Verdi.

Sir John Falstaff, a down-and-out Knight of the Garter, audaciously woos two married women hoping to tap into their husbands' fortunes. However, he underestimates the outrage and cleverness of these "Merry Wives." Their retribution is the foundation for brilliant music, delightful comic situations, Verdi's self-parody, and a bit of pathos, too. Falstaff's vanity and buffoonery are lampooned, but undaunted he declares, "All the world's a jest, he who laughs last, laughs best!"

Set in Windsor, during the reign of Henry IV of England, ***Falstaff*** will be sung in Italian with English translations projected above the stage.

#### The Artists:

Baritone **Todd Thomas**, last seen on the Manitoba Opera stage as Rigoletto in 2012, returns to delve into the title role and Winnipeg's own **Monica Huisman** appears as Alice, the merriest of the "Windsor Wives." Former Winnipegger **Gregory Dahl**, who appeared last season as George in *Of Mice and Men*, will sing the role of Ford. The ensemble-cast will also include **Sasha Djihanian** in her Manitoba Opera debut as Nannetta, **Lauren Segal** as Meg Page, and **Lynne McMurtry** as Dame Quickly. Another Manitoban, **James McLennan**, returns to sing Bardolfo, with **Christopher Mayell**, Pong in *Turandot* (2014/15), as Dr. Caius, and two additional MO debuts with **Tyler Putnam** as Pistola and **Kevin Myers** as Fenton.

Former Winnipegger **Michael Cavanagh** will direct, with Manitoba Opera's Music Advisor and Principal Conductor, **Tyrone Paterson** conducting the **Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra**. The **Manitoba Opera Chorus** will add their voices to the production.

Lighting is by **Bill Williams**. Sets and costumes are from **Opéra de Montréal** and were originally created by **New York City Opera**.

Tickets are on sale now at 204-944-8824, online at manitobaopera.mb.ca, or in person at the MO Box Office, lower level, Centennial Concert Hall (9:30 am – 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday). Seniors, student, and youth discounts are available.

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**FALSTAFF FUNDERS, SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS**

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