



Manitoba Chamber Orchestra

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FOR MORE INFORMATION
Darlene Ronald – Manitoba Opera
dronald84@shaw.ca/204 255-0508

Opera Meets Chamber Music
DIDO AND AENEAS IN CONCERT
FEBRUARY 7 & 8

Presented by Manitoba Opera & the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra

"Death must come when he is gone."

The baroque tragic masterpiece by Henry Purcell, ***Dido and Aeneas*** (pronounced Die dough and Eh knee as), England's oldest opera (1689), will be co-presented by Manitoba Opera (MO) and the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra (MCO) Tuesday, February 7 and Wednesday, February 8 beginning at 7:30 pm, at Westminster United Church (745 Westminster Avenue).

Starring the singular voice of Canada's acclaimed countertenor, **Daniel Taylor** as the Sorceress, this concert presentation will also feature the Theatre of Early Music Ensemble under the direction of Mr. Taylor. Daniel Taylor is the most sought-after countertenor in the world and with 80 recordings to his name, he is considered Canada's most prolific recording artist. (A countertenor is a male singing voice equivalent in vocal range to that of a female contralto or mezzo-soprano.) He last appeared with MCO in 2007 singing works of Handel.

Adapted from the love story from Virgil's *Aeneid*, *Dido and Aeneas* will be sung in English and features magnificent music, potent drama, and remarkable intensity. Dido's "Lament" (When I am laid in earth), is one of opera's most moving expressions of sorrow and has been called one of the greatest arias in the history of music. The libretto by Nahum Tate is considered to be the most perfect short opera libretto ever written.

THE STORY:

The legendary Queen of Carthage, Dido, falls in love with the Trojan refugee prince, Aeneas, who has landed in Carthage after fleeing Troy following defeat in the Trojan War. In the meantime, witches plot Dido's destruction. The Sorceress has one of her coven impersonate Mercury who tells Aeneas he must leave Dido and found the new Troy (Rome). Forced to choose between passion and duty, Aeneas and his sailors prepare to leave, much to the witches' delight. Dido, who cannot live without Aeneas, is shamed and heartbroken, and kills herself.

The program will also include a short concert of early music including Purcell's *The Moor's Revenge*; *Remember not, Lord our offences*; *Hear my prayer, O Lord*; and Thomas Tallis' *O nata lux de lumine*.

TICKETS:

Tickets are \$26.50 (adults), \$24.50 (seniors), and \$7.50 (students) and available by phone: 944-8824 (MO), 783-7377 (MCO); online: tickets.manitobaopera.mb.ca and themco.ca; or in person: MO Box Office (Centennial Concert Hall), McNally Robinson Booksellers, West End Cultural Centre, and Organic Planet Worker Co-op. Also available at the door.

Doors open at 6:30 pm. Rush seating.

2. *Dido and Aeneas* in Concert February 7/8, 2012

THE ARTISTS:

Theatre of Early Music (TEM):

The TEM is an 18-piece vocal and instrumental ensemble founded by Artistic Director and Conductor, Daniel Taylor that presents magnificent, yet sometimes neglected, choral and instrumental repertoire.

The core of the TEM consists of an ensemble based in Canada that is primarily made up of young musicians. In various combinations, leading international musicians in the field perform on the platform provided by the Theatre of Early Music in concerts conducted by Daniel Taylor in its regular series in Montreal, Ottawa, and Toronto, on tours around the world, and on recordings. The choir and orchestra of the TEM appear in some 30 concerts every year and recently have performed on stages in France, Argentina, Brazil, England, and China. The 2011/12 season will see them performing throughout North America from Los Angeles to Montreal.

Dido	Noemi Kiss
Aeneas	Alexander Dobson
Belinda	Grace Davidson
2 nd Woman	Agnes Zsigovics
Sorceress	Daniel Taylor
Sailor	Benjamin Butterfield
1st Witch	Meara Conway
2 nd Witch	Meg Bragle
Spirit	David Clegg

Consort of the Theatre of Early Music:

Isabelle Huchette and Jana Miller
Andrew Gray and Martin Auclair
Chloe Meyers and Jean Paterson, violins
Pemi Paull, viola
Amanda Keesmaat, cello
Sylvain Bergeron, lute
Reuven Rothman, double bass
Christopher Jackson, harpsichord

For more information:

- Daniel Taylor and the Theatre of Early Music: www.theatreofearlymusic.com
- Manitoba Opera: www.manitobaopera.mb.ca
- Manitoba Chamber Orchestra: www.mco.mb.ca

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2011/12 Sponsors and Funders

February 7: Concert Sponsor, LBL Holdings; Concertmaster Sponsor, Bill Neville

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MO Supporters: Richardson Foundation, BMO, Great-West Life Assurance Company, SunLife Financial, Telpay, Investors, Wawanesa, McKim Cringan George, Winnipeg Free Press, Delta Winnipeg, Goldenwest Radio.

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