

# Bringing Marie to life a dream come true for Winnipeg soprano

“I love to embrace characters that are not anything like me,” says Nikki Einfeld, the Winnipeg-born coloratura soprano and self-proclaimed “girly girl” singing the role of the tomboy Marie in the final production of the 2011/12 season, *The Daughter of the Regiment*.

“I think the thing that fascinates me the most is her honesty, both in action and in emotion. It’s refreshing to play someone so uncensored.”

This will be Ms. Einfeld’s debut in the role of Marie, the feisty tomboy who is raised by a regiment of French soldiers only to find out that she is of noble birth and arranged to marry the nephew of the mighty Duchess of Krackenthorp.

“It will be very satisfying to finally let her breathe life here with Manitoba Opera,” she says of the demanding character. “Marie is on the ‘dream roles’ list for many coloraturas. It is really a tour de force of acting, singing, and ensemble work that is a physical and emotional challenge.”

Born in Winnipeg before moving to Ontario with her family, she returned to the city in time for junior high. She graduated from Oak Park High School and then the University of Manitoba with a bachelor’s degree in music performance.

Although her father encouraged a love of music in her childhood, it wasn’t until her university years that she received vocal training in classical music. There, her career took a fateful turn the day she met one of Winnipeg’s other famous sopranos, Tracy Dahl, a professor at the U of M.

“She has been a wonderful teacher and mentor to me throughout my career,” says Ms. Einfeld. “In many ways I consider her family.”

Although now residing in the U.S., she has always considered Winnipeg her home.



“I love returning to Winnipeg to sing. It feels like coming back to my roots, to the company that gave me my first big breaks on the stage. So many members of the chorus and staff were here when I first started to sing with MO in the chorus myself, and I feel like I am among friends.”

No stranger to comedic operas, Nikki Einfeld last made us laugh in November 2009 when she sang Rosina in *The Barber of Seville*.

But as the fire-haired soprano points out, “being funny is hard.” However, it’s not just the laughs that she is looking forward to with this role – it seems there is more to the charming tomboy than meets the eye.

“There are also some heart-wrenchingly beautiful moments for Marie throughout the opera,” says Ms. Einfeld. “They make her character more human and infuse the story with just the right amount of heart.”

**Buy Tickets to *The Daughter of the Regiment*:**

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