

Good to Know:

The Daughter of the Regiment

Great comedy, spectacular singing, and happy endings will be the order of the day at *The Daughter of the Regiment* (April 21, 24, and 27), which was last performed by the company 21 years ago. Here are a few points about the production that you may find good to know:

- Premiered in 1840, this bel canto opera, meaning “beautiful singing,” was composed by Gaetano Donizetti. Known as a “singer’s composer,” Donizetti believed the voice rather than the orchestra was the most important component in opera, and he believed in the supremacy of melody. Perhaps this approach is what has enabled Donizetti’s operas to continue to delight audiences to this day.
- There is no greater role for a coloratura soprano than that of Marie. Winnipeg’s own Nikki Einfeld will be singing her first Marie with this production. She last appeared on the MO stage as Rosina in the acclaimed 2009 production of *The Barber of Seville*.
- The role of Tonio helped launch Luciano Pavarotti’s career when the young tenor appeared opposite Joan Sutherland in the 1966 Covent Garden production. His performance of the treacherous “Ah! Mes amis” earned him the nickname “the king of the high C’s.”
- Canadian lyric tenor, John Tessier, who will be singing the role of Tonio, is a Juno
- Award-winning artist who has performed previously with the company in *The Barber of Seville* (Almaviva) 2001 and *Così fan tutte* (Ferrando) 2003. To hear Mr. Tessier’s rendition of “Ah! Mes amis,” [click here](#).
- Tenors have Donizetti to thank for their being the leading men in opera, as it was his innovation to develop the dramatic tenor as the leading man. Without his influence, it could easily have been the “Three Baritones” rather than the “Three Tenors.”



Nikki Einfeld as Rosina in the 2009 MO production of *The Barber of Seville*. Photo: R Tinker