

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
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**VERDI'S MASTERPIECE, *RIGOLETTO*
OPENS MANITOBA OPERA'S 40TH SEASON
NOVEMBER 24, 27, & 30, 2012**

The richly layered tale of the court jester and Gilda, his daughter by the great Italian composer, Giuseppe Verdi, will open Manitoba Opera's 40th season with three performances at the Centennial Concert Hall on Saturday, November 24 (8 pm), Tuesday, November 27 (7 pm), and Friday, November 30 (8 pm).

Tickets are on sale now by phone: 204-944-8824; online: manitobaopera.mb.ca; and at the Manitoba Opera Box Office, lower level, Centennial Concert Hall (M to F, 9:30 am – 4:30 pm).

With a veritable hit parade of arias, duets, and ensembles, *Rigoletto* remains one of the most popular operas of all time and features some of opera's most recognizable melodies: Gilda's wistful "Caro nome," the famous Quartet, and perhaps the most well-known of all, "La donna è mobile" (Women are fickle), sung by the Duke and today heard everywhere in popular culture including commercials, movies, and video games.

Bringing the opera to life on the Manitoba Opera stage will be a cast of internationally acclaimed artists lead by American baritone **Todd Thomas** as Rigoletto; Winnipeg's own coloratura soprano **Tracy Dahl** as Gilda; Canadian tenor **David Pomeroy** as the lecherous young duke; and Canadian mezzo-soprano **Lauren Segal** as Maddalena. The production will be directed by **Rob Herriot** and conducted by **Tyrone Paterson** with the **Manitoba Opera Chorus** and **Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra**.

Other cast members are **James McLennan**, Borsa; **Kathryn Patrick**, Countess Ceprano; **Mel Braun**, Marullo; **Howard Rempel**, Count Ceprano; **Peter Volpe**, Count Monterone/Sparafucile; **Dawn Bruch**, Giovanna; **Michal Kowalik**, A Herald; and **Susanne Reimer**, A Page.

Rigoletto, which Verdi described as "the best plot and perhaps the best play of modern times," is based on the play *Le roi s'amuse* (*The king has fun*) by French author Victor Hugo (whose prolific writings also include *Les Misérables*, *Lucretia Borgia*, and *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*).

2. *Manitoba Opera presents Rigoletto, November 24, 27, 30, 2012*

This captivating tale takes us on a compelling emotional journey as we follow the jester's efforts to protect the naïve Gilda from the court's bad boy, the licentious Duke of Mantua. Gilda falls in love with the Duke and eventually sacrifices her life in an attempt to save him from the assassins that Rigoletto has hired.

Set and props are designed by Lawrence Schafer and provided by New Orleans Opera. Wardrobe is by Malabar Ltd. (Toronto) and lighting is by Bill Williams.

Rigoletto will be sung in Italian, with English translations projected above the stage.

For more information on the production, go to www.manitobaopera.mb.ca



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