



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Friday, November 7, 2008

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION  
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**Manitoba Opera Opens 2008/09 Season with  
International Singing Star, Canadian Tenor Richard Margison  
in Verdi's Spectacular *Il Trovatore***

**November 22, 25 and 28, 2008**

Manitoba Opera's 36<sup>th</sup> season opens with three performances of Verdi's spectacular blood-and-thunder opera, *Il Trovatore*, **Saturday, November 22 (8 pm), Tuesday, November 25 (7 pm), and Friday, November 28 (8 pm)** at the Centennial Concert Hall. Tickets are on sale now at all Ticketmaster outlets, by phone: 253-ARTS (2787), or online at [ticketmaster.ca](http://ticketmaster.ca). Ticket prices range from \$30 to \$104 for adults; \$30 to \$97 for seniors/students; and \$17.25 to \$54.25 for children 12 and under.

International star, Canadian tenor **Richard Margison** will sing the role of Manrico in this heart-stopping drama which features one of Verdi's most powerfully passionate and magnificent musical scores. Mr. Margison last appeared with Manitoba Opera in 1992 in *The Masked Ball*.

From beginning to end, this opera is full of thrilling arias, ensembles and choruses including the famous Anvil Chorus. It was last presented by Manitoba Opera 20 years ago and is considered the ultimate Romantic opera with its tale of tragedy, doomed love, brave men and passionate women, swordfights and last-minute rescue attempts.

Mr. Margison will be joined by an outstanding cast including Canadian soprano, **Michele Capalbo**, who will sing the role of Leonora. Ms. Capalbo is a world-class singer with a beautiful timbre and exciting vocal dexterity. Her performance as Aïda in the Zeffereilli production at Teatro Sociale in Mantova in 2005 was described as having "moments of authentic perfection and a rich palette of expressions underlined by intense sensibility."

Making his Manitoba Opera debut as Count di Luna, is American baritone **Todd Thomas**, who is known worldwide as a true Verdi baritone and has sung with companies throughout North America. Bulgarian mezzo-soprano **Emilia Boteva**, who now lives in Canada, returns to MO to sing the role of Azucena, the character upon which the opera hinges. Ms. Boteva was very well received when she made her MO debut at the 2007 Belle Voci concert. **Tyrone Paterson**, MO's Music Advisor and Principal Conductor will conduct, with former Winnipegger, **Michael Cavanagh** returning to direct.

...more on reverse

**The Story:**

In fifteenth-century Spain during a civil war, two brothers, Manrico and Count di Luna, (unbeknownst to each other), are in love with the same woman and fight to the death for love and country. Meanwhile, a gypsy (Azucena) avenges her mother's fiery death and a beautiful aristocrat (Leonora) sacrifices her honour to save the man she loves.

When the Count gains the upper hand in the feud by imprisoning Azucena and Manrico, he orders Manrico beheaded only to learn too late that Manrico is his long-believed-dead brother.

**The Artists:**

Directed by Michael Cavanagh

Conducted by Tyrone Paterson

Manrico

Richard Margison

Count di Luna

Todd Thomas

Leonora

Michele Capalbo

Azucena

Emilia Boteva

Ferrando

Kirk Eichelberger

Ines

Dawn Bruch

Ruiz

Victor Pankratz

Also featuring the Manitoba Opera Chorus and Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra.

Lighting by Scott Henderson.



***2008/09 Sponsors, Funders & Partners***

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