



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Monday, November 9, 2009

***Figaro! Figaro! Figaro!***  
**Manitoba Opera presents the Comedy Classic,**  
***The Barber of Seville,***  
**November 21, 24, 27, 2009**

Manitoba Opera opens the 2009/10 season with the comedy classic, *The Barber of Seville* for three shows only at the Centennial Concert Hall, **Saturday, November 21 (8 pm), Tuesday, November 24 (7 pm), and Friday, November 27 (8 pm)**. It's one close shave after another in this classic opera buffa in which Figaro, the ingenious town barber, aids his friend, Count Almaviva, in his bid for the lovely Rosina. It means outfoxing her lecherous old guardian, Dr. Bartolo however, as he has plans to marry her himself.

Disguise, subterfuge, collusion, and deception rule the day in this celebrated and beloved comedy set in 17<sup>th</sup> century Spain. With irresistible characters, Rossini's lyrical melodies, the famous overture, show-stopping arias including one of the most popular of all time, "Largo al factotum" (Figaro, Figaro, Figaro), and a handful of delightful ensemble pieces, *The Barber of Seville* is a laugh fest for all.

It's a perfect opera for first-timers and great entertainment for the whole family.

Tickets are on sale now. Go to [www.ticketmaster.ca](http://www.ticketmaster.ca); call (204) 253-(ARTS) 2787; or visit a Ticketmaster outlet. Casual ticket prices: \$35 to \$125 (adults); \$35 to \$112 (seniors/students); children 12 and under – 50% off the adult casual price. *Prices include GST, the MCCCH \$1.50 ticket surcharge, and the Ticketmaster \$3.50 service charge.*

You can still subscribe! See *The Barber of Seville* and *Carmen* for just \$47. Call 957-7842.

#### **THE ARTISTS**

Winnipeg's own **Nikki Einfeld** will sing the role of Rosina. She appeared as Adele in MO's 2006 production of *Die Fledermaus*. "...tossed off Rossini's coloratura 'Una voce poco fa' with an accuracy and musicality that made all the aria's florid runs sound easy." – *Jake Neals Music Reviews* (Nevada Opera) "Her performance has major career stamped all over it..." *San Francisco Classical Voice*

**James Westman**, a leading young Canadian baritone will sing the jack-of-all-trades role of Figaro. He last sang with Manitoba Opera as Guglielmo in Mozart's *Così fan tutte* in February, 2003. "His baritone was strong and forthright, its vigor and rolling power fully appropriate for the role." *Santa Fe Pasa Reviews*

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2. *Manitoba Opera presents The Barber of Seville, November 2009*

American tenor **Victor Ryan Robertson**, known for his versatile singing ability and style will make his Manitoba Opera debut as the lovesick Count Almaviva. "...able to scale the heights and sustain his phrases without it ever sounding too difficult." *The Stage*, UK

Former Winnipegger, **Peter Strummer**, one of the leading character bass-baritones, returns to sing the role of Dr. Bartolo. "...a convincing Bartolo, with his testiness and just the right amount of boorishness....he was a pleasure to listen to." *Press-Republic*

Other cast members include **David Watson** as Fiorello, **Donnalynn Grills** as Berta, **Gregory Atkinson** as Don Basilio, **Timothy Magas** as Ambrogio, **Howard Rempel** as An Officer, and **Russ Foster** as A Notary.

Last performed by Manitoba Opera in 2001, *The Barber of Seville* will be directed by veteran opera director **David Gately**, in his Manitoba Opera debut and conducted by Manitoba Opera Chorus Master **Tadeusz Biernacki**. It will be sung in Italian with English translations projected above the stage.

Lighting design is by **Bill Williams**. The set, designed by John Stoddart, is from the Canadian Opera Company and the costumes from Malabar Ltd. (Toronto).

### **THE STORY**

*The Barber of Seville* is the back story for *The Marriage of Figaro* when the young Count Almaviva is first in love with the beautiful Rosina. Figaro, the barber, helps Count Almaviva win the hand of Rosina and helps them escape the clutches of her greedy guardian, Dr. Bartolo, who plans to marry her himself.

The Count wants Rosina to love him for himself and not for his money and pretends to be a penniless student. Rosina returns his love, but she's a prisoner in Bartolo's house. Figaro smuggles Almaviva into the house, outfoxing Bartolo and snatching her right out from under his nose!

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## **2009/10 SPONSORS, FUNDERS & PARTNERS**

### **SEASON FUNDERS:**

**Manitoba Arts Council, Canada Council for the Arts,  
Winnipeg Arts Council, The Winnipeg Foundation**

**SEASON SUPPORTERS: Richardson Foundation, BMO – Bank of Montreal**

### **PRODUCTION & PERFORMANCE SPONSORS:**

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