



For Immediate Release
May 19, 2010

SOMETHING MAGICAL
MANITOBA OPERA PRESENTS
TOSCA & THE MAGIC FLUTE
IN 2010/11 SEASON

For the 2010/11 Season, Manitoba Opera will be presenting two full productions - Puccini's political thriller, *Tosca* (**November 20, 23, 26**) and Mozart's comical masterpiece, *The Magic Flute* (**April 9, 12, 15**) - and will be kicking off the season with the **Divas and Divos Gala Concert** on **Saturday, October 16**. All performances will take place at the Centennial Concert Hall.

"Something magical. That's what opera is - an awe-inspiring blend of voice, music, story, and spectacle that lifts from your seat, puts an aria in your heart, or leaves you a little breathless," commented Larry Desrochers, General Director & CEO. "And we've put a little magic into our 2010/11 Season with some of Canada's finest singers including Richard Margison, Wendy Nielsen, Phillip Ens, David Pomeroy, and Lauren Segal, joining us for a fantastic benefit gala, a Puccini shocker, and a Mozart gem."

DIVAS AND DIVOS GALA CONCERT Saturday, October 16 (7:30 pm)

Some of the country's fastest-rising opera stars will be featured at this fundraising concert to benefit Manitoba Opera. Soprano, **Joni Henson**; mezzo-soprano, **Lauren Segal**; tenor, **David Pomeroy**; and baritone, **Pierre-Étienne Bergeron**, alongside other talented singers, will perform favourite arias, duets, and ensembles from some of the best operas in the world. Tadeusz Biernacki will conduct the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra.

***TOSCA* "She lived for art and died for love"**

Sat., November 20 (8 pm), Tues., November 23 (7 pm), and Fri., November 26 (8 pm)

- Music by Giacomo Puccini with libretto by Luigi Illica and Guiseppe Giacosa
- Based on Victorien Sardou's drama, "La Tosca"
- Sung in Italian with projected English translations
- Last presented by Manitoba Opera in November 1999

ARTISTS

Canadian soprano, **Wendy Nielsen** will make her Manitoba Opera debut in the title role. Metropolitan Opera veteran, **Richard Margison** returns to sing the role of Cavaradossi the artist and Tosca's lover. And to portray Scarpia, in the darkly manipulative role of Chief of Police, is **Gaétan Laperrière**. **Peter Strummer** returns as the Sacristan, after last season's huge success as Bartolo in *The Barber of Seville*.

...2

Valerie Kuinka makes her Manitoba Opera debut directing and **Tyrone Paterson**, Manitoba Opera Music Advisor and Principal Conductor, will conduct.

THE STORY

In Napoleonic Rome of 1800, Floria Tosca, a celebrated opera singer, seduces all with her voice, but loves only one man, Mario Cavaradossi, a painter. This fills the sinister Baron Scarpia, the Chief of Police, with jealousy.

Cavaradossi is hiding a political fugitive and Tosca is drawn into a web of danger and deceit by Scarpia, who abuses his power to force the passionate singer to betray her lover's secret. When Cavaradossi is imprisoned and faces death, Tosca will stop at nothing to save him. She has her revenge on Scarpia, but realizes too late that she has been double-crossed.

MUSIC HIGHLIGHTS

Features some of Puccini's most deeply affecting music including Cavaradossi's "E lucevan le stelle," Te Deum, and Tosca's "Vissi d'arte," the opera's most famous aria.

TOSCA PRE-PERFORMANCE OPENING NIGHT DINNER Saturday, November 20

Enjoy a pre-dinner reception, three-course dinner, intermission and post-performance receptions, and complimentary coat check and parking for just \$100 per person. (*Does not include the performance ticket.*)

For more information/tickets: Jessica Cranmer, 942-0489, jcranmer@manitobaopera.mb.ca

***THE MAGIC FLUTE* An Enchanting Adventure**

Saturday, April 9 (8 pm), Tuesday, April 12 (7 pm), and Friday, April 15 (8 pm)

- Music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart with libretto by Emanuel Schikaneder
- Sung in German with English dialogue and projected English translations
- Last presented by Manitoba Opera in November 2001

ARTISTS

A number of Manitobans will be starring in this production. **Phillip Ens** returns to Manitoba Opera to sing the role of Sarastro, after 13 years of appearances in opera houses around the globe. **Andriana Chuchman** will sing her first Pamina. Baritone **Hugh Russell** makes his Manitoba Opera debut as the overly chatty bird catcher looking for love. And **Lara Ciekiewicz** returns as Papagena, the soulmate he finds. **Michael Cavanagh** will be back to direct, and **Tad Biernacki** will lead the WSO through Mozart's sublime score.

Completing the cast is American-raised, Ukranian-born coloratura soprano, **Julia Kogan**, as the Queen of the Night and American tenor, **Bruce Sledge**, who comes to Manitoba Opera directly from the Metropolitan Opera to sing Tamino, the young prince searching for truth.

...3

THE STORY

When a prince wanders into a strange land, he is asked by the grief-stricken queen to rescue her daughter, Pamina, who has been imprisoned by a tyrant, Sarastro. To aid him in his search, she gives the prince a magic flute and sends along the comical bird man, Papageno. Throughout the fantastical journey there are serpents to slay, animals to tame, and trials by fire and water.

Is this a fanciful fairytale about a prince out to win his princess with the help of a merry bird catcher? Or is it a fascinating allegory of religion, politics, and freemasonry that explores the very nature of truth?

MUSIC HIGHLIGHTS

This magical musical fairy tale was Mozart's final masterpiece and considered his finest opera. Highlights include Papageno's "Der Vogelfänger bin ich" (I am the Bird Catcher), Tamino's "Dies Bildnis ist bezaubernd schön," (This portrait is beautiful), one of Mozart's most beautiful tenor arias, and the Queen of the Night's "O zittre nicht and "Der Hölle rache" (The Rage of Hell).

MANITOBA OPERA BOX OFFICE

Starting with the 2010/11 Season, Manitoba Opera will be operating its own box office. This will allow patrons to speak directly to staff about productions and purchase subscription and casual tickets directly from Manitoba Opera by telephone, in person, and online.

A limited number of casual tickets will also be available through Ticketmaster.

PURCHASING TICKETS

Casual tickets to the Divas and Divos Gala Concert will go on sale Monday, July 19.

Casual tickets to *Tosca* and *The Magic Flute* will go on sale in late September. Casual tickets can be purchased by calling (204)944-8824, going online to www.manitobaopera.mb.ca-Buy Tickets or visiting the Manitoba Opera Box Office, lower level, Centennial Concert Hall (9:30 to 4:30 Monday to Friday). Subscription inquiries can be directed to 957-7842.

SEASON BROCHURES

Season brochures are now available. To receive a copy, contact Livia Dymond at 944-8929 or email ldymond@manitobaopera.mb.ca

Current subscribers have until Friday, June 4 to renew their seats.

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2010/11 SEASON FUNDERS, SPONSORS & PARTNERS

Season Funders:

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