



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
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MANITOBA OPERA UNVEILS ITS 2011/12 SEASON: STRAUSS SHOCKER, *SALOME* TO KICK OFF SEASON

Manitoba Opera's 2011/12 season, the company's 39th, will feature two operas not performed here in over a generation: the sensual and haunting, *Salome* by **Richard Strauss, November 19, 22, and 25, 2011**, and the delightful comedy, *The Daughter of the Regiment* by **Gaetano Donizetti, April 21, 24, and 27, 2012**. The 2011/12 season will also include the company's first presentation of a baroque opera, *Dido and Aeneas* by **Henry Purcell**, as a co-presentation with the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra at Westminster United Church, **February 7 and 8, 2012**.

"The season blends amazing musical styles with engaging stories to create a trio of entertaining opera experiences. All the things people have come to expect from Manitoba Opera are featured in our 2011/12 season: great singing, great music, and great theatre," commented Larry Desrochers, General Director and CEO. "Richard Strauss' *Salome* is a must-see event. This shocking drama set to a ravishingly beautiful score, demands outstanding vocalism from the singers. With its vocal ornamentation and gorgeous singing, *Dido and Aeneas* is considered to be Purcell's best work and is another musical experience you won't want to miss. And of course, *The Daughter of the Regiment* is a charming comedy of manners and a showpiece for bel canto singing."

SALOME
Music by Richard Strauss

November 19, 22, 25, 2011
Libretto by Hedwig Lachmann

Salome, based on Oscar Wilde's play of the same name, was last presented by Manitoba Opera in 1989 and is considered to be one of the greatest operas of the 20th century. With its lush orchestral score, dramatic singing, and complex characterizations, it is a shocking interpretation of the famous biblical story.

Salome will star the Russian soprano, **Mlada Khudoley**, making her Manitoba Opera debut in the title role. Ms. Khudoley has sung on many of the world's great stages including the Metropolitan Opera, Royal Opera House Covent Garden, and Carnegie Hall. *The Vancouver Sun* said of her performance: "...but the on-stage star is, by definition, Salome. Russian soprano Mlada Khudoley's voice is big and compelling, her performance style all-or-nothing intensity."

Winnipeg native, **Gregory Dahl** will be returning to Manitoba Opera to make his Canadian debut in the role of Jokanaan. "He has great stage presence - totally commanding. His rich-toned voice carried throughout the hall more than any other performer, staying impeccably in tune and assured." *Winnipeg Free Press*

2. MB Opera 2011/12 Season Announcement

THE STORY

Herod is obsessed with Salome; Salome is obsessed with Jokanaan (John the Baptist); Jokanaan is obsessed with God. During Herod's birthday feast, Salome discovers Jokanaan imprisoned in a cistern. Intrigued, she demands that he be brought to her, but when Jokanaan learns who she is, he rails against her. She pledges that she will kiss him and he is returned to the cistern.

Herod promises to give Salome whatever she wants if she performs the erotic Dance of the Seven Veils. She dances for him, but her price is more than Herod could ever imagine – John the Baptist's head on a silver platter.

THE MUSIC

- A ravishingly beautiful score full of rich, sonorous music and luscious melodies.
- Salome's Dance of the Seven Veils is considered to be the most sensual eight minutes of music in opera.

THE ARTISTS

SALOME - Mlada Khudoley

HEROD - Jeffrey Springer

JOKANAAN - Gregory Dahl

HERODIAS - Judith Forst

NARRABOTH - Michael Colvin

DIRECTOR - Larry Desrochers CONDUCTOR - Tyrone Paterson

Sung in German with projected English translations.

DIDO AND AENEAS IN CONCERT

Music by Henry Purcell

February 7 and 8, 2012

Libretto by Nahum Tate

Based on the love story from Virgil's *Aeneid*, this English baroque tragic masterpiece features magnificent music, potent drama, and remarkable intensity. Featuring the Theatre of Early Music Ensemble under the direction of Daniel Taylor, this semi-staged production will be co-presented with the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra in the intimate setting of Westminster United Church.

Accompanied by the Ensemble-in-Residence, Baroque Institute, Conservatoire de musique de Montreal, the program will also include a short concert of early music.

Canadian counter-tenor **Daniel Taylor** will sing the role of the Sorceress. "If there's a better counter-tenor in the world than Daniel Taylor, he keeps himself well hidden...the beauty of his sound and especially his phrasing are extraordinary." *Ottawa Citizen*

Sung in English PRONUNCIATION: DIDO – Die-dough AENEAS – Eh-knee-es

3. MB Opera 2011/12 Season Announcement

THE STORY

Dido and Aeneas tells the tale of the legendary Queen of Carthage, Dido, and the Trojan refugee prince, Aeneas. When Aeneas and his crew become shipwrecked in Carthage, he and the Queen fall in love. In the meantime, witches plot Dido's destruction. The Sorceress has one of her coven impersonate Mercury who tells Aeneas he must leave Dido and found the new Troy (Rome). Forced to choose between passion and duty, Aeneas and his sailors prepare to leave, much to the witches' delight. Dido, who cannot live without him, is absolutely heartbroken and awaits death.

THE MUSIC

- One of England's finest operatic works by one of the country's leading operatic composers.
- Dido's lament, (When I am laid in earth) is one of opera's most moving expressions of sorrow and has been called one of the greatest arias in the history of music.
- The libretto is considered to be the most perfect short opera libretto ever written.

THE ARTISTS

DIDO - Noemi Kiss

BELINDA - Grace Davidson

SECOND WOMAN - Julia Doyle

AENEAS - Alexander Dobson

SAILOR - Benjamin Butterfield

SORCERESS - Daniel Taylor

***THE DAUGHTER OF THE REGIMENT* April 21, 24, 27, 2012**

Music by Gaetano Donizetti

Libretto by J.H. Vernoy de Saint-Georges and J.F. Bayard

Last presented by Manitoba Opera in 1991, *The Daughter of the Regiment (La Fille du Régiment)* is a laugh-filled, toe-tapping opera complete with music that's both witty and spectacular. "*Daughter*" features Tonio's famous aria "Ah! Mes amis" with its nine thrilling high C's!

To sing the role of Marie, the orphan girl adopted by the regiment, will be former Winnipegger **Nikki Einfeld**, who sang the role of Rosina in the 2009 production of *The Barber of Seville* to great acclaim.

Joining Ms. Einfeld is the Juno Award-winning tenor, **John Tessier** in the role of Tonio. Mr. Tessier has recently appeared at Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, Wiener Staatsoper, and Carnegie Hall and has appeared previously with the company in productions of *The Barber of Seville* and *Così fan tutte*. "But let's not overlook the tenor: John Tessier...very nearly stopped the show with his nine high C's."
Georgia Strait

Sung in French with English dialogue and projected English translations.

4. MB Opera 2011/12 Season Announcement

THE STORY

Marie, a feisty orphaned tomboy, gives a regiment of French soldiers who raised her a scare when she falls in love with Tonio, a Tyrolean peasant who then joins the regiment just to be near her. When her noble birthright is discovered, she is taken away from her beloved regiment to have a “proper” upbringing and subsequent proper marriage. However, at the end of the day, the regiment rides to the rescue, Marie and Tonio are reunited, and love prevails over privilege.

THE MUSIC

- Marie’s “Chacun le sait, chacun le dit” (Song of the Regiment) is the best-known number.
- Tonio’s “Ah! Mes amis” with 9 high C’s and chorus is a showstopper.
- Marie’s farewell to the camp, “Il faut partir” (I have to leave).
- The ensemble piece “Salut à la France” was at one time, almost a second national anthem.

THE ARTISTS

MARIE - Nikki Einfeld

TONIO - John Tessier

MARQUISE OF BERKENFELD - Rebecca Haas

SULPICE - Theodore Baerg

DIRECTOR - Ann Hodges

CONDUCTOR - Tadeusz Biernacki

TICKETS

Subscriptions to the 2011/12 season are currently being sold. With a subscription, you can see all three shows for as little \$85.50. For more information, call Subscriber Services at 957-7842; go online: www.manitobaopera.mb.ca; or visit the Box Office.

Casual tickets will be available in September. They can be purchased by calling 944-8824; going online: www.manitobaopera.mb.ca; or visiting the Box Office.

BOX OFFICE: Lower Level, Centennial Concert Hall (9:30 to 4:30, Monday to Friday).

SEASON BROCHURES

To receive a 2011/12 season brochure, contact Livia Dymond at 944-8929 or email ldymond@manitobaopera.mb.ca

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