



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 1, 2008

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
Darlene Ronald
(204) 255-0508, dronald84@shaw.ca

**Manitoba Opera presents
La Traviata
The “Perfect Romantic Opera” &
One of the Most Popular Operas of all Time**

April 19, 22, & 25, 2008

One of the most popular operas of all time, *La Traviata*, will be presented by Manitoba Opera for three shows only, **Saturday, April 19** (8 pm), **Tuesday, April 22** (7pm), and **Friday, April 25** (8 pm) at the Centennial Concert Hall. Tickets are on sale now at all Ticketmaster outlets, by phone: (204) 253-ARTS (2787), or online at www.ticketmaster.ca. Tickets are \$30 to \$99 for adults; \$30 to \$92 for students/seniors; and children, ages 12 and under, are 50% off the adult ticket prices. (*All prices include GST, MCCH \$1.00 seat surcharge and the Ticketmaster service charge.*)

Called the “perfect romantic opera,” this tragic love story of decadence, deceit, and the desire for redemption has melted hearts for over 150 years. Sung in Italian with English translations projected above the stage, this Verdi masterpiece features some of opera’s most famous works from boisterous drinking songs to tender arias and duets.

Based on Marie Duplessis, the real-life courtesan whose lover, Alexandre Dumas *filis*, wrote the novel and the play on which Verdi based his opera, *La Traviata* features one of opera’s best-loved soprano roles and one of the most psychologically complex characters in opera.

The Puerto Rican sensation, **Yali-Marie Williams**, winner of the Placido Domingo Operalia Competition in 1999, will sing this signature role. She’ll be joined by **Winnipeg’s own Kurt Lehmann**, who just finished singing the tenor role of Alfredo with Opera Lyra Ottawa. Giorgio, Alfredo’s father will be sung by the critically acclaimed baritone **Theodore Baerg** who is also professor of voice at the University of Western Ontario..

...reverse

THE STORY

In the elegant, but shadowy Parisian demi-monde of the mid-1800's, Violetta, a beautiful, but fragile courtesan, gives up the pursuit of meaningless pleasure in high society for the love of a younger man, Alfredo.

However, Alfredo's father, Giorgio, intervenes in order to preserve the family's reputation. Making a selfless sacrifice, Violetta nobly relinquishes Alfredo, who thinks she has thrown him over. Much later he learns of her sacrifice and forgives her, but it is too late. Poverty stricken and desperately ill, she dies in his arms.

THE ARTISTS

Directed by Tom Diamond

Conducted by Tyrone Paterson

Violetta – Yali-Marie Williams

Alfredo – Kurt Lehmann

Giorgio – Theodore Baerg

Flora – Colleen Skull

The Baron – Mark Booden

The Marquis – David Watson

Dr. Grenvil – Gregory Atkinson

Gastone – Benoit Boutet

Violetta's maid – Donnalynn Grills

Also featuring the Manitoba Opera Chorus and Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, with dancers from the Royal Winnipeg Ballet (Company and Aspirants).

Lighting by Scott Henderson

Choreography by Brenda Gorlick

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

////

**Manitoba Opera gratefully acknowledges the support of
the following sponsors and funders for this production:**

Production Sponsor:

Great-West Life

Performance Sponsors:

Aeroguard

McKim Cringan George

Season Supporters:

Richardson Foundation

Winnipeg Free Press

The Winnipeg Foundation

Advance

Canwest Foundation

Canada Council for the Arts

TelPay

Manitoba Arts Council

SunLife Financial

Winnipeg Arts Council

