



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION  
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**MARY WALSH JOINS  
MANITOBA OPERA'S CAST OF  
*THE DAUGHTER OF THE REGIMENT*  
APRIL 21, 24, 27, 2012**

Manitoba Opera today announced that Mary Walsh, Canada's "Queen of Comedy" will be playing the spoken role of The Duchess of Krakenthorp in the spring 2012 production of Donizetti's madcap comedy of manners, *The Daughter of the Regiment*, April 21, 24, and 27 at the Centennial Concert Hall.

This will be Ms. Walsh's first foray into the world of opera performance. She is best known for her work on CBC TV's popular sketch comedy, *This Hour Has 22 Minutes* which she created, starred in, and wrote. The show earned her many Gemini Awards and showcased her dynamic range of characters, including the flagrantly outspoken "Marg Delahunty."

"We are absolutely thrilled that Ms. Walsh has agreed to play the role of The Duchess of Krakenthorp," said Larry Desrochers, General Director and CEO. "The Duchess is kind of a cross between Lady Bracknell and Marg Delahunty, if you can believe it. When we decided to present *Daughter*, Mary immediately came to mind for this role. She is a consummate comedienne."

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.

## ***2. Mary Walsh to perform with Manitoba Opera***

The production will be directed by Ann Hodges and conducted by Tadeusz Biernacki. It will be sung in French with English dialogue and projected English translations.

### **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.

### **TICKETS**

**Subscriptions** to the 2011/12 season, which also features *Salome* (November 19, 22, and 25) and *Dido and Aeneas* (February 7 and 8), are currently on sale. 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](http://www.manitobaopera.mb.ca); or visit the Box Office.

**Casual tickets** for all shows will be available in September. They can be purchased by calling 944-8824; going online: [www.manitobaopera.mb.ca](http://www.manitobaopera.mb.ca); or visiting the Box Office.

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

### **MORE ON MARY WALSH**

Ms. Walsh also co-created, starred in and wrote the Gemini Award-winning sketch comedy show *CODCO*, and more recently created the short-lived, but much-loved *Hatching Matching and Dispatching* in which she also starred.

She continues to be dedicated to the production, direction, and writing of Canadian film. Her selected credits include *Young Triffie's Been Made Away With*, *Baileys' Billion\$*, *Geraldine's Fortune*, *Mambo Italiano* and *The New Waterford Girl*.