



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
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**MANITOBA OPERA PRESENTS
MOZART'S MASTERPIECE, *THE MAGIC FLUTE*
"MANITOBA STYLE"
APRIL 9, 12, & 15, 2011**

Manitoba Opera's production of Mozart's masterpiece, *The Magic Flute*, April 9, 12, and 15 at the Centennial Concert Hall will feature a definite Manitoban flair. Almost all the cast members are Manitoban, or now live or have lived in Manitoba. As well, director Michael Cavanagh grew up in Winnipeg and conductor Tadeusz Biernacki has been an integral part of the Winnipeg music scene for over a quarter century. The production will also feature the Manitoba Opera Chorus and the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra.

"Manitoba has a rich history of producing some of the best vocal talent in the country, and I'm thrilled that many of them will be appearing in our production," commented Larry Desrochers, General Director & CEO. "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 and baritone Hugh Russell makes his Manitoba Opera debut as the chatty bird catcher looking for love, to name just a few."

Light triumphs over darkness in Mozart's beloved opera, *The Magic Flute*, a heart-warming celebration of brotherhood and virtue, and a wonderful melding of comedy, mystery, and adventure. Part vaudeville, part grand opera, Mozart's fairytale of truth and evil features some of his most enchanting music. Mozart died just two months after the 1791 Vienna premiere of *The Magic Flute*.

The opera will be sung in German with English dialogue and English translations projected above the stage.

THE ARTISTS

Manitoban cast members:

Sarastro: Phillip Ens

Pamina: Andriana Chuchman

Papageno: Hugh Russell

Old Woman/Papagena: Lara Ciekiewicz

Three Ladies: Naomi Forman, Sarah Halmarson, Marcia Whitehead

Three Genii: Carson Milberg, Anton Dahl Sokalski, Torbjörn Thomson

...continued

2. *MO presents The Magic Flute*

The Speaker/2nd Armed Man: Gregory Atkinson
Priest/Armed Man: Peter John Buchan

Tamino: Bruce Sledge
Queen of the Night: Julia Kogan
Monostatos: Michel Corbeil

Lighting by Bill Williams
Sets, props, and wardrobe provided by the Utah Opera Company.
Set design by Thaddeus Strassberger
Costume design by Susan Allred.

THE STORY

Prince Tamino is on quest to rescue the lovely princess, Pamina, daughter of the Queen of the Night whom the Queen claims has been imprisoned by a tyrant, Sarastro. She gives Tamino a magic flute to take him through the danger zones and sends along Papageno, the comical bird catcher. Their wit, will power and wisdom are tested throughout this fantastical journey where there are serpents to slay, animals to tame, and trials by fire and water.

TICKETS

Tickets for *The Magic Flute* are available only through the Manitoba Opera Box Office. Phone: 944-8824; Online: tickets.manitobaopera.mb.ca; In Person: Lower level, Centennial Concert Hall. Box Office Hours: 9:30 am – 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday.

Ticket prices range from \$39 to \$99 and include GST and the Centennial Concert Hall \$1.50 surcharge on each ticket. Tickets for children 12 and under are 50% off the adult ticket price.

For more details on the production, artists, synopsis, etc., go to www.manitobaopera.mb.ca

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2010/11 SPONSORS, FUNDERS & PARTNERS

SEASON FUNDERS:

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