



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
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**MANITOBA OPERA KICKS OFF 2010/11 SEASON
WITH DIVAS AND DIVOS CONCERT
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16**

Great Singing. Great Music. A Great Time.

Manitoba Opera kicks off its 2010/11 Season **Saturday, October 16 at 7:30 pm at the Centennial Concert Hall** with the **Divas and Divos Concert**, an evening of opera hits and favourites performed by six gifted singers, the 60-voice Manitoba Opera Chorus, and the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Tadeusz Biernacki.

Canadian artists **Joni Henson**, soprano; **Mariateresa Magisano**, soprano; **Lauren Segal**, mezzo-soprano; **David Pomeroy**, tenor; **Pierre-Étienne Bergeron**, bass; and **David Watson**, bass-baritone will take to the stage with a selection of arias, duets, and ensembles from some of the best operas of all time.

Selections from *Don Giovanni*, *La Traviata*, *Tosca*, *Nabucco*, *Faust*, *Rusalka*, *Turandot*, *The Tales of Hoffmann*, and *Rigoletto* are amongst those to be featured.

TICKETS: All remaining seats just \$35*!

Call the Manitoba Opera Box Office at 944-8824 (Monday to Friday 9:30 am to 4:30 pm) or purchase online at: tickets.manitobaopera.mb.ca
Includes GST and Centennial Concert Hall seat surcharge. Does not include the Loges.

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Manitoba Opera Divas and Divos Concert October 16/10

ARTISTS:

Joni Henson*, Soprano

An alumna of the Canadian Opera Company's (COC) Ensemble Studio, Joni Henson hails from Sault Ste. Marie and has been appearing throughout Canada with opera companies and symphony orchestras. This season also includes performing with the Calgary Philharmonic (Mahler's *Symphony No. 2*) and the role of Santuzza in *Cavalleria Rusticana* with Opera Hamilton.

Mariateresa Magisano*, Soprano

A winner of the Metropolitan Opera National Council, Ms. Magisano debuted with the New York City Opera as Zerlina in *Don Giovanni* in 2001. This Montreal-born soprano has performed throughout North America. Upcoming appearances include Liu in *Turandot* with Opera Lyra Ottawa.

Lauren Segal, Mezzo-soprano

Last appearing on the Manitoba Opera stage as Suzuki in *Madama Butterfly* in 2009, Lauren Segal is the only Canadian chosen to participate in the inaugural Salzburg Festival Young Artist Project and is an alumna of the COC's Ensemble Studio. She has performed with opera companies throughout Canada and this season will be in three COC productions: *Nixon in China*, *Ariadne Auf Naxos*, and *The Magic Flute*.

David Pomeroy, Tenor

Quickly establishing himself as a leading tenor, David Pomeroy is becoming a regular presence throughout North America and is a Metropolitan Opera veteran having debuted there in the title role of *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* last season and covered numerous roles in the last four seasons. He appeared with Manitoba Opera last spring as Don José in *Carmen* and will be debuting with Calgary Opera as Edgardo in *Lucia di Lammermoor*.

Pierre-Étienne Bergeron*, Baritone

Mr. Bergeron has apprenticed with both the Montreal Opera and Pacific Opera Victoria. Recent engagements include Escamillo (*Carmen*) with the Opéra-Théâtre de Rimouski, the Orchestre du Saguenay-Lac-St-Jean, and the Symphony Orchestra of Drummondville.

David Watson, Bass-Baritone

David Watson began his professional singing career in Winnipeg in 1974 and has appeared with Manitoba Opera a number of times since his debut in 1979. He last appeared as Fiorello in the November 2009 production of *The Barber of Seville*.

Tadeusz Biernacki, Conductor

This is Mr. Biernacki's 28th season with Manitoba Opera as Chorus Master and Rehearsal Pianist. He is also the Music Director and Conductor for the Royal Winnipeg Ballet and Music Director of Saskatoon Opera. He last conducted *The Barber of Seville* with Manitoba Opera in November 2009.

* **Manitoba Opera debut.**

