

CALGARY OPERA ANNOUNCES A BOLD NEW 2018 / 2019 SEASON

March 22, 2018 (Calgary, Alberta) – New General Director & CEO **Keith Cerny**, announced this evening **Calgary Opera’s 2018-2019 Season**, featuring innovative programming and collaborations with other leaders in Calgary’s art community. Calgary’s Opera’s 46th year will reflect an exciting balance of traditional operas and newer, more exotic works that will showcase Calgary Opera as a leading-edge company in Canada.

“Calgary Opera and the Board of Directors are excited to present a bold new line up for the 2018/19 Season,” said Michael Brown, Chair, Calgary Opera Board of Directors. “With the addition of our new General Director and CEO, Keith Cerny, spearheading a new era of creative imagination to programming, we are pleased to bring an array of productions for all ages.”

“This season emphasises artistic collaboration and innovation,” says Keith Cerny. “We are delighted to be partnering with a number of arts organizations in Calgary to present unique contemporary works, while maintaining popular traditional operas.”

The season begins on **September 28** with the presentation of BreakThru Films’ delightful animated film, ***Magic Piano & The Chopin Shorts***, entertaining for both children and adults, accompanied by a live performance of music by Frédéric Chopin. This film will be presented as part of the **Calgary International Film Festival**, performed at the **National Music Centre**, and in collaboration with the **Honens International Piano Competition**.

On **November 17, 21 and 23, 2018** the company will present Charles Gounod’s classic opera based on Shakespeare’s famous play, ***Roméo & Juliette***. Directed by the Artistic Director of Alberta Ballet, **Jean Grand-Maître** and conducted by **Gordon Gerrard**. The opera will feature the **Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra**, will be paired with professional dancers and advanced students from **Alberta Ballet**.

Calgary Opera's Emerging Artist Alumna, **Anne-Marie MacIntosh**, Soprano who will perform as Juliette, and renowned Tenor **Adam Luther** will appear as Roméo.

Rounding out the cast is **Peter Barrett**, Baritone who will perform as Mercutio; **Stephanie Tritchew**, Mezzo-Soprano as Stephano, and **Alexandre Sylvestre**, Baritone as Capulet.

In **December 2018**, Calgary Opera will present Gian Carlo Menotti's charming Christmas classic, ***Amahl and the Night Visitors***, performed by a boy soprano and members of the company's **Emerging Artists Development Program**. Last performed by Calgary Opera for over 30 years, this inspiring work tells the story of a young crippled boy Amahl in Biblical times, who offers his crutch to the three Kings on their way to the Nativity, and is miraculously healed.

On **February 2, 6 and 8, 2019** Calgary Opera is excited to present the Canadian Premiere of ***Everest***, an opera commissioned by Keith Cerny during his tenure as General Director at The Dallas Opera, composed by **Joby Talbot** with a libretto by **Gene Scheer**. Based on the 1996 Everest disaster, in which pathologist Beck Weathers was left for dead on Mount Everest, the world premiere of this work in 2015 was referred to by one critic as, "a resounding success, a genre-bending coupe de théâtre." The opera will be conducted by the Music Director of the National Ballet of Canada, **David Briskin**, and directed by **Leonard Foglia**. The cast features **Andrew Bidlack**, Tenor as Rob Hall (Mr. Bidlack originated the role as Rob Hall at the world premiere), **Andrew Love**, Baritone as Doug Hansen, **Kevin Burdette**, Bass-Baritone as Beck Weathers (who also originated this role), and **Sarah Larsen**, Mezzo-Soprano in the role of Rob Hall's wife, Jan Arnold.

On **April 6, 10 and 12, 2019** Calgary Opera will present one of Giuseppe Verdi's justifiably most famous operas, ***Rigoletto***. For this production, **Gregory Dahl**, Baritone will be featured in the title role of the anguished Rigoletto. Soprano **Nikki Einfeld** will bring her impressive vocal agility and tone colour to the part of Gilda, and rounding out the accomplished cast will be **Leonardo Capalbo** as the Duke.

In May of 2019, Calgary Opera's penultimate project for the season represents a delightful and unique collaboration with **Old Trout Puppet Workshop** and **The Banff Centre for Arts & Creativity**. Titled ***Ghost Opera***, Old Trout's wildly innovative and irreverent style will combine whimsy with the work of composer Veronika Krausas, and librettist André Alexis and will feature Calgary Opera's Emerging Artists.

The final offering for the 2018 / 2019 Season, will take place in **August 2019**. **Opera in the Village** will return after a year's break with "Carmen In the Village," at Calgary Stampede's **ENMAX Park**. As Canada's only outdoor summer opera festival, Opera in the Village will present a unique abridged version of one of opera's most beloved works, ***Carmen***. "Carmen in the Village" will feature five singers and a narrator who will transport you to Seville in this tragic story of love, jealousy, and vengeance.

In addition, Calgary Opera will offer Opera Extras that supplement each production, including **Opera Brunches**, **Taste of the Opera** and **Master Classes** that offer opportunities to get closer to the inner workings of producing this extraordinary art form. As well, Calgary Opera's commitment to education and outreach will continue with its **Let's Create An Opera** and **Opera in the Schools** program for elementary students.

Renewing Subscribers have the first opportunity to renew their season tickets until May 4, 2018, after which new subscriptions go on sale. Single tickets for all performances go on sale to the general public on July 3, 2018.

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