



## MANITOBA OPERA

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION  
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### BMO FINANCIAL GROUP COMMITS TO \$50,000 SPONSORSHIP FOR MANITOBA OPERA'S 2017/18 SEASON

Manitoba Opera (MO) announced today that BMO Financial Group (BMO) has become the Season Presenting Sponsor at the \$50,000 level for the 2017/18 season. Previously, BMO has been a Manitoba Opera Corporate Sponsor in the Education, Outreach and Community Engagement category since December 2008 at \$10,000 annually.

"We are thrilled that BMO has committed to such a significant increase in support to Manitoba Opera. BMO's participation as the Presenting Season Sponsor will have an unparalleled impact on our efforts to use opera to build a stronger community and to reach an ever-growing number of Canadians through our community engagement initiatives," commented Elba Haid, Chair of the MO Board of Trustees.

"BMO Financial Group and Manitoba Opera have much in common — we are both focused on expanding our reach with growing demographics such as immigrants and Millennials, and we are both enthusiastically pursuing and embracing transformation in our respective fields. BMO, like Manitoba Opera, understands the responsibility that comes with having a powerful voice and sees the limitless potential to use that voice to effect positive change in our community," added Larry Desrochers, General Director & CEO.

BMO shows a long-standing commitment to help support the communities where the bank operates. The desire to make a contribution is deep-rooted, dating back to its first hospital donation in 1835.

BMO's approach to community investment includes contributing through donations and sponsorship programs, as well as supporting its employees' involvement in community activities they are passionate about. As one of Canada's largest corporate donors, BMO Financial Group funds charities and not-for-profit organizations in hundreds of towns and cities across North America.

"We're pleased to grow our involvement with Manitoba Opera this year, and help to support their enrichment of the community through the arts," said John MacAulay, Senior Vice President, Prairies and Central Canada Division, BMO Bank of Montreal. "Especially during our bicentennial year, it's exciting to see BMO continue our legacy of giving back with partners who share our vision for meaningful programs where we live and work."

## 2. BMO Commits to \$50,000 Sponsorship

### ABOUT BMO FINANCIAL GROUP

Established in 1817, and currently marking its 200th year of operations, BMO Financial Group is a highly diversified financial services provider based in North America. With total assets of \$709 billion as of July 31, 2017, and more than 45,000 employees, BMO provides a broad range of personal and commercial banking, wealth management and investment banking products and services to more than 12 million customers, and conducts business through three operating groups: Personal and Commercial Banking, Wealth Management and BMO Capital Markets.

### MANITOBA OPERA 2017/18 SEASON

In celebration of the company's 45th season, two of opera's greatest works by two of opera's greatest composers: ***Madama Butterfly*** by Giacomo Puccini and ***La Traviata*** by Giuseppe Verdi will be presented in the 2017/18 season. The season begins with ***Madama Butterfly* November 18, 21, and 24, 2017**. This is the haunting and intensely moving story of a devoted young Japanese woman, an ill-fated marriage, and her betrayal by an American naval officer.

***La Traviata***, one of the best-loved operas of all time, is the classic tragedy of selfless devotion and ultimate sacrifice: the wealthy Alfredo and the ill-fated heroine, Violetta find true love, only to be separated by family, society and finally, death. It will be reset to 1920's Paris and will close the season **April 14, 17, and 20, 2018**.

Both productions will be sung in Italian with projected English translations and presented at the Centennial Concert Hall.

Subscriptions and single tickets for both productions are on sale now. To order tickets, call 204-957-7842 or go to [www.manitobaopera.mb.ca](http://www.manitobaopera.mb.ca)