



## MANITOBA OPERA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 4, 2017

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
Darlene Ronald  
[204-255-0508/dronald84@shaw.ca](mailto:204-255-0508/dronald84@shaw.ca)

### **MANITOBA OPERA CELEBRATES 45<sup>th</sup> SEASON IN 2017/18 WITH TWO OPERA GREATS: *MADAMA BUTTERFLY & LA TRAVIATA***

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 geisha, an ill-fated marriage, and her betrayal by an American naval officer.

*La Traviata*, one of the best-loved operas of all time, is an irresistible classic, full of memorable melodies. It tells the story of the French courtesan who sacrifices everything for love 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.

"These eternal favourites represent the very best of grand opera with memorable melodies, lush orchestration, storylines that illuminate the human experience, and countless unforgettable vocal thrills," commented Larry Desrochers, General Director & CEO.

#### ***MADAMA BUTTERFLY***

Puccini's sumptuously lyrical score for *Madama Butterfly* embodies all the passion and heartbreak of this timeless story. Set in Japan at the dawn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, East meets West in this clash of values and tradition.

The power of the delicate Butterfly's devotion and her unshakeable belief in love make her an utterly captivating character. As she sings her famous aria "Un bel di," it is impossible not to ache for her.

#### ***LA TRAVIATA***

The glamorous courtesan Violetta lives only for pleasure until the handsome young Alfredo steals her heart. But she soon discovers she can have no future with her true love and sacrifices her happiness to protect the Germont family honour. When Alfredo finally learns of this, he rushes to her to seek forgiveness and love, which she gives with her dying breath.

...2

## 2. Manitoba Opera 2017/18 Season

For those who have never seen it, this is an opera not to be missed. For those who have already experienced the magic of “The Wayward One,” it is a story that begs to be embraced once more.

### **MADAMA BUTTERFLY ARTISTS**

*Madama Butterfly* will star the Tokyo-born soprano **Hiromi Omura** in the title role and in her Manitoba Opera debut. Since 2004, she has performed this role to great acclaim from critics and audiences in numerous theatres around the world, including the New National Theatre Tokyo, the Deutsche Oper Berlin, The Israeli Opera, and Montreal Opera. Ms. Omura will be joined by Canadian tenor **David Pomeroy** as Pinkerton (last seen with MO as Florestan in *Fidelio*, 2014), and baritone **Gregory Dahl** returns to his hometown in the role as Sharpless (last seen as Ford in *Falstaff*, 2016). Winnipeg director **Robert Herriot** will direct, with **Tyrone Paterson** in the pit conducting the **Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra**.

### **LA TRAVIATA ARTISTS**

Violetta will be sung by American-born soprano **Angel Blue** in her Manitoba Opera debut. Ms. Blue is quickly establishing herself as one of the best singers of her generation, having performed in over 30 countries in the last five years, including making her La Scala debut last fall.

Canadian tenor **Adam Luther**, another singer on the rise, will also be making his Manitoba Opera debut as Alfredo. Baritone **James Westman** is back on the MO stage as Germont (he last performed with MO as Figaro in the 2009 production of *The Barber of Seville*). Canadian director **Alain Gauthier** will be making his MO directing debut, and **Tyrone Paterson** will once again conduct.

Tickets are currently available by subscription only; single tickets will be available beginning in September. For more information, contact the Manitoba Opera Box Office, 204-957-7842 or online at [www.manitobaopera.mb.ca](http://www.manitobaopera.mb.ca)

-30-

### **2017/18 FUNDERS & SPONSORS**

Manitoba Arts Council   Province of Manitoba   Canadian Council for the Arts

Winnipeg Arts Council   The Winnipeg Foundation

Richardson Foundation   Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra   McKim   Great-West Life

Gail Asper Family Foundation   Wawanesa Insurance   Investors Group   SunLife

Winnipeg Free Press   BMO   The Thomas Sill Foundation Inc.   Manitoba Public Insurance   TD Bank

Constant C   Bergmann's on Lombard   Planned Perfectly