



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FOR MORE INFORMATION/INTERVIEWS
Darlene Ronald
204-255-0508/dronald84@shaw.ca

**MANITOBA OPERA OPENS 2013/14 SEASON WITH
WILD WEST VERSION OF THE COMEDY, *DON PASQUALE*
NOVEMBER 23, 26, 29, 2013**

Saddle up for an evening of light-hearted laughter at the opening production of Manitoba Opera's 2013/14 Season, a Hollywood-style wild-west version of Donizetti's *Don Pasquale*, with three performances at the Centennial Concert Hall, Saturday, November 23 (8 pm), Tuesday, November 26 (7 pm), and Friday, November 29 (8 pm).

Don Pasquale is a cowboy-sized helping of rib-tickling laughter and fun complete with a hero who enjoys a bubble bath surrounded by bar girls, a Mariachi band, and of course, the well-aged, well-heeled Don Pasquale. The Don is looking for a quiet, obedient little housewife; but instead lassoes himself a highfalutin fireball of a gal who is ready to empty his pockets quicker than you can say "Giddyup."

The story is essentially based around a conflict between generations and traditions. The elder Pasquale seeks to arrange a marriage for his young nephew. Transplant this to a new culture where arranged marriage isn't a tradition and that conflict is not only intensified, but is the launching point for this centuries-old and all-too-familiar tale of an older man marrying a younger woman with disastrous, albeit comical, results.

The cast for this hilarious, but endearing production will be led by veteran Canadian singer **Peter Strummer**, who last appeared with the company as the Sacristan in *Tosca* and Dr. Bartolo in *The Barber of Seville*. He meets his match in former Winnipegger **Nikki Einfeld** who will sing the role of Norina, the convent girl who spends his money like a real housewife of New Jersey. Einfeld was a triumph as Marie in the company's 2012 production of *The Daughter of the Regiment*. Making their Manitoba Opera debuts are Canadian baritone **Brett Polegato** as Dr. Malatesta, the mastermind behind the marriage and American tenor **Michele Angelini**, Pasquale's nephew who would rather marry for love than money.

The production will also feature **Alan Wong** as Hop Sing, **Michal Kowalik** at the Notary, and *Winnipeg Free Press* columnist, **Doug Speirs** as an extra. The production is directed by **Rob Herriot** with **Tyrone Paterson** conducting the **Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra** and **Manitoba Opera Chorus**. Lighting is by **Bill Williams**.

2. Manitoba Opera presents *Don Pasquale*, November 23, 26, 29, 2013

The joyful music in *Don Pasquale* is some of the best Donizetti ever wrote. The clever arias, comic Buffo writing and the ensembles are all treasures to hear.

The sets, props, and wardrobe are supplied by San Diego Opera. Set designer is Tony Fanning and costumes were designed by Helen Rodgers.

Don Pasquale will be sung in Italian, with English translations projected above the stage.

For tickets and more information, go to www.manitobaopera.mb.ca or call the Manitoba Opera Box Office at 204-944-8824. Tickets start at \$42. Senior, student and youth discounts are available.

WESTERN WEAR OPTIONAL

**Dust off your cowboy boots and grab your 10-gallon hat.
Join in the fun by attending *Don Pasquale* dressed in your favourite western wear.**

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