



## MANITOBA OPERA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
SEPTEMBER 10, 2020

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
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### **95-YEAR-OLD ARTS LOVER WALKING 96 KM TO RAISE \$96,000 FOR FOUR LOCAL ARTS ORGANIZATIONS**

Winnipeg arts lover, Dr. Douglas MacEwan, is soon turning 96, but nothing is slowing him down when it comes to supporting his favourite arts groups. He has taken on a challenge people half his age wouldn't even consider: walking one kilometer every day for 96 days in order to raise \$96,000 to be divided evenly between Winnipeg's four major performing arts organizations: Manitoba Opera, the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre, Royal Winnipeg Ballet, and the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra.

Born in Ottawa, ON, this WWII veteran trained as a medical doctor specializing in radiology and moved to Winnipeg in 1966 to work at the HSC/University of Manitoba. He cares deeply about the arts in the city he has called home for years. When the pandemic hit and stages went black, he knew he wanted to help to ensure the footlights shine again and performers are able to return to the stage when the time is right.

"I wanted to do something to ensure that future generations, including my eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, grow up in a city with a thriving performing arts community," explains Dr. MacEwan.

An anonymous sponsor has agreed to donate \$500 for every kilometer Dr. MacEwan walks, plus an additional \$500 for each day he finds someone to walk with. Dr. MacEwan makes sure to take a selfie with his walking buddies, and his daughter, Eleanor, is assembling a book to commemorate the project.

*2. Dr. MacEwan Walk for the Arts Media Release, September 10, 2020*

By the time Dr. MacEwan finishes his challenge on November 11 - his 96<sup>th</sup> birthday - he will have raised a total of \$96,000 for the performing arts in Winnipeg. As an extra incentive, if Dr. MacEwan completes the challenge, the sponsor has offered to round up the donation to \$100,000.

“Dr. MacEwan is a very compassionate, caring individual and is an inspiration to us all,” commented Larry Desrochers, Manitoba Opera’s General Director & CEO, speaking on behalf of the four recipient organizations. “He has been a long-standing patron of all our organizations; he has been attending Manitoba Opera productions since 1972 when we were in our infancy. To take on such a challenge at any age, but certainly as a nonagenarian is truly remarkable and deserves our deepest respect. That he has chosen to do this for Winnipeg’s arts community is very inspiring.”

**MEDIA DAY –TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15**

**10:30 am**

**30 Aldershot Blvd. (Dr. MacEwan’s Residence)**

**Media are invited to meet Dr. MacEwan and learn more about his amazing challenge.**

**He will be joined for his walk by representatives of the four arts groups  
for whom he is raising money:**

**Larry Desrochers, General Director & CEO, Manitoba Opera**

**Kelly Thornton, Artistic Director, Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre**

**André Lewis, Artistic Director & CEO, Royal Winnipeg Ballet**

**Julian Pellicano, Associate Conductor, Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra**

**Support Dr. MacEwan**

Dr. MacEwan and his family are encouraging other arts lovers to get involved.

To support his challenge by making a donation or pledge by kilometer, contact Liz Miller 204-942-0489 or go to [mbopera.ca/a-walk-for-the-arts/](http://mbopera.ca/a-walk-for-the-arts/)

All funds collected will be distributed evenly between the four arts organizations.

## **ABOUT THE ARTS ORGANIZATIONS**

### **MANITOBA OPERA**

Manitoba Opera is dedicated to changing lives through the glory of opera. The company uses the art form to build stronger communities, to tell stories that matter to Manitobans, and to contribute to the education of youth across the province. Established in 1969, Manitoba Opera is the only full-time professional opera company between Toronto and Calgary and serves a region that also includes northwestern Ontario, Saskatchewan, and the Dakotas. Manitoba Opera has embraced all aspects of its mandate throughout its history, producing a range of repertoire as well as producing new Canadian works.

### **ROYAL MANITOBA THEATRE CENTRE**

The Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre exists to celebrate the widest spectrum of theatre art. Deeply rooted in the province of Manitoba, which gave it life and provides for its growth, Royal MTC aspires to both reflect and inform the community it serves.

### **ROYAL WINNIPEG BALLET**

Founded in 1939, the Royal Winnipeg Ballet holds the double distinction of being Canada's premier ballet company and one of the oldest ballet companies in North America. Under the artistic direction of André Lewis, versatility, technical excellence and a captivating style are the trademarks of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet, qualities that have garnered both critical and audience acclaim. RWB's superlative standards keep the Company in demand across North America. In addition to the Company, the RWB is home to the RWB School, consisting of both a professional division which trains young artists for a professional career in dance, and a recreational division which provides classes to over 1,500 students each week.

### **WINNIPEG SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

The Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra is an orchestra tucked into the geographic centre of North America. Since its debut performance in 1948, the WSO has become a powerhouse orchestra, regularly surprising guest conductors and artists with the exceptional musicianship and flexibility of its members. The WSO is integral to Winnipeg's rich cultural life, delighting more than 225,000 audience members each year with innovative programming and musical excellence. The WSO also presents educational programs for more than 40,000 students annually and has toured across Canada, twice to New York's Carnegie Hall, and regularly across Manitoba.

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