



For Immediate Release  
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**Manitoba Opera presents  
*The Barber of Seville* as styled by Al Simmons**

**Comedy & Close Shaves  
Free Streaming on Demand  
March 20-28**

Figaro! Figaro! Figaro! In need of a few laughs? It's the world's most famous barber to the rescue, courtesy of Manitoba's most famous comedian of invention, Al Simmons. Manitoba Opera is pleased to be presenting a digital version of *The Barber of Seville* as styled by Al Simmons which will be available to stream on demand for free at [www.mbopera.ca](http://www.mbopera.ca) from March 20 to 28.

Roll over Rossini! Al has translated the story of this popular comic opera from Italian to English and condensed Rossini's comical look at love, greed, deceit, and close shaves. In this 45-minute rendition of the madcap comedy, Al plays all 10 characters and even audience members!

"I love to sing and tell stories; I also love opera and *The Barber of Seville* is one of my favourites. In this adaptation of my school show, I portray all of the main characters in the opera, plus I now take on the role of numerous other eccentrics. Most importantly, I sit in the audience and occasionally make comments about what's going on onstage!" explains Al. "Thanks to the magic of video, my characters are able to interact with each other. I'm very proud of how this has turned out and hope Rossini (the composer) would appreciate my take on it."

Commissioned by Manitoba Opera in 2009 for in-school presentations, Al has performed his one-person show, to rave reviews, for thousands of students in schools all across the province for over a decade.

## 2. The Barber of Seville as styled by Al Simmons

“Always a sure-fire hit with students, we are so pleased that we will be able to share an adapted version of this production virtually with Manitobans across the province,” commented Larry Desrochers, General Director & CEO. “Al Simmons is so creative, clever, and full of fun that his work is always a joy to experience. His version of this iconic opera is a great example of Al at his best.”

Using his trademark zany props, along with hats, wigs, and costume bits combined with jokes, puns and pop-culture references, Al succeeds in playing the entire cast, which can only mean that viewers will be in for non-stop laughs.

### **The Plot's Bald Facts**

Rosina is in love with the Count who is pretending to be someone else; Dr. Bartolo is determined to wed Rosina, and Figaro, the jack-of-all-trades barber, is having a bad hair day.

For more information, activities, and more, go to <https://mbopera.ca/sah/barber/>

For more information on Al Simmons, go to <http://www.alsimmons.com>

### **WATCH & WIN!**

Watch the show, submit the correct answer to a question about the show, and you could win one of **three Manitoba Hydro home safety prize packs, each valued at \$200!**

For details, go to <https://mbopera.ca/sah/barber/>

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