



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
Darlene Ronald
Director of Marketing
Dronald84@shaw.ca/[204-255-0508](tel:204-255-0508)

Opera is Calling Us Together

Manitoba Opera Opens 2021/22 Season with Mainstage Premieres of Two One-Act Operas November 5 & 6

Manitoba Opera (MO) opens the 2021/22 season with a return to the stage to present two performances of two one-act operas: ***The Telephone*** and ***La voix humaine*** on **Friday and Saturday, November 5 and 6** at the Centennial Concert Hall. The performances will mark the company's first time back to live performances with live audiences since November 2019. Tickets are on sale now at mbopera.ca or by calling 204-944-8824.

Please Note: Centennial Concert Hall COVID 19 protocols will be followed at these performances. For details go to centennialconcerthall.com

The Telephone and *La voix humaine (The Human Voice)* tell very different stories; one is a charming romantic comedy and the other a gripping drama. However, they both explore the effects of technology in our lives and the importance of human connection.

Both operas will be directed by Winnipegger **Jacqueline Loewen** in her MO directing debut and conducted by **Naomi Woo**, Assistant Conductor, Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, also in her MO debut.

These semi-staged works will feature the **Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra** on stage.

The Telephone (*L'Amour à trois*)

Words and music by Gian Carlo Menotti

THE STORY

Lucy spends so much time on the phone that she does not realize that her boyfriend, Ben, is trying to propose to her. In order to get her attention, Ben is forced to leave her and call her on the phone.

THE MUSIC

This one-act opera is a very accessible piece about everyday life. It is lighthearted and entertaining and has been translated into several languages since its premiere in 1947. Very melodic, the opera is a great vehicle for the soprano to showcase her coloratura and comic skills.

The Telephone will be sung in English with English projections.

2. MB Opera Opens 21/22 Season November 5 & 6

THE ARTISTS

Lucy will be sung by Winnipeg soprano **Lida Szkwarek** who made her company debut as one of the featured sopranos in The Sopranos of Winnipeg livestream concert in November 2020.

Johnathon Kirby returns to the MO stage to sing the role of Ben. This bass baritone has sung with companies across the country and last appeared as Masetto in MO's 2018 acclaimed production of *Don Giovanni*.

La Voix Humaine (The Human Voice)

Composed by Francis Poulenc

Based on the play of the same name by Jean Cocteau

This 50-minute, theatrical tour-de-force is an intense, emotional ride that features just one artist and the orchestra. As a musical examination of someone struggling with their mental health after a difficult break-up, the role of Elle is a true feat for the singer who must pour everything she's got into her portrayal of the tormented young woman.

Winnipeg's acclaimed soprano **Lara Ciekiewicz** will be singing the role of Elle. Last seen on the MO stage in the title role of *Susannah* in November 2019, she has been hailed for being "an expressive singer of note." – *Opera Canada*

La voix humaine will be sung in French with English projections.

THE STORY

Elle is desperately trying to win back her former lover over the telephone. He is to marry someone else the next day and the young actress uses everything in her play book, including hinting at suicide, as she struggles to keep him talking on the phone in order to postpone the inevitable last goodbye.

TICKETS: Start at 35! 204-944-8824 mbopera.ca

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SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SEASON AND FALL PERFORMANCE SPONSORS

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BMO

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Winnipeg Arts Council

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