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2021/22 SEASON PRESENTED BY



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MANITOBA OPERA OFFICE

Lower Level, Centennial Concert Hall
Room 1060, 555 Main Street
Winnipeg, MB R3B 1C3

BOX OFFICE

9:30 am - 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday

Single Tickets: 204-944-8824

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Online: tickets.mbopera.ca

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Manitoba Opera is a member of the Association for Opera in Canada and Opera America.

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Message from the Chair, Board of Trustees

After all we've been through over the past two years, we deserve to savour a moment of celebration: to run into old friends in the lobby, to dust off our finer clothes, to sink back into the plush red chairs of the Centennial Concert Hall and let some of the greatest music ever composed transport us. What better way to do so than through this evening's concert.

Tonight, you'll enjoy a taste of some of Canada's great singers performing their favourite arias. As Winnipeg's own Lara Ciekiewicz and Lizzy Hoyt take to the stage with David Pomeroy, James Westman, Catherine Daniel, and the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, I hope you feel a sense of pride in the artistry that calls Winnipeg home.

We owe a great debt of gratitude to our Season Presenting Sponsor, BMO, for creating unforgettable moments like this. Their support throughout the pandemic has been steadfast and generous, helping us to keep connecting our community through operatic experiences. Thank you, BMO, for your support of the arts in Manitoba.

Next season we will celebrate Manitoba Opera's 50th anniversary. This historic moment presents a unique opportunity to




reflect on our past and begin a new era of storytelling. We imagine a future for opera where new stories are told and new voices are heard. I can't wait to share more about what we have in store.

In the meantime, as our 2021/22 season draws to a close, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to you: our public funders, sponsors, corporate partners, donors, and patrons. Your support throughout the years has created a thriving opera community in Manitoba.

When the curtain rises tonight and you welcome the performers onstage with your applause, please dedicate a round of applause for yourself, too. After all we've been through, you deserve it.

Warmest regards,

Judith Chambers
CHAIR



Great opera
lives here.

At BMO, we take pride in our local communities, and the artists that contribute to the cultural diversity and artistic richness of our cities.



We're proud to be **Manitoba Opera's**
Season Sponsor.

Message from the General Director & CEO

Tonight's concert came together very quickly as a replacement for our production of *La Cenerentola* which was postponed and will now open our 2022/23 season in the fall. After two years of uncertainty, constant adapting, and fits and starts of returning to live performance, I thought a little familiarity might be a welcome change of pace.

However, as the world events of the past few weeks have unfolded, I think another theme has emerged with tonight's program, and that is the human voice's power to remind us of the best of humanity, even in the most horrific times. Art cannot help but to have a relationship to the world around us. Sometimes the artist intentionally wants to awaken in us something that is important to them. Sometimes the arts reflect the world because of the feelings we bring to the experience - our own state of being informs our reaction to art.

In tonight's concert, you will hear an excerpt from *Don Carlo*, one of my favorite Verdi operas. The opera is a political pot boiler. Don Carlo (Prince of Asturias 1545-1568) is betrothed to Elisabeth of Valois. As part of a peace treaty to settle the Italian War of 1551-59, Elisabeth must instead marry Don Carlo's father, King Phillip II of Spain. Cue the melodrama, romance, and intrigue.

The excerpt you will hear is a duet between Don Carlo and his friend Rodrigo. Rodrigo seeks Don Carlo's help to free the Flemish



people who are under the control of Spain and have been subjected to the especially cruel punishments of the Spanish Inquisition. Don Carlo and Rodrigo pledge eternal friendship in pursuit of the cause. They sing:

God, you who wished to instill
in our souls love and hope

You must rekindle in our hearts,
the desire for liberty

We swear to live and die together

Our goodness can unite us on
earth and in heaven.

Music has always been a powerful way to bring us together, to unite us, and to inspire us. As we come together tonight to listen to great music and great artists, let us do so as our pledge of support for and friendship of the people of Ukraine.

Larry Desrochers
GENERAL DIRECTOR & CEO



TAYLOR
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L A W Y E R S

Taylor McCaffrey proudly supports Manitoba Opera and the Gala Concert.

We join with you in celebrating the return to the Centennial Concert Hall as we enjoy some of opera's greatest hits performed by Canadian artists and accompanied by our Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra.

We gratefully acknowledge the rich contribution made by Manitoba's Arts Community to our province.

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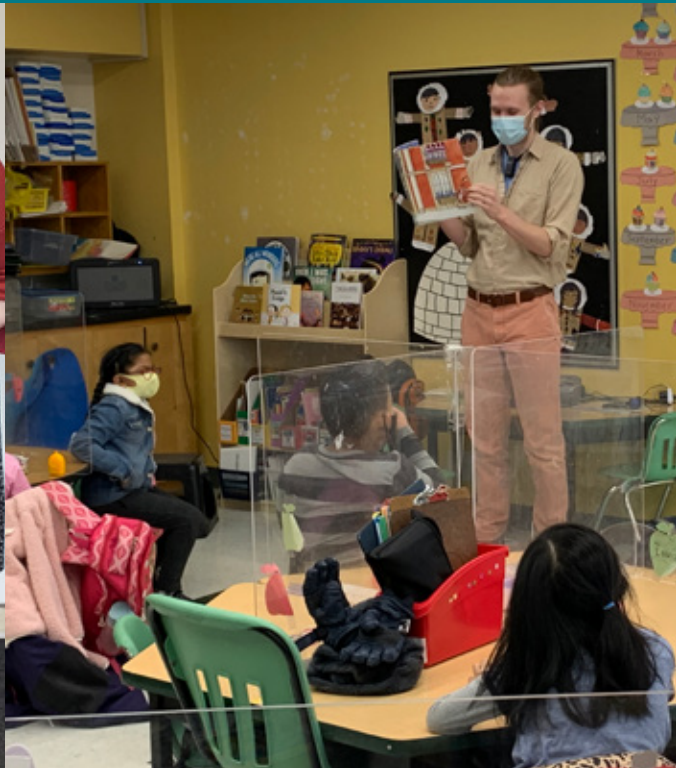
STUDENTS EMBRACE RETURN OF SINGERS

After a two-year absence, singers were enthusiastically greeted on their return to elementary classes for I Love to Read month in February. The artists read a wonderful story like *Opera Cat*, do fun vocal exercises with the students, and top off the session with a short performance.

This year, a record 28 classrooms were visited by three artists - Katherine Mayba (top), Sydney Clarke (bottom left), and John Anderson (bottom right).

COVID-19 health and safety protocols had prohibited school visits since March 2020.

Thank you to all the donors and funders who made this possible!



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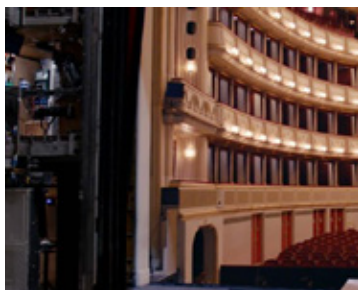
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DEAP alumni share performance videos and their experiences since completing the program.

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Jessica Kos-Whicher, Opera Class, at Sansome School 2020

“ *Students loved the presentation and were eager to learn more about the opera. Two students said, ‘it was the best moment of my life!!’* ”

MARINE VERMESSE, ÉCOLE BANNATYNE, OPERA CLASS 2019

THANK YOU FOR BRINGING OPERA TO MANITOBA'S CHILDREN.

Gala Concert

SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 2022

CONDUCTED BY **Tyrone Paterson**

HOSTED BY **James McLennan**

FEATURING

Lara Ciekiewicz, Catherine Daniel, Lizzy Hoyt, David Pomeroy, James Westman

WITH THE **Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra**

GIOACHINO ROSSINI	<i>La Cenerentola</i>	Overture	Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra
GEORGES BIZET	<i>Carmen</i>	"Votre toast, je peux vous le rendre"	James Westman
GAETANO DONIZETTI	<i>La Favorita</i>	"O mio Fernando"	Catherine Daniel
ANTONÍN DVORÁK	<i>Rusalka</i>	"Song to the Moon"	Lara Ciekiewicz
RUGGERO LEONCAVALLO	<i>Pagliacci</i>	"Vesti la giubba"	David Pomeroy
JACQUES OFFENBACH	<i>The Tales of Hoffmann</i>	"Belle nuit, ô nuit d'amour"	Lara Ciekiewicz, Catherine Daniel
GIUSEPPE VERDI	<i>Don Carlo</i>	"Dio, che nell'alma infondere"	David Pomeroy, James Westman

INTERMISSION

20 minutes

W.A. MOZART	<i>Così fan tutte</i>	Overture	Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra
W.A. MOZART	<i>Così fan tutte</i>	"Soave sia il vento"	Lara Ciekiewicz, Catherine Daniel, James Westman
GEORGES BIZET	<i>Carmen</i>	"Près des remparts de Séville"	Catherine Daniel, David Pomeroy
GIUSEPPE VERDI	<i>La Traviata</i>	"Di Provenza il mar"	James Westman
GIOACHINO ROSSINI	<i>La Cenerentola</i>	"Nacqui all'affanno... Non più mesta"	Lizzy Hoyt
GIACOMO PUCCINI	<i>Gianni Schicchi</i>	"O mio babbino caro"	Lara Ciekiewicz
GIACOMO PUCCINI	<i>Turandot</i>	"Nessun dorma"	David Pomeroy
GIUSEPPE VERDI	<i>Rigoletto</i>	"Un dì, se ben rammentomi... Bella figlia dell'amore"	Lara Ciekiewicz, Catherine Daniel, David Pomeroy, James Westman

Latecomers will not be seated until an appropriate break in the program.

The use of cameras and recording devices is forbidden. Please turn off cell phones, pagers, and alarm watches.

Manitoba Opera is a professional company operating within the jurisdiction of Canadian Actors' Equity Association.

Cast Subject to Change.

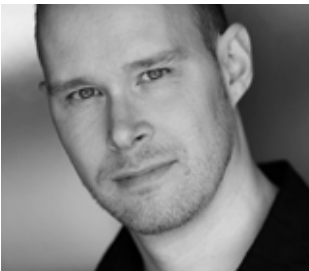
The Artists



Tyrone Paterson CONDUCTOR

Canadian conductor Tyrone Paterson is proud to be Manitoba Opera's Music Advisor and Principal Conductor. He has led performances throughout Europe, the US, Asia, and Canada where he has appeared with the majority of professional opera companies. Highlights include *Otello* (Germany); *Rigoletto* (Montreal Opera); *Cavalleria Rusticana/Pagliacci* (Edmonton Opera); *Don Giovanni* (Hawaii Opera Theatre); *Medea* (Il Teatro Greco, Italy); *Fidelio* (Manitoba Opera); *Manon* (Calgary Opera); *Salome* (Manitoba Opera); *Turandot* (Vancouver Opera); *Eugene Onegin* (Opera Lyra Ottawa); *Lucia di Lammermoor* (Opera Carolina); *Aida* (Nashville Opera); *Prince Igor* (National Theater of Moravia-Silesia); *La Traviata* and *Rigoletto* (Opera Constanta, Romania); *Tosca* (Opern Air Festival, Austria); *Jenufa* (Hukvaldy Festival); *Blue Beard's Castle* (Czech Republic); *The Magic Flute* (Beijing); *Don Pasquale* (Pacific Opera Victoria); *Susannah* (Manitoba Opera); and concerts in San Remo (Italy) and Opera Cracow (Poland).

Maestro Paterson previously served as Principal Conductor/Artistic Director for Opera Lyra Ottawa and as Resident Conductor for Calgary Opera. In addition, he teaches the stars of tomorrow and has led student performances for Western University, University of Calgary, University of British Columbia, and Opera Avalon (Newfoundland).



James McLennan HOST

Born and raised in Winnipeg, James McLennan has performed on opera and concert stages across Canada in a career spanning two decades. He most recently appeared with Manitoba Opera as Little Bat in *Susannah*. Local appearances also include Handel's *Messiah* with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, the Warden in *Kiss of the Spider Woman* with Dry Cold Productions, and *Bénédict et Béatrice* with Manitoba Underground Opera.

Other stage credits include Gastone in *La Traviata* with Pacific Opera Victoria and Edmonton Opera, Luther Billis in *South Pacific* for Calgary Opera, and Jeune Bilodeau in *Les Feluettes* at L'Opéra de Montréal.

This spring he will tour in the UK with Toronto's Soundstreams in *Musik für das Ende*, a production featuring the music of Canadian composer Claude Vivier, directed by Chris Abraham.

Mr. McLennan has been a voice instructor at the University of Manitoba's Desautels Faculty of Music since 2017 and at Brandon University since 2021. He is also a certified French-to-English translator.

The Artists



Lara Ciekiewicz SOPRANO

Hailed for her “tour-de-force performance” (*Winnipeg Free Press*) in the title role of Manitoba Opera’s *Susannah* (2019), Lara Ciekiewicz has established herself as a dynamic, intelligent, and moving singing-actress. Her facility for fully transforming into a character, regardless of genre, has earned her the reputation of being an artistic chameleon.

This spring, Ms. Ciekiewicz plays Bea in *Three Decembers* for Little Opera Company and will be a guest artist in the Banff Centre’s Jenny Belzberg Theatre Grand Opening Celebration.

Select additional credits include Elle, *La voix humaine*; The Sopranos of Winnipeg (Manitoba Opera); Musetta, *La Bohème*; Countess, *Le nozze di Figaro* (Edmonton Opera); title role, *Jenůfa*; Amelia, *Simon Boccanegra*; Lauretta, *Gianni Schicchi*; Nellie Forbush, *South Pacific*; recitalist for Open Air: A Summer Festival of Music (Pacific Opera Victoria); Tatyana, *Eugene Onegin* (Calgary Opera); May, *Ours*; Cinderella, *Into the Woods*; Maria, *The Sound of Music* (Opera on the Avalon); Rosalinde, *Die Fledermaus* (Toronto Operetta Theatre); soloist for *Messiah* and A Viennese New Year (Victoria Symphony); and All Those Arias (Little Opera Company).

Ms. Ciekiewicz is increasingly in demand as an adjudicator, and teacher. She serves as a voice instructor at the University of Manitoba’s Desautels Faculty of Music. Lara enjoys gardening, is an avid walker, loves fabulous footwear, and is a self-professed prairie girl forever.



Catherine Anne Daniel MEZZO-SOPRANO

Originally from Edmonton, Catherine Daniel is a dynamic performer whose training and performances have taken her across North America and Europe. Career highlights include singing Emelda Griffiths in Grammy Award-winner Terence Blanchard’s opera *Champion* with l’Opéra de Montréal; debuting Klytemnestra in Edmonton Opera’s production of *Elektra*; singing Elisabetta in Knoxville Opera’s production of Donizetti’s *Maria Stuarda*; and debuting at Carnegie Hall as a soloist in Haydyn’s *Mass in Time of War*. Ms. Daniel made her Opera Tampa debut in *Carmen* singing the title role in 2020. She last performed with Manitoba Opera as Mercédès in the 2010 production of *Carmen*.

Catherine Daniel studied voice with coloratura soprano Tracy Dahl at the University of Manitoba. She was a member of the Atelier Lyrique de l’Opéra de Montréal, and later became a member of the Opera Studio Nederlands in Amsterdam.

The Artists



Lizzy Hoyt MEZZO-SOPRANO

Few vocalists authentically cross genres at the highest levels and maintain professional careers in both areas, but Lizzy Hoyt is one of them. A classical mezzo-soprano praised by *Opera Canada* for her dramatic depth and keen comedic gifts, she is also an internationally recognized Celtic songwriter, singer, and multi-instrumentalist (fiddle, guitar, harp).

Ms. Hoyt is thrilled to be making her full production debuts later this year with Manitoba Opera and Brott Opera singing the title role of Angelina in Rossini's *La Cenerentola*. She also debuts with the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra in May singing baroque arias by Vivaldi and Handel. Recent performances include The Solo Sessions (Manitoba Opera), Julia Child in Hoiby's *Bon Appétit* (Little Opera Company), Béatrice in Berlioz's *Béatrice et Bénédicte*, and Dido in Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* (Manitoba Underground Opera).

As a Celtic-folk artist, Lizzy Hoyt has given countless concert tours throughout the country since 2000 and has been recognized with numerous awards and nominations including the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal, Canadian Folk Music Awards, Western Canadian Music Awards, International Acoustic Music Awards, and Independent Music Awards. This May, Ms. Hoyt will release her fifth independent album, "The Parting Glass" followed by a concert tour in Alberta.

An alumni of Manitoba Opera's Digital Emerging Artist Program, Lizzy Hoyt recently started a YouTube channel LIZZY HOYT MUSIC where she shares both classical and Celtic-folk content.



David Pomeroy TENOR

Canadian tenor David Pomeroy is enjoying a career that is placing him in the spotlight on the world's most important stages. *The New York Times* describes him as "a powerful, heartfelt and agile tenor."

The Newfoundland native made his Metropolitan Opera debut in the title role of Faust, followed by the title role of Hoffmann, and he now receives star billing throughout North America, Europe, Asia, and Latin America.

Next this season, he returns to Theatro Municipal de São Paulo, Brazil, as Radames (*Aida*). The 2022/23 season features performances with Calgary Opera as Don José (*Carmen*); the Rhode Island Philharmonic and l'Orchestra symphonique de Québec for Verdi's *Requiem*; and the title of *Tannhäuser* in Tokyo.

Recent stage roles include Bacchus (*Adriane auf Naxos*) at the Gran Teatra del Liceu, Barcelona and Oper Stuttgart; Calaf (*Turandot*) with the New National Theatre Tokyo and Theatro Municipal de São Paulo; the title of *Tannhäuser* with the Cologne Opera; and Paul (*Die Tote Stadt*) with Oper Frankfurt.

The Artists



James Westman BARITONE

Whether performing song, concert, or opera throughout the world, baritone James Westman's passion and musicianship bring an extra dimension to his performances.

Recent highlights include the title role in *Rigoletto* for l'Opéra de Montréal, Opera San Antonio, and Edmonton Opera; Germont in *La traviata* for the Canadian Opera Company, Pacific Opera Victoria, and both Edmonton and Manitoba Opera; Britten's *War Requiem* for the Colorado Symphony and the National Arts Centre Orchestra; *Carmina Burana* for Chicago's Grant Park Festival and St. Louis Symphony; the title role in *Nabucco* for Opéra de Québec; and Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9* for the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra and Calgary Philharmonic. Notably, he triumphed in the iconic role of Sir John A. MacDonald in Somers' *Louis Riel* in Toronto, Ottawa, and Quebec, a production that celebrated Canada's Sesquicentennial Year.

Mr. Westman, a multiple Grammy and Juno nominee, has recorded for Decca, Opera Rara, CBC, and the BBC.



Robert Pel STAGE MANAGER

Robert Pel's first contract with Manitoba Opera was in 1984 for *Aida*. He returned in early 2000 to stage manage *Rigoletto*, and since 2013, when he stage managed another production of *Aida*, has been returning each year since.

Over the past 45 years, he has had the good fortune to stage manage at most of the opera and theatre companies in Canada. This has allowed him to travel to every province and territory but one.

Mr. Pel resides in Stratford, Ontario. His love for motorcycles, kilts, his three daughters, two grandchildren, and lovely wife (not necessarily in that order) provide him with a very rich life.

It is with great joy that he is part of this production and has the pleasuring of working with this excellent company.

**Congratulations
to Manitoba Opera
on a Gala Concert
to remember.**

Bravo!

GAIL ASPER
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The Artists



Kathryn Ball ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

Kathryn Ball is very happy to be back on the job with Manitoba Opera. She has been working with the company since 2007. Her most recent productions include *The Telephone & La Voix Humaine*, *The Sopranos of Winnipeg*, *Susannah*, and *The Barber of Seville*.

Ms. Ball also works with other arts organizations in Winnipeg and across Canada. Some of her favourite productions include *Matilda* (RMTC), *Once* (Citadel), *Nutcracker* (RWB), *Mary Poppins* (Globe Theatre), *Strike!* (Rainbow Stage), and *Voice!* (PTE).

She hopes that you are as thrilled to be back in the seats of this beautiful theatre as she is to be back working in it!



Heather Lee Brereton ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER

Heather Lee Brereton has worked in various capacities in the Winnipeg theatre/arts community for over a decade. She has assumed many roles: stage management, designer, props builder, wardrobe mistress, and technician for regional and independent theatre productions.

She re-joined the Manitoba Opera stage management team in 2019 with *The Barber of Seville/Susannah* after a hiatus and was in rehearsals for her second *Carmen* in 2020 (the 2010 production was her first opera).

Over the last two years, as has been the case with many arts workers, Ms. Brereton pivoted to various other means of employment in her wheelhouse including upholstery/drapery, family childcare, and more recently, a backlog of sewing gigs.

When not stage managing, she creates custom garments and performance costumes for clients including vintage clothing enthusiasts, circus performers, drag artists, and a Marilyn Monroe impersonator (Heather Lee Bea). She is excited to be back with Manitoba Opera helping to keep things running smoothly backstage!

Production Personnel

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Assistant Stage Manager
Kathryn Ball

Assistant Stage Manager
Heather Lee Brereton

Rehearsal Pianist
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THANKS TO THE GIRL GUIDES!

Our thanks and appreciation to members of the 99th Guides, 31st Pathfinders, and 350th Rangers and their leaders who volunteered their time to make the "Support Ukraine" ribbons which were distributed to patrons this evening.

These Girl Guides of Canada units are located in St. Vital and their participants range in age from nine to 17.

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Hong Tian Jia

Mary Lawton

Sonia Lazar*

Julie Savard

Jun Shao

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