

MANITOBA
• OPERA

2023/24 SEASON PRESENTED BY BMO 



LiKeur

RIEL'S HEART OF THE NORTH

NOVEMBER 18, 22, 24 | 2023

UNDERWRITTEN BY BMO 



IMAGINATION TAKES US EVERYWHERE

Proud to support the imaginative talent
in our creative and cultural arts community.



JAMES RICHARDSON & SONS, LIMITED

ESTABLISHED 1857
AND AFFILIATED COMPANIES



MISSION STATEMENT

Manitoba Opera is a non-profit arts organization dedicated to changing people's lives through the glory of opera.

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
Subscriber Services Hotline: 204-957-7842
Online: tickets.mbopera.ca
Website: mbopera.ca

To advertise in this program call:
204-944-8824

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



**Manitoba Opera gratefully acknowledges
the encouragement and financial support
given by the following:**



*We acknowledge the support
of the Canada Council for the Arts.*



*With the generous support
of the Manitoba Arts Council*



*With the generous support of the Winnipeg Arts
Council with funding from the City of Winnipeg.*



Larry Desrochers GENERAL DIRECTOR & CEO

Tadeusz Biernacki
ASSISTANT MUSIC DIRECTOR/CHORUS MASTER

Michael Blais
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Ashley Boychuk
GRANTS & CORPORATE GIVING MANAGER

Bethany Bunko
COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Tania Douglas
DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Sheldon Johnson
DIRECTOR OF PRODUCTION

Alice Macgregor
OPERA ACCESS PROGRAM &
COMMUNITY TICKET COORDINATOR

Liz Miller
ANNUAL GIVING MANAGER

Scott Miller
EDUCATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
COORDINATOR

Tyrone Paterson
MUSIC ADVISOR & PRINCIPAL CONDUCTOR

Darlene Ronald
DIRECTOR OF MARKETING

Ashley Schneberger
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Karen Stuart
FINANCE OFFICER

2023/24 Board of Trustees



Sandy Chahal
Chief Operations Officer,
Lawton Partners Wealth
Management



Judith Chambers
CHAIR
MBA, B.Comm., CFP®, CEA, TEP
Investment Advisor, TD Wealth



**Terence Sakohianisaks
Douglas**
SECRETARY
Indigenous Advocate
& Barrister and Solicitor



Flavia Fernandez Fabio
Provincial Sales Manager -
Manitoba & Saskatchewan,
Escalade Wines & Spirits



Dr. David Folk
Medical Director for Amdocs -
providing Medical Services to
Northern First Nations
Communities



Elba Haid
PAST CHAIR
Founder and CEO, Realcare



Daniela Ignat
Vice President and
Financial Advisor,
Granite Financial Group Inc.



Ray Karasevich
President & CEO,
Assiniboine Park Conservancy



Nupur Kumari
Portfolio Manager, Caggemini



Lana Maidment
President and CEO,
Komana Financial



Maria Mitousis
Principal, Mitousis Lemieux
Howard Law Corporation



Charlene Ord
Senior Marketing Specialist,
Stantec Consulting



John Pacak
President & CEO,
InnovoXL Group of Companies



Keith Sinclair
President & CEO,
Harris Leadership Strategies



D. Grant Suderman
Principal, Verge Strategy Group



Lori Yorke
TREASURER
Owner, Medi-Quote
Insurance Brokers Inc.

UNDER THE DISTINGUISHED PATRONAGE OF

The Honourable Anita R. Neville, P.C., O.M.,
LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR OF MANITOBA
His Worship Scott Gillingham,
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF WINNIPEG

FOUNDING PRESIDENT

The Honourable A. Kerr Twaddle*

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR EMERITUS

Dr. Irving Guttman, C.M., O.B.C.*

FOUNDING DIRECTOR EMERITUS

Dr. Robert H. Thorlakson, O.C.*

DIRECTORS EMERITI

James W. Astwood*
Thos. F. Copeland*
Rosalind Dick
D. Chris Finnbogason*
Peter George
H.E. Harland
Mrs. Kenneth R. Howell*
A. Rolph Huband*
Richard Irish
Bruce H. Lang*
Mrs. Sinclair A. Levack*
Allan M. Moore*
Dr. Robert N. Morris*
Dr. M.M. Pierce*
Dr. Elmer E. Reimer*
Louis R. (Bud) Sherman*

Eleanor Siddall*
Dr. Lawrence Soloway*
Jennifer Snyder
J.F. Reeh Taylor*
Leigh Taylor
Robert Vineberg

* deceased

Manitoba Opera is located upon, and operates within, Treaty #1 territory, the Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene peoples' traditional lands and waters and the Red River Métis Nation homelands.

As water nourishes the land and all it gives us, we also acknowledge that the source of the City of Winnipeg's water is from Shoal Lake, the home and shared territory of Iskatewizaagegan No. 39 Independent Nation and Shoal Lake 40 First Nation.

In view of such understandings and acknowledgments, Manitoba Opera remains committed to working in partnership with the Indigenous peoples in the spirit of truth, reconciliation, and collaboration.

MANITOBA OPERA

MANITOBA OPERA GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE SUPPORT OF OUR 2023/24 SPONSORS & FUNDERS

2023/24 Season Presented by



Season Sponsors



Media Sponsor



Opening Night Dinner Wine Sponsor

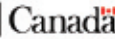


Li Keur: Riel's Heart of the North Sponsors

Underwritten by



Funded by the Government of Canada's Community Services Recovery Fund



Apprenticeship and development partner: National Creation Fund at Canada's National Arts Centre.

Carmen Sponsors



Education & Community Engagement

Digital Emerging Artist Program

Official Supporters



Public Funders



Message from the Chair, Board of Trustees

I'm delighted to welcome you to this momentous occasion as we experience this exciting new opera: *Li Keur: Riel's Heart of the North*. *Li Keur* is far more than an opera; it represents an act in the process of reconciliation. This work is a testament to the power of artistic collaboration; bringing together diverse voices, languages, and traditions to celebrate Métis culture and heritage. It exemplifies how art can foster understanding and healing.

Manitoba Opera is immensely grateful to present the first Indigenous-led opera on a Canadian mainstage, featuring an outstanding creative team of Métis artists, storytellers, and performers.

Congratulations to the creative team, Dr. Suzanne Steele, Alex Kusturok, and Neil Weisensel, whose vision, creativity, and indeed, perseverance, has made this work possible. Our deepest gratitude goes to the language keepers and translators, who have worked on this project from its start, translating text into the Indigenous languages, offering cultural knowledge and wisdom, and assisting the performers with pronunciation.

I must also express our gratitude to the *Li Keur* Advisory Committee that has worked tirelessly to guide community engagement and build bridges with the Indigenous community. The efforts of this committee have been instrumental in bringing this vision to life, and we are thankful for your dedication, knowledge, and passion.



On behalf of the entire organization, I want to give our thanks to BMO for their extraordinary support in underwriting *Li Keur: Riel's Heart of the North*, in addition to their support as our 2023/24 Presenting Season Sponsor. BMO's commitment to this project is nothing short of remarkable, and it has enabled us to realize this ambitious endeavor.

Li Keur is a celebration of Métis culture, a tribute to language reclamation, and a testament to the power of intercultural exchange. It is a story that resonates not only with Manitobans, but with all Canadians, for it is a part of our shared history. As we embark on this journey, I encourage you to immerse yourselves in the mystic power of *Li Keur*. Let it be a symbol of hope, unity, and reconciliation. Let it inspire you to learn and engage with Indigenous cultures, languages, and traditions. Let it be a testament to the transformative power of the arts.

Thank you for joining us this evening, I know it will be a night to remember.

With gratitude and anticipation,

Judith Chambers

Great opera
lives here.



BMO



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

BMO is proud to be Manitoba Opera's 2023/24 **Season Sponsor** and **Lead Underwriter of *Li Keur: Riel's Heart of the North***.

Message from the General Director & CEO

Peehtikway, Aaniin, Boozhoo, Tawow, Wotziye, Iyuskin, Tungasugit, Bienvenue, Welcome.

Manitoba Opera's path to bring *Li Keur: Riel's Heart of the North* to the stage began in 2019. With our Building Bridges initiative, we aimed to build meaningful relationships with Indigenous communities through a guided process of listening and learning.

Our journey began with Jessica Dumas, a member of the Anishinaabe community from Keeseekoowenin Ojibway First Nation, who led educational workshops for Manitoba Opera's board and staff. We participated in the Kairos blanket exercise and a session on the painful legacy of residential schools. Elder Betty Ross graciously shared her life story with us following a smudging ceremony, and we also read her book, *Sugar Falls*, and engaged in a workshop on the history of treaties in Canada.

When the pandemic struck, our staff and board began self-guided learning sessions online. These sessions included discussions about the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action and readings of works like Bob Joseph's *21 Things You May Not Know About the Indian Act* and *Indigenous Relations*. Our team participated in webinars on the impact of colonialization and historical trauma on fundraising, Indigenous musical sovereignty, Indigenous perspectives on fundraising, and historical music and Indigenous resurgence.

In 2022, we hired consultant Rhonda Forgues of Spirited Way Consulting to resume the Building Bridges project. Over a number of months, Rhonda met with us to learn about our organization.



She developed recommendations for the company to restructure processes to incorporate the skills and representation of Indigenous communities; to formulate an HR recruitment strategy to enhance Indigenous representation throughout the company; and to prioritize partnerships with Indigenous-owned businesses and artists.

This transformative work, already in motion, will be further formalized when Manitoba Opera signs the Winnipeg Indigenous Accord this month.

Over the past several months, staff have worked with an advisory committee to guide our connections to the community in relation to *Li Keur: Riel's Heart of the North*. We extend our profound gratitude to all the Indigenous people who have worked with us for their wisdom, generosity of spirit, and kindness.

Our journey has been a rewarding experience, culminating in tonight's celebration as we launch a new opera that celebrates Métis women, languages, and culture. As this evening begins, the words of Louis Riel resonate: "My people will sleep for one hundred years, but when they awake, it will be the artists who give them their spirit back."

Tonight is witness to that spirit.

Larry Desrochers



One in five
Winnipeggers

Volunteer for arts and culture groups.

36%

**of Winnipeggers
spend time each week
enjoying the arts.**



See more about
Leisure and Culture in
Winnipeg's Vital Signs® 2022,
visit wpgfdn.org/VitalSigns

WINNIPEG'S
VitalSigns®2022
A PROJECT OF THE WINNIPEG FOUNDATION



Notes from Dr. Suzanne M. Steele

Opera Architect/Librettist/Storyteller

I did not write *Li Keur: Riel's Heart of the North*. The land wrote this, as did the swallows (*les hirondelles*), the dragonflies of the Missouri River at Point Pelican, and St. Peters, Montana, where Riel taught. And I had the help of hundreds of peoples of the land that I encountered over tens of thousands of kilometres spent travelling first by water: 2,200 km of the North Saskatchewan from the Rockies to Lake Winnipeg on a 17' sailboat and 10,000 km by road, off-grid, throughout the heart, *li keur* of this great continent.

Over those years I met some of our Elders, the keepers of the Indigenous flames, our knowledges, all of whom helped me: John and Vicki Arcand, Rose Richardson (the model for Marie Serpent) and the late Ric Richardson, Maria Campbell (whom I met briefly at the Arcands' but whose words I have thought long about) and so many, many more. And the amazing young ones helped me: Métis fiddler and activist Tristen Durocher, the young fiddler Jordan Daniels (who is doing us all so proud). Then too, I received the good counsel of a great friend to us (I detest the word 'ally' which I find performative), the late Dr. Nicholas Vrooman, whose work with and on behalf

of the Métis peoples, the Littleshell Chippewa of Montana, has, after 140 years

of Littleshell's petitioning the US government for recognition, at last succeeded.

Vrooman, upon hearing of my writing *Li Keur*, rightfully acknowledged that "this is your story to write." Did I need the blessing of a non-Indigenous historian? No. But it was kismet that we should meet at the beginning of my research; he was a good friend to our peoples south of the Medicine Line and he confirmed my historical assumptions in this piece. I'm sorry he never lived to see *Li Keur*.

At the time of these travels, I did not know what I was looking for; I waited patiently for the land to tell me, for the archives, for Riel's diaries to tell me, for the hundreds of conversations that I had with our peoples from all walks of life to tell me. And what they told me was to write some of us back into the narrative of the continent, a narrative that in my family stretches back 12,000 years (at least).



Continued on page 11

2023/24 Season Presented by



Special Thanks to Our Season and *Li Keur: Riel's Heart of the North* Presenting and Production Sponsors

Underwritten by



Presenting, Production, and Performance Sponsors





**PROUD
SUPPORTER
OF MANITOBA
OPERA**

**THE
Free Press**

To subscribe call 204-697-7001 or visit
winnipegfreepress.com/subscribe

Notes from Dr. Suzanne M. Steele

Opera Architect/Librettist/Storyteller *CONTINUED*

As a Gaudry/Fayant/Ducharme of St. Vital, St. François Xavier, and Willowbunch, our family was cast like windflower seeds to the winds of diaspora into the western continent; we were exiles in our own land. A once-thriving family, through the loss of financial and social capital, suffered severe poverty and dismembered family ties. It is through *Li Keur*, then, that I reconnect some of this loss, not the least through the presence of the ghost-choruses of the opening 'becoming' story, and most of all through the Indigenous languages.

For me, the most exciting aspect of this work is to hear some of the sonic palette of the time in which my great-great-grandparents and their kin spoke five to seven languages, a time in which French and English were not the *lingua francas* of the continent. For this I will always be grateful to our translators for helping me, and I take full responsibility for any errors or omissions and beg their forgiveness in my attempt to

write the linguistic accommodations of the times, accommodations one might still hear in a Michif household over *li galette* and tea!

I thank *li famille*, my big family for support, and Jeff Hilberry who has abided with me, Nicole Stonyk who has been by my side through some thick and thin, Virginia Durksen for her editor's eye, Bryna Link and Hannah Connelly, Simon Miron, Neil Weisensel, Alex Kusturok, Larry Desrochers and SO MANY more. I apologize for missing names.

I thank the Creator for the miracle of medicine and good doctors that saved my life in 2021/22 and dedicate this work to my grandmother, the late Joséphine Marie Gaudry; my mother, the late Eileen Mae; my late niece, Courtenay Jane; and most of all I dedicate this to my traditional Métis fiddler daughter, Ella Joséphine Marie, who may or may not bear any resemblance to the Joséphine-Marie of *Li Keur*! Maarsii.

Biography:

Dr. Suzanne M. Steele

Suzanne Steele is an award-winning poet, installation artist, scholar, editor, and writer. She is a librettist (opera architect) and co-founder, with Drs. Monique Giroux and Michelle Porter, of the Red River Jig Network project (www.redriverjig.com).

Dr. Steele has a PhD from Exeter University (UK), an MLIS from UWO, and a BMus (voice) from UBC. She is co-director of the multi-year *Li Keur* project with Neil Weisensel.

Her war requiem (with composer Jeff Ryan), *Afghanistan: Requiem for a Generation*, will be released commercially in 2023.

This work is based on her experience as a Canadian war artist with the First Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry (2008-2010) Afghanistan.

She is represented by Ian Arnold of Catalyst ian@catalysttcm.com and would like to thank him.

IS YOUR BUSINESS AI - READY?

Capitalize on advances in AI to save time and money.

Sign up for a complimentary Artificial Intelligence
Discovery Consultation today.

clearconcepts.ca/ai

Chatbots

Search & Summarize

Content Writing

Data Science

AI Copilots

Machine Learning

Design & Code

AI Cybersecurity



OpenAI



Microsoft
Azure

Notes & Biography

Alex Kusturok

Co-composer/Fiddle

Growing up, Alex followed his mother Patti to old-time dances around Manitoba where he was enriched with the Métis fiddle from a young age.

His career highlights include travelling with the Métis delegation to Rome to meet with Pope Francis, Celtic Colours International



Festival, Heritage Classic in Edmonton, Alberta, and two top-three finishes at the Canadian Grand Masters.

“I’m very honoured to be part of this production. The ability to preserve our culture like this is such a gift. Congratulations to everyone involved.”

Notes from

Neil Weisensel

Co-composer/Conductor

Composing music for *Li Keur* has been the most rewarding and the most challenging thing I have ever done.

The scale, scope, and breadth of the creation of this piece is something that is difficult to put into words. Co-composed with my friend and colleague Alex Kusturok, the music weaves many musical disciplines: traditional and contemporary fiddle tunes, contemporary opera music, well-known operatic tropes that retain their effectiveness, and the kinds of teeming, swirling textures that a symphony orchestra as committed to new music as the WSO can provide. My compositional esthetic, while fairly traditional in many ways, tries to reflect the inner state of the characters. For example, when things are going well in Riel’s life, his music is beautiful and lyrical; when he is undergoing challenges, his music becomes dissonant and discordant.

I’m very grateful to Suzanne Steele for putting together a compelling, dramatic, and epic story that I could help tell using music. We are very fortunate to have as stage director Simon Miron (a cousin on my French-Canadian side), a quadruple-threat artist who helped shape the story as



dramaturge, and has pulled together the visions of so many artists into what you see onstage tonight. It’s also been a great pleasure to work with video and set/prop designer T. Erin Gruber and choreographer Yvonne Chartrand, two of the other artists whose work features prominently in *Li Keur*.

I also would like to thank Canadian Mennonite University (CMU) who, through my position as Music Faculty there, made it possible for this project to apply for and be awarded a SSHRC grant, which funded the Indigenous Languages Database, a bedrock for the piece. CMU’s Internal Grants provided funding for the recording of excerpts and publishing the score, which were invaluable for keeping the project’s momentum.

The work on this project started in 2017, the result of a Canada Council New Chapter grant that was awarded to Suzanne and me as part of Canada’s 150th anniversary of Confederation. What followed was a voyage of discovery and healing that took me from the heart of the Métis homeland in Manitoba through Saskatchewan, Alberta, Montana, and the Dakotas.

Continued on page 15



Proud Sponsors
of Li Keur:
Riel's Heart
of the North

 **Johnston**
group
Work Life Wonderful.



 **Chambers Plan**
Employee Benefits

Maximum
benefit.



Employee Benefit Solutions | johnstongroup.ca

RARE EXQUISITE WORLDLY

WE'RE MAKING
EXOTIC TASTES
EASY TO FIND.

Distinctions brings together some of the world's most exclusive wines and spirits. Whether you're a connoisseur or simply curious, you'll appreciate the care that goes into our hand-picked collection. Explore our rare selection and take home something priceless today.

GRANT PARK LIQUOR MART
1120 GRANT AVENUE

Distinctions
EXCEPTIONAL WINES & SPIRITS

 LIQUOR
MART

18+ ENJOY
RESPONSIBLY



Notes from Neil Weisensel

Co-composer/Conductor *CONTINUED*

A first performance of 45 minutes from the piece, with the Regina Symphony conducted by Gordon Gerrard in 2019, was seminal in the development of the current version. Subsequent performances planned with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra in 2020, 2021 and 2022 were derailed by the pandemic, after which Larry Desrochers and Manitoba Opera came to the rescue and made the current production possible, for which I will be eternally grateful.

As a white settler, I feel it is my responsibility to do what I can to contribute to the tremendous process of reconciliation in which our country is engaged. Through

working on this piece, I have learned so much about myself, about Indigenous worldview, culture and practices, and have made so many new friends along this journey. This project has affected the work I do as an educator at Canadian Mennonite University, it has affected my politics, and my family life. What lies before us all is an opportunity to change Canada's narrative by becoming actively involved in reconciliation, by becoming allies, finding other allies, and extending our love, friendship, understanding, and collaboration to Indigenous communities. It takes all of us to walk the journey of reconciliation together as treaty people.

Biography:

Neil Weisensel

Composer and conductor Neil Weisensel, one of the most frequently performed and prolific opera composers in Canada, is a white settler with French-Canadian and German ancestry. Neil is part of the music faculty at Canadian Mennonite University, where he teaches Music Theory, Composition, and Music Technology.

As a composer he is well-versed in a multiplicity of styles and genres and has written music for feature films, television, documentaries, and international multi-media installations. Neil's eight operas, including four early works with librettist/director Michael Cavanagh that remain in the repertory, have seen over 200 total performances across Canada and the U.S., including Vancouver Opera's 2014 production of *Stickboy*, with libretto by slam poet Shane Koyczan. More recently, in 2017, Winnipeg's Little Opera Company produced his 1997 opera *Merry Christmas Stephen Leacock*, proving that you need to be very patient as an opera composer!

With his wife, Rachel Landrecht, Neil co-composed and performed an original song for former U.S. President Bill Clinton in Vancouver, and the duo has also provided keynote musical presentations for Oscar winner Al Gore and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. Neil had an exclusive engagement performing solo piano at the Vancouver 2010 Olympics, and his big band collaboration with superstar Michael Bubl  earned them multiple award nominations. In fall 2022, virtuoso organist Sarah Svendsen premiered Neil's new composition *Tableaux* at Toronto's Roy Thomson Hall.

Neil has received grants, fellowships, and commissions from the National Endowment for the Arts (U.S.), the Canada Council, Opera.ca, the Manitoba, Winnipeg, and BC Arts Councils, OPERA America, and the Banff Centre. He holds advanced music degrees from UBC (Composition) and from the University of Manitoba (Piano Performance).

YOUR GIFT POWERS THE FUTURE OF OPERA

DONATE NOW TO DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT!



THE POWER OF **VOICE**

An endowment campaign for Manitoba Opera.

TANIA DOUGLAS
tdouglas@mbopera.ca | 204-942-2163
mbopera.ca/powerofvoice

Nikki Einfeld (Adele), *Die Fledermaus*, 2006. Photo: R. Tinker



Synopsis | *Li Keur: Riel's Heart of the North*

PLACE: The heart of the continent | TIME: Present day and the 1870s

LANGUAGE: Southern Michif, French-Michif, Anishinaabemowin, French, and English

This work is entirely of my imagination and cannot be construed as an historic account despite a foundation of extensive primary archival and secondary research of the 19th century, extensive engagement with the land, with the Michif peoples, and our kinship networks of the 21st century throughout our homeland. Any mistakes or omissions are entirely mine. Any linguistic mistakes are entirely mine. – SUZANNE STEELE

Li Keur is an invitation to visit. It is almost winter, a time when stories stalk the earth. In dreamlike sequences, Joséphine-Marie, and her beloved grandmother Mémère tell us a favourite family story, one told to give comfort in troubled times.

The story imagines the becoming of the Métis peoples and introduces a mystical, historic past that exists in the present in the form of 'ghost' or 'ancestor' choruses. Thus, Joséphine-Marie and her family situate themselves at the heart of the continent as Métis peoples.

The opening act introduces us to the Black Geese of Fate, agents of change and the main protagonists; the Anishinaabeg knowledge keeper, Marie Serpente; Josette, a young Michif sharpshooter and runaway; Marguerite Monet dit Belhumeur; and the historic Louis Riel living out his fate. We also meet Baptiste Robideau, a buffalo guide who may or may not be the younger Riel.

We then transition from the mystic to "reality" as Joséphine-Marie is startled awake from her story-dream into the present. Far from home, she struggles with her studies and sense of identity until she is visited by her darling Mémère who helps her navigate this difficult time through more story, this time of a young woman sharpshooter of the 1870s at the last bison hunts and her love for a buffalo guide named Baptiste Robideau.

The story within a story begins in the 1870s Red River at a dance. We learn Josette is being bargained over by her father, Pierre LaGrande to an old trader, Jacques LaCrosse, who wants her in marriage.

Josette, an independent spirit, refuses to be a part of this, switches clothing with her best friend Rose, and runs away south across the Medicine Line (the US/Canada border) with Robideau, who has been hired to take a wealthy English aristocrat to the last bison hunts.

Joining them are Marie Serpente, a dear friend of Josette's from childhood, and LaRoche, a Canadjenn (Quebecois), Marie's love partner and Robideau's guide partner. The quartet journey to St. Paul, fetch their Englishman, then meet the buffalo hunts of Pembina and Île-à-la-Crosse. Marie and Josette babysit the Englishman while Robideau and LaRoche come and go over the Medicine Line to do "business."

Over the course of the opera, we encounter bison brigades, smugglers, attend kitchen parties filled with jiggers and fiddlers, and take in a boxing match!

Overarching narratives encompass 21st century Joséphine-Marie's reckoning with identity, 1885 Riel's historic reckoning with his fate as he sits in his jail cell playing crib with his jailers, and a love triangle. All the while, the Black Geese of Fate manipulate, play with, or torment every character, including us!

In the final act, we come to the 'historic' Riel and face the terrible challenges of the 1880s for Indigenous peoples at the heart of the continent, themes 21st century peoples will recognize: refugeehood, environmental degradation, political insecurities, and much more.

But this work is meant first and foremost as a celebration of the independence and fortitude of the Métis peoples and our kinship networks at *li keur*, the heart of the continent, and in particular, how Indigenous women have sewn and mended our cultures and our challenges – traits that Joséphine-Marie will take with her well into the 21st century as she prepares for her own leadership guided by stories of Josette, Mémère, Riel, and the Black Geese of Fate!

AN IRRESISTIBLE FAVOURITE!



Carmen

APRIL 13 | 17 | 19

CENTENNIAL CONCERT HALL

THE SEXY THRILLER THAT SEDUCES THE AUDIENCE WITH EVERY NOTE

With its lavish score, brilliant orchestration, and Spanish rhythms, who can resist the hit melodies and beloved music of one of the most popular operas of all time?

Utterly unforgettable, *Carmen* tells the story of the woman who craves love and freedom, and the men who cannot resist her.

Sung in French with French dialogue; projected English translations.

SINGLE TICKET HOLDERS SEE CARMEN FOR LESS!

Apply the cost of tonight's ticket to *Li Keur* to a subscription. You'll see *Carmen* for less and get all the benefits of a subscription.

To upgrade to a subscription, call 204-944-8824 before Friday, December 15.

204-944-8824
mbopera.ca



Marrsii, Miiwech, Merci, Thank You

The creative team and Manitoba Opera would like to thank the many people and organizations who helped make possible *Li Keur: Riel's Heart of the North* and want to extend our sincere apologies for any inadvertent omissions.

Elders/Knowledge Keepers/ Cultural Advocates

The following list is by no means comprehensive, but we would like to acknowledge those who have supported this project directly, or through their own work, influence, good counsel, teachings, or keeping of our Indigenous flames and kinship networks alive.

John and Vicki Arcand
Maria Campbell, O.C.
The late François Fontaine
Norman Fleury
Cheryl Foster
Randy Gaudry
Will Gooden
Jennine Krauchi
Patti Kusturok
Jenny Meyer
Rose Richardson and
the late Ric Richardson
Dr. Fred Shore
Linda St. Cyr-Saric
Nicole Stonyk
Nicholas Vrooman

Advisory Committee

Liz Barron
June Bruce
Agathe Chartrand
Lorraine Coutu-Lavallee
Rhonda Forgues
Dr. Laura Forsythe
Louise Gordey
Jean-Marc Lafond
Sharon Parenteau
Nicole Stonyk
Andrea Tailleu
Dée-Ann Vermette

MO Staff:

Larry Desrochers
Tania Douglas
Dr. Scott Miller
Darlene Ronald

Production Ambassadors

Camryn Dewar
Keely McPeek

Supporters of the research and development phase of *Li Keur: Riel's Heart of the North*

Liam Berry
British Columbia Council for the Arts
Canada Council for the Arts
Canadian Mennonite University
Greg Hamilton and Dejan Badnjar
Jeff Hilbery
Michaela Kleer
Rachel Landrecht
Louis Riel Institute
Bryna Link
Simon Miron
Manitoba Arts Council
Jean-François Phaneuf
Regina Symphony Orchestra,
(Gordon Gerrard)
SSHRC (Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council)
Dr. Heather Souter
Ella Speckeen
The Banff Centre Leighton Colonies
(Jennifer Bain-Houck and Jim Olvr)
Winnipeg Arts Council
Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra

Performances/Rehearsal/ Trauma-Informed Assistance

Will Gordon

Elders:

Oliver Boulette
June Bruce
Lorraine Coutu-Lavallee
Verna Demontigny
Linda St. Cyr-Saric
Beverley Lee
Norman Meade

INSPIRING THE CHILDREN OF TODAY

to create the artists
of tomorrow.

**HELP US INSPIRE
BY GIVING TO PASS THE HAT!**

When a basket is passed to you following intermission, please donate to support our youth programs.

**OR SCAN THIS
CODE TO DONATE
ONLINE NOW!**



THANK YOU FOR BRINGING OPERA TO MANITOBA'S CHILDREN.

Soprano Katherine Mayba leads a BEEP workshop at Victory School, 2022. Photo Jagriti Aggarwal

Li Keur: Riel's Heart of the North

Book/Libretto by Dr. Suzanne Steele

Music by Alex Kusturok and Neil Weisensel

Conductor Neil Weisensel

Director Simon Miron

PRINCIPAL CAST

(in alphabetical order)

JOSETTE LA GRANDE	REBECCA CUDDY
MÉMÈRE	PAULETTE DUGUAY
LA ROCHE	NOLAN KEHLER
LOUIS RIEL/BAPTISTE ROBIDEAU	EVAN KORBUT
BLACK GOOSE #1	MICHELLE LAFFERTY
ROSE/MARGUERITE	JULIE LUMSDEN
JACQUES LA CROSSE/THE ENGLISHMAN	JAMES McLENNAN
MARIE SERPENTE	KEELY McPEEK
BLACK GOOSE #2	SCOTT RUMBLE
JOSEPHINE-MARIE/NARRATOR	CHARLENE VAN BUEKENHOUT
PIERRE LA GRANDE	DAVID WATSON

BLACK GEESE (Dancers)

YVONNE CHARTRAND | DANIELLE ENBLOM | MODESTE MCKENZIE
ÉLISE PAGE | RYAN RICHARD | JERA WOLFE

BLACK GEESE (Musicians)

FIDDLE	ALEX KUSTUROK
FIDDLE	MELISSA ST. GODDARD
GUITAR	JORDAN McCONNELL
CHOREOGRAPHER	YVONNE CHARTRAND
FIGHT DIRECTOR	JACQUELINE LOEWEN
SET AND PROJECTION DESIGN	T. ERIN GRUBER
COSTUME DESIGN	DEANNA FINNMAN
COSTUME DESIGN CULTURAL CONSULTANT	EVAN DUCHARME
LIGHTING DESIGN	SCOTT HENDERSON
STAGE MANAGER	ROBERT PEL
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGERS	KATHRYN BALL
.....	HEATHER LEE BRERETON

There will be one 20-minute intermission.

Latecomers will not be seated until an appropriate break in the program. The use of cameras and recording devices is strictly forbidden. Please turn off paging devices, cell phones, and alarm watches. Cast subject to change.

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

The Artists

Listed in Alphabetical Order
* Manitoba Opera debut



Simon Miron*

Director

Simon Miron is a two-spirited, francophone Métis, multi-disciplinary artist from Treaty One Territory.

Their ancestry includes the Ladéroute, Pontbriand, and Sansregret families.

They are interested in making weird art that encourages growth and challenges the boundaries of their own theatre practices. They hold a master's degree from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and also studied in Edmonton, Toronto, and The Stratford Festival. They are a founding member of the Village Conservatory for Music Theatre, a local performing arts education program. www.villageconservatory.com

Directing credits include *The Post Mistress* (RMTC/Belfry), *Pippin* (ViC/WST), *American Idiot*, *Young Frankenstein* (WST), *Lucky Stiff* (MDA), *The Seat Next to the King*, *Whatever Happens After*, *The Last 48*, *Songs for a New World*, *7 Stories*, *The Last Five Years* (WPGfringe).

Simon will be directing RMTC's production of *The Piano Teacher* this February.



Rebecca Cuddy*

Josette La Grande

Métis mezzo-soprano Rebecca Cuddy is acknowledged as "the next generation who are going to do incredible things" (*The Whole Note*, 2019).

This season Rebecca will appear with Soundstreams, the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Symphony New Brunswick, and as a member of The IndigiDivas with Allegra Chamber Orchestra and Calgary Philharmonic. She will also premiere *Bulrushes* with West Edge Opera in Cincinnati.

Last season, Rebecca returned to Pacific Opera Victoria for Braunfels' *Die Vögel*. In concert she appeared with Soundstreams (premiere - Frehner's *L.E.X.*), the New Orford String Quartet, the Toronto Consort, and performed with members of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Jeremy Dutcher and Yo-Yo Ma in support of Toronto's CAMH Centre.

Rebecca attended Western University and the Royal Academy of Music for voice studies. She is the 2022 graduate of the Indigenous Artist Residency at the National Theatre School of Canada. www.rebeccacuddy.com.



Paulette Duguay*

Mémère

Born and raised in St. Boniface, Manitoba, Paulette comes from a long line of proud French Red River Métis from her mother's side and a French-Canadian paternal background.

Theatre has always been an integral part of her life and she's enjoyed being in the cast of several productions with Théâtre Cercle Molière, Maison Gabrielle-Roy, and special event productions.

Paulette holds the Métis nation close to her heart and devotes much of her time as president of l'Union nationale métisse Saint-Joseph du Manitoba, the oldest Métis organization in the country dating back to 1887.

She is also a grateful mother of five and a Mamie to 10 grandchildren. Fun fact: Paulette's great grandmother, Eulalie, was Louis Riel's sister.



Nolan Kehler*

La Roche

Treaty One-based tenor Nolan Kehler brings an infectious energy to the stage. Equally at home on both the concert and operatic stages, Nolan recently made his American debuts with American Bach Soloists and Emmanuel Music in Boston.

A performer dedicated to collaborative reconciliation, Nolan has had the pleasure of working with Juno-nominated Cree composer Andrew Balfour on his compositions *Captive* and *Nôtnikêw* last year in performances with Winnipeg's Dead of Winter at the Montreal New Music Festival and with Edmonton's Chronos Vocal Ensemble.

Nolan serves as provincial coordinator for the Manitoba chapter of Opera InReach, an organization which provides accessible opera education to schools from a wide variety of perspectives and backgrounds in Canadian vocal music.

Nolan can also be heard on weekends over the airwaves on CBC Radio One introducing curated classical music selections across Canada.

The Artists



Evan Korbust*
Riel/Robideau

Evan Korbust is an Anishinaabe baritone from Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, and Garden River (Robinson Treaty/Crown Treaty 60), traditional home

of the Anishinaabe.

He began studying at Western University in 2007, completed his Bachelor's Degree in Music (voice performance) in 2011 and completed his Master's Degree in Music (voice) in 2014.

Recent credits include *The Ecstasy of Rita Joe* (Jaimie Paul, world premiere), *Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny* (Moses), *Shanawdithit* (Simms/Spirit Chorus, world premiere), *Two Odysseys: Pimootewin/Gállábártnit* (Hunter/Chorus, world premiere), *The Flight of the Hummingbird* (Owl), *Adriana Lecouvreur* (Michonnet), *Missing* (Angus/Native Student), and *Don Giovanni* (Leporello).

Evan is excited to be singing the roles of Riel and Robideau.



Michelle Lafferty*
Black Goose #1

Dora Award winner mezzo-soprano Michelle Lafferty is from Tłı̄chó Nation Northwest Territories and now resides in Calgary, Alberta.

She is involved, on an ongoing basis, with The Banff Centre for the Performing Arts program *Indigenous Classical Musicians Gathering*, Calgary Opera's Lab production of *Namwayut*, and Soundstreams production of *Two Odysseys Pimootewin/Gállábártnit* in 2020.

In 2022, she performed in "Kisaageetin," a concert of Tomson Highway's works with the National Arts Centre in Ottawa. She is also part of a new emerging group of illustrious Indigenous women "The Indigidivas" production, with financial support by Allegra Chamber Orchestra with Janna Sailor.

In January 2023, she had her American debut with the role of Mother in Brian Current and Marie Clements' opera *Missing* with Anchorage Opera, Alaska. This past September, she performed with Unsettled Scores in their opera *Canoe* by Dr. Spy Dénomme-Welch and Catherine Magowan.

Photo credit: Ramsay Kunkel



Julie Lumsden*
Rose/Marguerite

Julie Lumsden is a proud member of the Manitoba Métis Federation, with Scottish and German settler ancestry. She holds a Bachelor of Music

in Classical Voice Performance from the University of Manitoba Desautels Faculty of Music.

She has just finished her fifth season at the Shaw Festival, starring as Louise/Gypsy Rose Lee in *Gypsy: A Musical Fable*. During her time at Shaw she has been heralded as "luminous" (*The Globe and Mail*), "particularly compelling" (*The New York Times*) and giving a "tour de force performance" (*Broadway World*).

Julie has also performed on stages including those of RMT, PTE, MYP, Rainbow Stage, Théâtre Cercle Molière, Magnus Theatre, and Neptune Theatre. She is a Juno Award nominee for her work with *Against the Grain/The Banff Centre's Messiah/Complex*.

Tonight's performance is in honour of her grandfathers, Alden and Charles, who have blessed her with her most treasured gifts: the gift of song and the gift of community.



James McLennan
**Jacques La Crosse/
The Englishman**

Born and raised in Winnipeg, James McLennan has performed on opera stages across Canada in a career

spanning close to two decades. Highlights include Count Almaviva in *The Barber of Seville* with Edmonton Opera, Luther Billis in *South Pacific* with Calgary Opera, and Jeune Bilodeau in the world premiere of *Les Feluettes* with l'Opéra de Montréal and Pacific Opera Victoria.

Local appearances include Goro in *Madama Butterfly*, Bardolfo in *Falstaff* and Little Bat in *Susannah* at Manitoba Opera, Orphée in *Orphée et Eurydice* with Manitoba Underground Opera, and Handel's *Messiah* with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra. Last year, he made his UK debut at London's Southbank Centre in Soundstreams' *Musik für das Ende*, a production directed by Chris Abraham featuring the music of Canadian composer Claude Vivier.

James has served as a vocal instructor at both the University of Manitoba and Brandon University. He is also a certified French translator.

The Artists



Keely McPeek*
Marie Serpente

Keely McPeek (she/her) is a member of the Oji-Cree Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation in Northwestern Ontario,

with Irish and German settler roots. She holds a Bachelor of Music and Post-Baccalaureate in Vocal Performance from the Desautels Faculty of Music at the University of Manitoba.

Winning the Rainbow Stage Trophy at the Winnipeg Music Festival encouraged her stage performance career. You may have seen Keely in Manitoba Theatre for Young People's recent seven-month tour of *Frozen River*, Dry Cold's production of *A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*, or the Winnipeg Fringe Festival.



Scott Rumble*
Black Goose #2

Tenor Scott Rumble is an emerging dramatic talent making his mark on Canadian stages. This season includes a return to l'Opéra de Montréal

as Descartes (cover) in the world premiere of Bilodeau's *La reine-garçon* and as Arrigo in Voicebox: Opera in Concert's production of Verdi's *La battaglia de Legnano*. Last season highlights included a role debut as Steuermann in Vancouver Opera's *The Flying Dutchman*; covering the lead role of Göring in the world premiere of *La beauté du monde* for l'Opéra de Montréal; and singing Jason in Cherubini's *Medée* for Opera in Concert, having sung Anatol in their 2022 production of Barber's *Vanessa*.

Scott is an alumnus of Calgary Opera's Emerging Artist Development Program and the Yulanda M. Faris Young Artist Program at Vancouver Opera. Other recent appearances include *A Waltz Dream* with Toronto Operetta Theatre, Mozart's *Requiem* with the Vancouver Bach Choir, Ferrando in Brott Opera's drive-in production of *Così fan tutte*, and Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9* with the Brott Festival.



Charlene Van Buekenhout*
**Josephine-Marie/
Narrator**

Charlene Van Buekenhout (she/her/char) is a Michif/Belgian/Canadian theatre artist

originally from Dauphin, Manitoba (Treaty Two), now residing in Treaty One. She is the Artistic Producer of Echo Theatre, a professional actor, theatre creator, and director. www.echotheatre.net

Her Michif language show for young audiences, *Minoosh Doo-Kapeeshiw* (about a cat who goes camping), was featured at the 2022 Winnipeg Fringe Festival, the Indigenous Languages of Manitoba Festival, and the Métis Elders and Youth Gathering in Selkirk, Manitoba. Charlene is part of the development of a Southern Michif play *Doo-Pashkishok Lii Padrii* (about acquiring tasty partridges for dinner).

Kichi marsii to the team for inviting me to be part of this story. Marsii ma famiyy, Kevin pi Phoebe, pi kahkiyaaw lii Michifs past, present, and future. Wahnkohtowin. Ekoshi!



David Watson
Pierre La Grande

Bass-baritone David Watson is a veteran of opera and concert stages across Canada and continues to earn praise for the richness and power of

his voice.

His recent appearance in last season's *Così fan tutte* marked David's 51st production with Manitoba Opera. His mainstage debut was as Baron Duphol in the Sunday matinee of *La Traviata* in 1979.

He has also performed with the Canadian Opera Company, the opera companies of Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Saskatchewan, and Hamilton, as well as Pacific Opera Victoria, Opera Lyra Ottawa, and Rainbow Stage.

The Artists



Yvonne Chartrand*
Choreographer/Dancer

Yvonne Chartrand is a contemporary choreographer, dancer, and an award-winning master Métis jigger. Her ancestors come from the

Métis community of St. Laurent, Manitoba.

Yvonne is artistic director of the dance company, V'ni Dansi ("Come Dance" in Michif), which she founded in 2000. Yvonne's Métis dance work was passed to her through many Métis Elders across the Métis homeland; she is one of the only people in Canada who holds this traditional knowledge.

As a cultural keeper, Yvonne is dedicated to preserving traditional Métis dance with the Louis Riel Métis Dancers, yet her contemporary work is always informed by her Métis identity. Through her innovative works, she shares the joy, love, beauty, and truth of the Michif world view. Her work tours nationally and internationally.

In 2011, Yvonne was awarded the Victor Martyn Lynch-Staunton Award from the Canada Council for the Arts.



Danielle Enblom*
Dancer

Described as "wild, refined, and joyful," Danielle Enblom's dancing is imbued with a wealth of knowledge, depth of experience, and pure love

of music and culture.

Danielle, a Minneapolis, Minnesota, artist is a step dancer, jigger, fiddler, and dance historian with strong Red River Métis, French-Canadian, and Swedish ancestral roots. In her early years, she was immersed in Irish music and dance, and during adulthood has turned towards her family's Métis and Québécois practices.

Danielle holds a Diploma in Traditional Irish Music from University College Cork and an MA in Ethnochoreology from Munster Technological University, Ireland.

Danielle has shared the stage with many top Irish musicians including Altan, Lunasa, Liz Carroll, Seamus Egan, John Doyle, and Cherish the Ladies. Her recent works include a project with Cumar, a collaboration with master West African drummers and dancers, and touring with Canada's leading Celtic fiddle-guitar duo, Pierre Schryer & Adam Dobres.



Modeste McKenzie*
Dancer

Modeste McKenzie is a 28-year-old Dene-Métis man originally from La Ronge, Saskatchewan, but currently residing in Prince Albert,

Saskatchewan. He has been jigging, square dancing, and instructing throughout western Canada for the last 16 years. He is an alternate dancer for the Creeland Dancers, lead male dancer for the Qu'Appelle Valley Square Dancers, and co-director and lead male dancer for the Northern Prairie Dancers.

In addition to his dancing, he is a second year student at the University of Regina where he studies philosophy, politics, and economics and most importantly, he is full-time father to his seven-year-old daughter.



Élise Page*
Dancer

Élise is a French Canadian Métis who had the opportunity of growing up in a music-making, folk-singing, barefoot-dancing large family. She later

graduated from the School of Contemporary Dancers, which gave her the opportunity to dance for great Canadian choreographers such as Tedd Robinson, Constance Cooke, and Marie-Josée Chartier. She had the pleasure of working for Jolene Bailie with Gearshifting Performance Works for several seasons, as well as one season dancing for Casimiro Nhussi with Nafro Dance Productions.

Her contemporary dance career took a backseat while she started a family and pursued her dream of entrepreneurship, but her passion for dance kept her in dance studio enough to have the honour of dancing in *Li Keur: Riel's Heart of the North*.

The Artists



Ryan Richard* Dancer

Ryan Richard is a two-spirited Aboriginal performing artist from Winnipeg who was born on Sandy Bay First Nation, Manitoba.

Ryan is an award-winning jigging and square-dancing champion who first learned jigging at the footsteps of his grandmother, Irene Richard, herself a championship jigger. At age three, Ryan won his first jigging competition in Austin, Manitoba. At 17, he wowed audiences at Winnipeg's Folklorama Métis Pavilion and went on to found the award-winning square dance group, United Thunder.

He is the current Canadian Jigging Champion, a five-time World Jigging Champion, and a 15-time jigging champion at Festival du Voyageur. Ryan's contemporary twist on the traditional jig has motivated a new generation of young dancers including *Canada's Got Talent* winners, Sagkeeng's Finest.

In addition to his jigging, Ryan has made a splash in the drag community as performer, Miss Sandi Bay, "All the Way from Crane River Where They Giv'er."

From a young age, Ryan knew he was different and was encouraged by his grandmother to just go along with his feelings and be himself. Ryan enjoys the opportunity to act as a role model for today's youth. His guiding philosophy in life: There is no wrong way to feel.



Jera Wolfe Dancer

Born in Tkaronto/Toronto, Jera Wolfe is a choreographer and performer of Métis heritage.

His captivating choreography has awarded him the 2019

Dora Mavor Moore Award for Outstanding Original Choreography for *Trace* by Red Sky Performance. He has demonstrated an impressive repertoire of works presented by Canadian Stage, Fall for Dance North, Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, Festival des arts de Saint-Sauveur, Citadel + Compagnie, Danse Danse, and Jacob's Pillow.

His choreographic works include creations with the National Ballet of Canada, Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet, Canada's National Ballet School, Winnipeg's Contemporary Dancers, and Red Sky Performance.

In 2022, Jera's largest work, *Arise*, performed by 146 professional dance students from Canada's National Ballet School was presented at Meridian Hall as part of Fall for Dance North's Signature program.

As a performer, Jera has danced for Red Sky Performance, as well as Peggy Baker Dance Projects. He is also the lead performer in *PISUWIN* with Atlantic Ballet.



Melissa St. Goddard* Fiddle

Melissa St. Goddard is a Métis fiddler from Portage la Prairie, Manitoba. With family roots in the Métis community of St. Ambroise, Manitoba, she grew up surrounded by the sounds of the fiddle, which led her to start playing the instrument herself.

Over the years, she has had the opportunity to perform at events across the country such as Back to Batoche Days, the Indspire Awards, Indigenous Day Live, and many more. She not only performs, but has dedicated herself to teaching traditional Métis fiddle playing to the next generation.



Jordan McConnell* Guitar

Jordan McConnell is a founding member of the Juno Award-winning and Grammy-nominated band The Duhks. He became

interested in traditional Irish music as a teenager and learned to play the tin whistle before teaching himself to play the Irish pipes.

He was introduced to Métis music by Alex Kusturok through a series of gigs they did together in 2010. He and Alex most recently performed together at this year's Festival du Voyageur.

Jordan now builds guitars for customers around the world out of his small shop in the North End of Winnipeg.

The Artists



Jacqueline Loewen Fight Director

Jacqueline worked in many aspects of physical theatre - as an actor, mime, sketch comedy writer, and theatre creator - before creating

fight sequences for opera.

As a fight choreographer, she has worked on every stage in Manitoba, as well as some in Toronto, Vancouver, Thunder Bay, and Kansas. In Winnipeg, she has built operatic-sized conflicts for the Manitoba Opera productions of *Susannah*, *Otello*, *Carmen*, *Tosca*, and *Don Giovanni*.

Jacqueline also works with singers as a performance coach, both privately and at the University of Manitoba's Desautels Faculty of Music, creating, with the singer, a sense of embodied action in their characters.



T. Erin Gruber* Set & Projection Designer

T. Erin Gruber is an award-winning theatre designer with experience in set, lighting, costume, and projected media

design. She is a graduate with distinction of the University of Alberta and a member of the board of directors of the Associated Designers of Canada.

She works professionally across Canada, and her work has been toured and exhibited nationally and internationally. In June 2019, her work was featured at the Prague Quadrennial International Design Exhibition. In 2021 during COVID-19 lockdowns she conceived of, project-managed, and co-curated the Level Up Symposium which comprised of 40 free online events with more than 50 international presenters.

Award-winning projects: *Métis Mutt* (One Little Indian Productions, Sterling Award for Outstanding Production), *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* (Citadel Theatre and RMTC, Sterling Award for Lighting Design), *Category E* (Production Design, Maggie Tree Collective, Sterling Awards for Lighting and Projected Media Design).

Online at: eringruber.com, levelup.designers.ca



Samay Arcentales Cajas*

Assistant Projection Designer

Samay Arcentales Cajas is a Toronto-based queer Kichwa digital media artist exploring

human-land relations, new media dimensions of Indigenous cosmology, and immersive art as a site of liberation.

Her works have been shown at ImagineNATIVE, Xpace Cultural Centre, Tarragon Theatre, TQFF, Prague Quadrennial, among others. Samay currently works as a video designer, facilitator and install technician.



Deanna Finnman* Costume Designer

This is Deanna's debut production with Manitoba Opera. She has designed costumes for over 150 professional productions

including dance, theatre, and opera.

Recent costume credits include *La Bohème*, *Rigoletto*, *Così fan tutte*, and *Count Ory* (Edmonton Opera); *Pride and Prejudice* (Citadel Theatre); *Two Headed Half Hearted* (Northern Light Theatre); *Cinderella*, *Sleeping Beauty*, *Pinocchio* (Alberta Musical Theatre) and *The Magic Flute* (Calgary Opera).

Deanna is grateful to be part of such a collaborative and historic production and would like to thank cultural adviser Evan Ducharme for his thoughtfulness and guidance, the Métis clothing makers and historians who generously shared their skills, knowledge, and love of Métis culture, and the many costumers both in Winnipeg and across Canada who brought these costumes to reality.

The Artists



Evan Ducharme* **Costume Design** **Cultural Consultant**

Evan Ducharme is Métis from St. Ambroise, Manitoba (Treaty One). With both ancestral and contemporary Michif knowledge,

their work examines Métis history and its cultural iconography with a subversion of colonial notions of gender, queerness, and relations to place.

Evan's work has been featured in *National Geographic*, *Fashion* magazine, *Vogue.com*, Quelema Sparrow's *Skyborn*, Tai Amy Grauman's *You Used to Call Me Marie*, and The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute exhibition in America: A Lexicon of Fashion.

Evan Ducharme currently lives and creates with gratitude on their home territories in Winnipeg, (Treaty One).



Scott Henderson **Lighting Designer**

Scott Henderson is excited to be designing this premiere production of *Li Keur: Riel's Heart of the North*. Scott has designed 13 productions for

Manitoba Opera including *La Cenerentola* and two different productions of *Così fan Tutte*.

Winnipeg-based, Scott designs lighting for theatre, opera, and dance across Canada. He is the lighting director for Canada's Royal Winnipeg Ballet and teaches Lighting Design at the University of Winnipeg.

Special thanks to Karen, Sean, and Alex for love and support.



Monica Chen* **Assistant Conductor**

An emerging Canadian conductor, Monica Chen was recently appointed Assistant Conductor of the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, as well

as Music Director of the University of Manitoba Symphony Orchestra and Sistema Winnipeg program, working closely with Maestro Daniel Raiskin. She is also a conducting fellow with Tapestry Opera, assisting opera companies across the country.

Monica was selected as one of the conducting fellows in the inaugural year of Orchestre Métropolitain's Conducting Academy, assisting Yannick Nézet-Séguin since 2021. Recent conducting engagements include working with Opera Kelowna, Astrolabe Musik Theatre, Allegra Chamber Orchestra, Opera Kelowna, Orchestre Symphonique de Québec and the Orchestre Métropolitain. She has had the opportunity to work with acclaimed conductors such as maestros Neil Varon, Thomas Rösner, and the late Bramwell Tovey. Monica completed two masters, one in Orchestral Conducting from UBC studying with Dr. Jonathan Girard and the other in violin performance from Indiana University studying with Mimi Zweig.



Steve Denby* **Adult Chorus Director**

Having retired from the public school system in 2021, Steve Denby is now enjoying the time to explore new opportunities for growth and

expression. Steve grew up only vaguely aware of his Métis heritage but is realizing the impact that his family's traditions (mostly musical) have had on his life and career. The "kitchen party", where singing harmony was as natural as making tea, led organically to his early and perpetual collaborations with family and friends in music-making.

Steve is honored and thrilled to be serving as chorus director for *Li Keur: Riel's Heart of the North*. This is his first experience directing the chorus for Manitoba Opera, and he is thoroughly enjoying meeting new friends, diving deep into this new and exciting music, and learning more about traditional languages and the rich Métis culture so deeply woven into the fabric of our province and nation.



Jennifer Engbrecht* **Children's Chorus Director**

Jennifer Engbrecht is of English, Scottish, German, and Métis heritage. She has taught elementary music and choir in the Louis Riel School Division for almost 30 years.

Most recently, she has engaged students in learning from the land around them for music inspiration. She has an interest in the Métis' connection to the land, going on nature walks with the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) and other organizations to learn more about plants and uses, and loves seeing the importance of plants and nature infused throughout *Li Keur*.

The Artists



Tadeusz Biernacki
Répétiteur

The 2023/24 season marks Tadeusz Biernacki's 41st with the company as assistant music director, chorus master, and rehearsal pianist.

Winner of the K. Szymanowski Piano Competition (Warsaw, Poland), he has performed internationally as a piano soloist and has conducted major orchestras across Canada, as well as around the world including the Tessaloniki State Orchestra, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Cleveland Opera Orchestra, Kaohsiung City Symphony Orchestra, and the Hong Kong Sinfonietta.

Mr. Biernacki has also written numerous orchestral arrangements for the TSO, NAC Orchestra, and others. He was music director of Saskatoon Opera and the Royal Winnipeg Ballet and has conducted a number of productions for Manitoba Opera, most recently, *The Sopranos* of Winnipeg concert in 2020.



Robert Pel
Stage Manager

Robert Pel's first contract with Manitoba Opera was in 1984 for *Aida*. He would return in early 2000 to stage manage a production of *Rigoletto*.

In 2013 Robert returned to Manitoba Opera to stage another production of *Aida* and 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 companies in Canada, as well as theatre companies, and this has allowed him to travel to every province and territory but one.

Robert resides in Stratford, Ontario. His love for motorcycles, kilts, his three daughters, four grandchildren, and lovely wife (not necessarily in that order) give him a very rich life. It is with great joy that Robert is part of this original production, and it gives him pleasure to work with this excellent company.



Kathryn Ball
Assistant Stage Manager

Kathryn has done 27 productions with Manitoba Opera. She is thrilled to be working on

this world premiere!

Kathryn has been the production manager at Rainbow Stage for the last two years. Prior to that, she stage managed many shows in Winnipeg at Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre, Prairie Theatre Exchange, the Royal Winnipeg Ballet and Rainbow Stage, and across the country at The Citadel in Edmonton, and The Globe Theatre in Regina. She has also had the privilege of touring many shows across the country and throughout Manitoba.

Kathryn feels so fortunate to work on this special production and hopes you enjoy the show!



Heather Lee Brereton
Assistant Stage Manager

Heather has worked in various capacities in the Winnipeg theatre/arts community for

over 15 years. She has assumed many roles (stage management, designer, props builder, wardrobe co-ordinator, technician) for regional and independent theatre productions. After apprenticing with MOA over a decade ago, she re-joined the Manitoba Opera stage management team in 2019 with *The Barber of Seville* and *Susannah*.

When not stage managing, Heather creates custom garments, performance costumes and accessories for private clients (*Heather Lee Bea*) including vintage clothing enthusiasts, circus performers, drag artists, and a Marilyn Monroe impersonator.

For this production, Heather has also been busy sourcing and building the many props used to help tell the story. Many thanks to the village of folks behind the scenes for their physical and intellectual contributions to the show. Heather is excited to be part of this world premiere with Manitoba Opera!

Parks Canada Lobby Presentation

Thanks to Parks Canada staff - Holly Bernier, Laurie MacDonell, Kaitlyn Pyett, Marc-André Belcourt, Matt Rothenberger, Dylan Preece, and Alana Jansen - for enhancing patron experience at *Li Keur: Riel's Heart of the North* by providing interpretive presentations in the lobby.



Riel House
National Historic Site

Lieu historique national de la
Maison-Riel

Métis stories live here

parks.canada.ca/manitoba

Les histoires du peuple métis vivent ici

parcs.canada.ca/manitoba



Parks
Canada

Parcs
Canada

Canada

aptn lumi

inspiring Indigenous stories and storytellers
stream anytime, anywhere



watchaptnlumi.ca

start your free trial

Translators, Language Keepers, and Coaches

Donna Beach
Debra Beach Ducharme
June Bruce
Agathe Chartrand

Jules Chartrand
Lorraine Couto
Verna de Montigny
Joyce Dumont

François Fontaine
Patsy Millar
Andrea Rose
Suzanne Zeke

Manitoba Opera Chorus

Adults

René Beaulieu
David Boyes
Janine Brémault-Bamford
Alyx Buhler
Cheryl-Anne Carr
Chris Caslake
Danielle Chammartin
Kirpluk
Marie Christian
Edward Cloud
Camryn Dewar

Max Fingerote
Erik Gillespie
Marlon Goolcharan
Evan Hawkins
Micheline Hay
Steven A. Howes
Michal Kowalik
Richard Lambert
Don Larsen
Rebecca Lee
Katrina Lengsavath

Kenton McPeck
Emily Meadows
Emily Myers
René Perrault
Diane Sabourin
Raymond Sokalski
Jonathan Stitt
Nicole Stonyk
Paul Sullivan
Lola Whonnock
Chelsey Young

Children

Amy Bouchard
Alice Coates
Finn Deck
Glecy Mae Dimagmaliw
Andrea Fernández-Couto
Rebeca Fernández-Couto

Sofia Fernández-Couto
Sam Fuller
Evangeline James
Aurélia James
Eve Kirpluk
Violet Kirpluk

Brynlea Lussier
Finley McPhillips
Curtis Meadows
Zianna Romance
Zina Alexis Ruis

Supernumeraries

Tyler Moody

Barney Morin

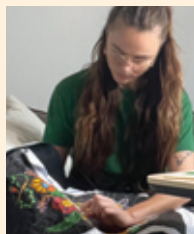
Li Keur Creative Replicated in Beadwork

The beautiful creative for promotion of *Li Keur: Riel's Heart of the North* was reproduced as a beaded art piece by Red River Métis beadwork artist Claire Johnston and is currently on display in the lobby.

The original design was the work of The Show and Tell agency creative team (formerly known as McKim Communications Group).

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Claire Johnston (they/she) is based in the Métis Homeland/Treaty One Territory. They are currently mentoring under Master Beadwork Artist and Knowledge Keeper Jennine Krauchi, as well as engaging in intergenerational knowledge transfer from their father Roy Johnston.



Claire Johnston at work.



Donating our time is the most rewarding way we can spend it.

pay it forward.

Doing Right by People is our purpose.

This is why we've created a workplace where experiences can be shared and employees are encouraged to pay our successes forward in their communities, in their own way.



mrmta
 —MANITOBA—
 —REGISTERED—
 —MUSIC—
 —TEACHERS—
 —ASSOCIATION—

Serata
 AN EVENING OF MUSICAL DELIGHTS

**Sunday
 May 5th, 2024 7:00pm**

**St. Andrew's River Heights United Church
 255 Oak St. Winnipeg, MB**

DETAILS AT MRMTA.ORG



It's your financial well-being.
 Are you keeping score?

To achieve true financial well-being, you first need to know if you're on track to meet your financial goals. Try the IG Living Plan Snapshot™ tool to get your score now.

Visit snapshot.investorsgroup.com.



AIMEE PALMER
 Regional Vice-President
 Investors Group Financial Services Inc.
 204.489.4640 | Aimee.Palmer@ig.ca

Trademarks, including IG Wealth Management, are owned by IGM Financial Inc. and licensed to its subsidiary corporations.
 © Investors Group Inc. 2019 INV2092MA_E (11/2019)

Production Personnel

Director of Production

Sheldon Johnson

Audio Engineer (Dialogue)

John Bent Jr.

Firearms Safety Co-ordinator

Dave Brown

Projected Titles Cueing

Cary Denby

Assistant Projections Designer

Samay Arcentales Cajas

Apprentice Stage Director

Rayna Masterton

Apprentice Stage Manager

Tia Morann

Music Staff

Assistant Conductor

Monica Chen

Adult Chorus Director

Steve Denby

Children's Chorus Director

Jennifer Engbrecht

Répétiteur

Tadeusz Biernacki

Chorus Rehearsal Pianists

Cary Denby

Megan Dufurat

Celoris Miller

Music preparation by

Greg Hamilton Music
Service

Set and Props Construction

Master Carpenter

Brent Letain

Scenic Carpenters

Claude Robert

Chris Seida

Liam Shattuck

Christopher Thomson

Head Scenic Artist

Carla Schroeder

Scenic Painters

Linda Beech

Shauna Jones

Larissa Shabaga

Tiffany Taylor

Props Co-ordinator

Heather Lee Brereton

Original artwork provided by

Corinna Wolff

Wardrobe Construction

Head of Wardrobe

Brenda Belmonte

Wardrobe Co-ordinator

Tess Martin

Wardrobe Head (RWB)

Alena Zharska

Wardrobe Assistant

Samantha Lekach

Cutters

Tess Pallister

Edmond Santelices

Clair Sparling

Lela Stairs

Evan Stillwater

Sewers

Rosaria Curatolo

Noel DeLeon

Amanda Isaac

Barry Malenko

Brenda McLean

Natalia Tkachenko

Buyers

Ame Hutchinson

Barry Malenko

Angela Vaags

Jackie Van Winkle

Moccasins

Cree-Ations
(Winnipeg, MB)

Beadwork imagery provided by

Gregory Scofield

Bergmann's

ON LOMBARD

Premium Catering for Corporate,
Wedding and Private Dining Events



204-478-5264

BergmannsOnLombard.com



ACADEMY
FLORIST



15% Off
Online Orders

Code: MBOPERA15
One use per customer.



ACADEMYFLORIST.COM

KE. AWABERPHOTOGRAPHY

Hair & Make-up

Hair/Wig Designer

Jill Buhr

Hair Crew

Laura Warren

Make-Up Assistant

Theresa Thomson

Hair/Wig Assistant

Adrianna Oliphant

Make-Up Designer

Christian Hadley

Make-Up Crew

Jean-Marc Lafond
Sarah Leighton

Rehearsal piano provided by St John's Music.

Production acknowledgements: Centennial Concert Hall, Gerry McDougal (MCCH), Vince Paulich (MCCH), Dave Martin (MCCH), Prairie Theatre Exchange (PTE), Wayne Buss! (PTE), Brenda McLean (PTE), Elana Honcharuk (PTE), Pacific Opera Victoria (POV), Erec Hassel (POV), Sandra McLellan (POV), Parks Canada (PC), Jean-Marc Lafond (PC), Louis Riel Institute (LRI), Sharon Parenteau (LRI), Season Kirkwood (LRI), Harlequin Costume and Dance, Scott & Jan Malabar (Harlequin), Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre (RMTC), Russell Martin (RMTC), Thora Lamont (RMTC), Heather Thorleifson (RMTC), Zoe Leclerc-Kennedy (RMTC), IATSE Local 63, Edmonton Opera (EO), Megan Kumpula (EO), Danine Regenwetter (EO), Royal Winnipeg Ballet (RWB), Justin Dowbiggen (RWB), The Citadel Theatre (TCT), Patsy Thomas (TCT), Stratford Festival (SF), Jennie Wonnacott (SF), Rainbow Stage, Craig Strong (Rainbow), Théâtre Cercle Molière, University of Alberta Dept. of Drama.

Centennial Concert Hall Production Staff

Stage Manager

Dave Martin

Stage Electrician

Brian Mann

Sound Technician

Glen Jonatchick

Stage Crew/ Wardrobe Dressers

I.A.T.S.E. Local #63



LOUIS RIEL INSTITUTE
Knowledge • Culture • Heritage



Empowering Red River Métis

- Cultural Programming
- Métis Languages
- Bursaries and Awards
- Adult Learning Centre
- Louis Riel Vocational College
- Research, Archives, and Special Collections

To find out how to access these programs and services, contact us:

louisrielinstitute.ca
lri@lrilearn.ca



IN 2024 CELEBRATE WITH US!



The Winnipeg Arts Council invites you to mark the city's 150th birthday in full voice!

We're partnering with singers, choirs, and performing arts organizations to celebrate the best of our local talents and engage in the power of singing with friends and neighbours across the city.

More information coming soon



WINNIPEG
ARTS COUNCIL



winnipegarts.ca

Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra 2023/24



First Violin

Gwen Hoebig,
CONCERTMASTER,
*The Sophie-Carmen
Eckhardt-Gramatté
Memorial Chair,
endowed by the
Eckhardt-Gramatté
Foundation*

Karl Stobbe,
ASSOCIATE
CONCERTMASTER

Jeff Dyrda,
ASSISTANT
CONCERTMASTER

Mona Coarda

Tara Fensom

Hong Tian Jia

Mary Lawton

Sonia Lazar*

Julie Savard

Jun Shao

Rebecca Weger**

Second Violin

Chris Anstey,
PRINCIPAL

Elation Pauls,
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Karen Bauch

Kristina Bauch,

Elizabeth Dyer

Bokyung Hwang

Rodica Jeffrey

Susan McCallum

Takayo Noguchi*

Jane Radomski

Viola

Elise Lavallée,
ACTING PRINCIPAL

Dmytro
Kreshchenskyi,
ACTING ASSISTANT
PRINCIPAL**

Marie-Elyse
Badeau

Laszlo Baroczi

Richard Bauch

Greg Hay

Michael Scholz

Cello

Yuri Hooker,
PRINCIPAL

Robyn Neidhold,
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Ethan Allers

Arlene Dahl

Alyssa Ramsay*

Sean Taubner

Emma
Quackenbush

Bass

Meredith Johnson,
PRINCIPAL

Daniel Perry,
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

James McMillan

Eric Timperman*

Emily Krajewski

Taras Pivniak**

Flute

Jan Kocman,
PRINCIPAL,
*Supported by
Gordon & Audrey Fogg*

Alex Conway

Piccolo Flute

Alex Conway,
PRINCIPAL

Oboe

Beverly Wang,
PRINCIPAL

Robin MacMillan

English Horn

Robin MacMillan,
PRINCIPAL

Clarinet

Micah Heilbrunn,
PRINCIPAL

Alex Whitehead

Bassoon

Kathryn Brooks,
PRINCIPAL

Elizabeth Mee

Horn

Patricia Evans,
PRINCIPAL

Ken MacDonald,
ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL,
*The Hilda Schelberger
Memorial Chair*

Aiden Kleer

Caroline Oberheu

Michiko Singh

Trumpet

Chris Fensom,
PRINCIPAL

Paul Jeffrey,
ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL

Isaac Pulford,
*The Patty Kirk
Memorial Chair*

Trombone

Steven Dyer,
PRINCIPAL*

Keith Dyrda,
ACTING PRINCIPAL
*The Stuart Bremner
Memorial Chair*

Kyle Orlando**

Bass Trombone

Eric Prodger,
PRINCIPAL**

Tuba

Justin Gruber,
PRINCIPAL

Percussion

Andrew Johnson,
PRINCIPAL

Extra Musicians

Renz Adame, Oboe

Caroline Bucher,
Percussion

Andrew Nazer,
Timpani

Samantha Spurrier,
Harp

Jay Uschold, Tuba

Personnel Manager

Isaac Pulford

Librarian

Michaela Kleer

Assistant Librarian

Aiden Kleer

* On Leave

** 1 year appointment

Please note:

Non-titled (tutti) string players are listed alphabetically and are seated accordingly to a rotational system.

When your heart needs to sing



FESTIVAL DU VOYAGEUR

MANITOBA

CANADA'S HEART IS CALLING

travelmanitoba.com



TAYLOR
McCAFFREY
LAWYERS

Taylor McCaffrey proudly supports Manitoba Opera.

We are delighted to sponsor *Li Keur: Riel's Heart of the North* an ode to Métis women, language, and culture and the first-ever Indigenous-led opera to grace the stages of Canadian opera.

2200-201 Portage Ave
Winnipeg, Manitoba | R3B 3L3
204.949.1312 | www.tmlawyers.com

ORDER ONLINE & PICK UP AT THE STORE!

PROUD TO SUPPORT THE MANITOBA OPERA

**GRANT PARK • SOUTHDALE
ST NORBERT • ST VITAL
SEASONS • SELKRIK**

FREE* ONLINE SHOPPING!
*NO SERVICE CHARGE

SHOP.CRS

Proud Sponsors of Manitoba Opera

Engineering
Architecture
Environmental

Stantec | DESIGN WITH COMMUNITY IN MIND | stantec.com | Waskwi Spink First Nation School

The Arts Can Be Trauma Informed

Li Keur: Riel's Heart of the North is first and foremost a celebration of Métis culture and community. However, the opera does contain scenes that reference events in Métis history that were traumatic for those who experienced them and have been the root of generational trauma that continues to impact Métis communities. While many of the characters you will see on stage are fictitious, actions that caused the Métis people to face hardships like displacement, starvation, disease, violence, and depression are a matter of historical fact that can be neither ignored nor forgotten.

What is Trauma?

Trauma is a part of the human experience. A traumatic event can occur at any life stage and may continue to impact us in different ways at different times throughout our lives.

How we experience trauma differs from person to person. Many people affected by trauma may not yet realize all that has happened to them and how they have been affected. Others may want help but may not feel quite ready to ask for it. What is important to know is that there are resources and supports available to us to help find ways to cope with those experiences.

A Trauma-Informed Approach to the Arts

Watching an opera elicits a range of responses. Many of us are swept away by the performance, the music, and the sets and costumes. It is an enjoyable experience on so many levels. Sometimes, however, the themes or subject matter of a performance may impact us in a different way. This can be especially true if the themes or subject matter are something we have experienced on a personal level. Some of us may experience the performance as distressing. It can trigger or bring up a range of other (sometimes unsettling) feelings.

Integrating a trauma-informed perspective recognizes that we as audience members may view, interpret, or experience performances in a multitude of ways based on our own life experiences.

Knowing this can in turn help us to prepare, normalize our feelings, and identify some coping strategies.

What you can do if feeling triggered by a performance?

It's important to pay attention and listen to your body, thoughts, and feelings. During times of stress we may experience what is known as the fight, flight or freeze response. Our nervous system is activated and the body becomes primed for action.

You may notice:

- ▶ Rapid heartbeat or breathing
- ▶ The body becoming tense which can result in shaking or trembling
- ▶ Pale or flushed skin

In order to regain a sense of calm, it is important to engage the parasympathetic nervous system. Some mindfulness activities to help you do this include:

- ▶ Grounding exercises such as putting your feet flat on the ground and squeezing your toes
- ▶ Stretching
- ▶ Deep breathing
- ▶ Chewing gum
- ▶ Going for a walk.

Perhaps the most important tool is to understand that you are not in current danger. Self-talk can help us reframe our experience and shorten the length of the fight/flight/freeze stress response.

Resources

Manitoba Métis Federation, Mental Health Support Line

Phone: 1-833-390-1041, ext 1. (7 am to 11 pm daily)

Klinic Crisis & Support Line Services Crisis Line (24/7)

Phone: 204-786-8686

Toll free: 1-800-322-3019

First Nations and Inuit Hope for Wellness Helpline Crisis Line (24/7)

Toll Free: 1-855-242-3310

Online: hopeforwellness.ca

Prepared by Klinic Community Health

Partners in Opera

Manitoba Opera gratefully acknowledges the encouragement and financial support of our community of donors that allows us to create opera of the highest calibre. It is because of this generosity that the power and beauty of professional opera can be experienced right here in Manitoba.

For more information on making a donation to Manitoba Opera, contact Liz Miller at 204-942-0489. (Listings include donations made from June 1, 2022 to October 13, 2023.)

Corporate Support

LEADS

\$10,000 to \$24,999

McKim Communications Group

PRINCIPALS

\$5,000 to \$9,999

Terracon Development Ltd.

SUPERS

\$1,000 to \$2,499

Gendis Inc.
Medi-Quote Insurance Brokers Inc.
Price Industries Limited
B.A. Robinson Co. Ltd.

ARTISTS

\$500 to \$999

Edmond Financial Group

FRIENDS

\$100 to \$499

InterGroup Consultants Ltd.
Patill/St. James Insurance

Thank you to our corporate donors who supported Manitoba Opera with gifts of under \$100.

Camerata

Camerata members play a leading role in their visionary support for Manitoba Opera. Gifts of \$1,250 or more are acknowledged with a number of exclusive privileges and special programs.

◆ Member, Board of Trustees ◆ Manitoba Opera Staff ◇ Deceased

IMPRESARIO CIRCLE

\$5,000+

Mrs. Margaret Lynne Astwood
Liz Barron
Dr. Carol J. Harvey
The June & Bob Jackson Memorial Fund For the Performing Arts
Bill Loewen
Craig McIntosh & Lorraine Beck
Mrs. Donna Plant
Gerry & Barb Price
Drs. Bill Pope & Elizabeth Tippett Pope
E.J. (Ted) Ransby
Tannis M. Richardson
Mrs. Deborah Thorlakson - in Memory of Dr. Robert H. Thorlakson
Two Anonymous Donors

MAESTRO

\$3,000 to \$4,999

John & Gay Docherty
Richard Irish
Laurie Lam & Larry Desrochers ◆
Christopher Mainella & Christine Van Cauwenberghe
Michael Paterson & Gail Asper, O.C., O.M., LL.D.
Mr. B. Roslycky & Dr. P. Kmet
Mr. Terence Sakohianisaks Douglas ◆
Bob & Eileen Stuebing
Robert Vineberg & Lena Horne

VIRTUOSO

\$2,000 to \$2,999

Melinda & Hugh Arthur
Michael Blais ◆

Ms. Judith Chambers ◆
Bjorn Christianson, K. C.
Robert & Alison Darling
Susan Glass & Arni Thorsteinson
Ms. & Mr. Abbie & Garth Grieder
Audrey F. Hubbard ◇
Mr. Ralf Kyritz
Constance. J. Sarchuk
Dr. Anne Worley & Dr. Piotr Czaykowski
Two Anonymous Donors

CAMERATA

\$1,250 to \$1,999

Dr. Linda Asper
Cathie & Brian Bowerman
Isaac Ben Diamond
Dr. Michael Dyck & Ms. Lisa Bueckert

Dr. David Folk ◆ & Laurel Malkin
Elba Haid ◆
- in Memory of Marshall Haid
Kent & Naomi Forman
Leona Herzog
Sheldon Johnson ◆
Drs. Herman Lam & Laura Chan
George & Deb Nytepchuk
Sanford & Deborah Riley
Darlene Ronald ◆ & Stewart Heaton
Keith ◆ & Alora Sinclair
Jeff Sisler & Cathy Rippin-Sisler
Mr. Michael Ziesmann
One Anonymous Donor

Friends of Manitoba Opera

Friends of Manitoba Opera are instrumental to the success of our productions and education and outreach programs. Every gift makes a difference.

BENEFACTOR **\$500 to \$1,249**

Tatiana Arcand
Hon. Patricia Bovey
Sheldon & Penny Bowles
Diane Boyle
Sheila & David Brodovsky
Jennifer Buffie
Carol Campbell & Andrew Krentz
Circle Foundation
Ron Clement
Ken & Lynn Cooper
Ms. Tania Douglas ♦
Harry & Mary Lynn Duckworth
Ms. Helene Dyck
Lawrence & Brenda Ellerby
Kathleen Estey
Penny Gilbert
Kathleen Gough & Tim Wildman
Barry Haines
Eric & Judith Hinton
Donald & Diana Hodgson Foundation
Jacob & Judi Janzen
Mr. Robert Jaskiewicz
Ray Karasevich ♦ & Allison Fulford
Adam & Joanne Kilfoyle
Barry Konzelman
Mrs. Donna Korban & Family
Dr. T. G. Kucera
Katarina Kupca
Marion Lewis
Dr. John & Natalie Mayba
Dr. Gordon McTavish & Ms. Cheryl Langer
Ron & Sandi Mielitz

Mrs. B. Nicolson
Norma Anne Padilla
Wayne & Linda Paquin
Levi & Tena Reimer
Ricou-Manfreda
Leslie Sarchuk
Barbara Scheuneman
Gail & Johann Schnabl
The Shinewald Family
Elizabeth Marr, Nick, David & Allison Slonosky
Ms. Lisa Thiessen
Dr. Ken & Lorna Thorlakson
Edna Walpole
Donald Whitmore
Mr. Ivan Zimmer
Three Anonymous Donors

SUPPORTER **\$250 to \$499**

Richard & Nancy Ball
Earl & Cheryl Barish
Susan & Edwin Bethune
Ms. Ashley Boychuk ♦
Margaret Braid
Mr. Richard Chartier & Liza Maheu
Lawrence & Beatrice Cherniack
Dr. Victor & Mrs. Norma Chernick
Pauline & Denis Collette
Irene & Robert Corne
Jessica Cranmer
Matthew Cutler & Dr. Avery Miller
Kerry Dangerfield
Jackie Dubofsky
Mr. Spencer Duncanson
Ms. Wendy Dyck

Linda & Jim Feasby
Ms. Patricia Fitzpatrick
Carolyn Garlich & Peter Miller Gift Fund
Mr. John Giesbrecht
Mrs. Jean Giguere
Ms. Susan Hagemeister
Irene Hamilton & Tim Killeen
Annette & Randall Hay
Kadri A. Irwin
H. Kilbrai
Ms. Heather Kozubski
Letty Lawrence
Ms. Debbie MacKenzie
Cam Mackie ♦ & Doris Mae Oulton
David McBean
Brendan McKeen
Ms. Celoris Miller
Marc Monnin & Donna Miller
P. Morgan
Mr. Julian Nedohin-Macek
Mr. Rick Pinchin
Hans Pintea
Mrs. Anne Ratuski
Martin Reed & Joy Cooper
Mr. Jason Regula
Roger Rigelhof & Marjorie Russell
M. Serafin
Dr. John R.M. Smith & Douglas H. Arrell
Lorraine & David Smith
Dr. & Mrs. Murray R. Steinbart
Thomas & Wanda Struthers
Mr. Lorne Sunley

Ian R. Thomson & Leah R. Janzen
Winnipeg Foundation
Employee Jeans Day
Mark Witiuk
Mr. Donn K. Yuen
Seven Anonymous Donors

SUSTAINER **\$100 to \$249**

Frances Adams & Stephen Brodovsky
Mrs. Pat Ahmad
Mrs. Cynthia Angus
Ms. Linda L. Armbruster
Robert & Kathryn Balacko
Mr. Fletcher Baragar
Nike Bello
Ruth Berry & Hugh Larimer
B & S Bertrand-Meadows
Mr. & Mrs. Don C. Bewell
Joan Blight
Gerhard & Helga Bock
Mr. Roland Bohr
Ms. Barbara Breitenmoser
Kyle Briscoe
Mrs. Colette M Brown
Ross Brownlee & Heidi Koop
Ms. Kimberly F. Browning
Ms. Coralie Bryant
Don Budlong
Mr. & Mrs. O. Buffie
Brenlee Carrington
Trepel & Brent Trepel
Alun, Donna & Shea Huguette Calvez
Mr. Robert Campbell

Mr. Alun Carter
 Vincent William
 Catalano

Ms. Carrie Lynn
 Chmilowsky

Thor Choptiany

Ms. Margaret Cuddy

Judy & Werner
 Danchura

Ms. L. Daniels

Drs. Rebecca Danos
 & Andrew Frey

Hy & Esther
 Dashevsky

Anna M. Desilets

Rosalind Dick

Jeanie M. Dubberley

John & Ada Ducas

Ms. Sylvia Ellis

Ms. Jillian Epp

D. Ewing

Richard J. Falk

Mr. James R. Ferguson

Dr. Paul Fieldhouse ♦

Dr. & Mrs. D. D. Fillis

Ms. Judith D. Forst

Johanne Fortier

Mr. Russ Foster

Margo Foxford
 & Giles Bugailiskis

Ms. Denise Gillies

Stephen Gillies

Ms. Deborah L.
 Ginther

Dennis & Janet
 Glazebrook

Ms. Brenda Gorlick

Mr. John M. Granelli

Donnalynn Grills

Rodger & Marion
 Guinn

Susan Hagemeister
 Charitable
 Contribution Fund

Ms. Katharina Haigh

Dr. Sara Halwas

Ann Hanks

Ms. Joanne Harris

Ms. Elizabeth Hellinga

Ann Hodges

Ms. Rhonda Hogg

Mr. & Mrs. N. & L.
 Holliday

Mr. Gerald Huhtala

Margaret Jeffries

Lucie Joyal

J.H. Kaminsky

Mr. Ramon Khan

H. Kilbrai

Mr. Allen Kimelman

Mr. John Derek King

Richard & Karin
 Klassen

Ms. Kathleen Knight

Ms. Tusia Kozub

Heather Laser
 & Robert Rowan

Shirley Layne

Phillippe Le Dorze

Stewart & Ellen Leibl

Chris & Lori Luby

Robert & Claudette
 Lussier

Ray Joseph MacIsaac

Mr. Rick MacLowick

Pat Trainor MacRae

H. & D. Majewski

Elaine & Neil Margolis

Mrs. Margaret M.
 McCulloch

Ms. Pat McCullough,
 M.D.

Elona McGifford

Marcus McKay

Mr. & Mrs. Jim McPhee

Veronique Mivelaz

Mrs. Charlotte Murrell

Ms. Carla Palidwor

Chris Pearce
 & Ruth Magnuson

Dr. Nicolino Pizzi

Ms. Maraya Raduha

Jacqueline Ratte
 Kohut

Ms. Corinne Ratuski

Ms. Rose-Angeli
 Ringor

Mrs. Linda Romeo

R. Runnells

Johnny Rule
 & Pearly Salangad

Dr. C. Michael
 Sampson
 & Dr. Dina Guth

Karn Sandy

Arlene Sawatsky

Rita Schroeder

Barbara Sharp

Mr. & Mrs. Dan Snidal

Mr. Peter Sribniak

Maria Stapleton
 & Mike Lea

Mr. Leslie Stechesen

Joan Stephens

Bill & Billie Stewart

Shelley Sweeney

Rev. Ross Taylor

Robert & Catherine
 Thiessen

Ms. Jean Travis

Mr. Norman D. Toms

Suzanne Ullyot

Janet Wasney
 & Robert Tinker

Mr. A.M.C. Waterman

Dr. Carolyn R. Weiss,
 MSc, DC

D. & T. Wiens

Shirley Wildeman

Ms. Antoinette (Toni)
 R.L. Wildman

Debbie Wilson

Andrew Winkless

Mr. Dave Wreford

Kathryn & Robert
 Young

Ron & Sherill Zellis

13 Anonymous Donors

CONTRIBUTOR
\$50 to \$99

Mrs. Christine
 Adamson

Ms. Mary Barrett

Lydia Bartel

Mr. Victor Bartel

Ernest Bergbusch

Mrs. Joanne Bolger

Ms. Marilyn Boyd

Mr. Chris Brown

Sandy Chahal ♦

Ileana Dawoud

Christine Dewar

Mr. & Mrs. Ron
 & Wendy Dueck

Greg & Linda Fearn

Ms. Nelma Fetterman

Dr. Paul Fieldhouse ♦

Gayle Fischer

Mr. George Gamvrelis

Mrs. Kathryn Anne
 Girard

Lorraine Griffiths

Judith Grierson

Mr. Allan Hadley

Esther Haluschak

Jayne Hammond
 & David Foley

Ms. Diane Holding

Matthew House

Donece Hughes

Maureen & Gary
 Hunter

Mr. Baldur Johnson ♦

Diana Kim

Charlotte & Stan
 Kroeker

Ms. Shirley Layne

Mr. Philippe J. Le
 Dorze

Robert & Shirley
 Lynch

A. Malzensky

Mr. Richard Mathis

Mark & Nancy Miller

Carolyn Mitchell

Evelyn Peters-Rojas
 & Anasara Rojas

Gisèle Poirier

Mrs. E. Susan Popkes

Michelle Powder

Mr. Jim Pringle

Mr. Louis Ricciuto

Linda Ritchie

Ms. Rita M. Romsa-Ross

Mary Ann Rosenbloom

Mrs. V. Rosolowich

Shelagh Sinclair Fund

Muriel Smith
 Mrs. V. Stark
 Ms. Helena Stelsovsky
 Mr. Russ Thompson
 Rose Van der Hooft
 Ms. Nancy Williamson
 Karin Woods
 Eight Anonymous Donors

Many thanks to all of our donors who generously supported Manitoba Opera with donations under \$50.

Tributes

In Memory of...

Howard Curle
 Beverly Phillips

Dr. K. Dakshinamurti
 Dr. Sowmya S
 Dakshinamurti

Edward Duncan
 Wayne & Millie
 Acheson
 Senior Citizens Choir
 of Winnipeg

Hilda Ginther
 Deb's Opera Friends

Max Kettner
 Ms. Ruth Kettner ♦

**Ross Houston and
 Leo & Margareth Mol**
 Ms. Patricia Gartrell

Audrey Hubbard
 Jennifer Streilein

Walter A. Mildren
 Gladys L. Mildren

Sharon Shinewald
 Edward Shinewald

Bramwell Tovey
 Raymond Sokalski

In Honour of...

**Tracy Dahl & Her
 Incredible Legacy
 At Manitoba Opera**
 Raymond Sokalski

Russ Foster
 Anonymous

Bette Jayne Taylor
 Rev. Ross Taylor

Encore Circle

**Donors who have
 named Manitoba
 Opera in their will**

Siana Attwell, PhD
 Larry Desrochers ♦
 & Laurie Lam

Dreena Duhamel
 John Giesbrecht

Elba ♦ & Marshall ♦
 Haid

Audrey F. Hubbard ♦

Drs. Bill Pope &
 Elizabeth Tippet
 Pope

Robert Vineberg
 Donn K. Yuen

Bequests

Mr. Bruce H. Lang

Pendeshuk Family
 Fund - Dennis Estate

The Estate of
 Doris Wainstock

Gift-In-Kind Ticket Donors

**Listing includes
 ticket donations
 made between
 June 1, 2022 and
 October 13, 2023.**

Dr. Siana Attwell

Ms. Sonja Buhl

Thor Choptiany

Ron Clement

Ms. Jane Coyne

Isaac Benjamin
 Diamond

Ms. Joanne Harris

Leona Herzog

Eric & Judith Hinton

Mary Hrichishen

Audrey Inglis

Mike Jason

Ms. Bette Jayne Taylor

Sheldon Johnson ♦

Mrs. Alicia Kitt

Marc Monnin
 & Donna Miller

Ms. Tamara Mutter

Mr. Julian Nedohin-
 Macek

Robert O'Kell
 & Arlene Young

Mr. Dariusz Paluszek

PWC Canada

E.J. (Ted) Ransby

Martin Reed & Joy
 Cooper

Mr. Kevin Reid

Heather & Hartley
 Richardson

Tannis M. Richardson

Darlene Ronald ♦
 & Stewart Heaton

Mr. B. Roslycky
 & Dr. P. Kmet

Mrs. V. Rosolowich

Mrs. Marie Sichler

Rev. Ross Taylor

Dr. Susan A.
 Thompson

Winnifred Warkentin

Faye Warren

Mr. Alfred Wiebe

Ms. Daniela Wightman

Debbie Wilson

Five Anonymous
 Donors

MATCHING GIFTS

Many companies encourage the financial generosity of their employees through a matching gift program. Check with your employer and make your donation to Manitoba Opera go even further!

We would like to acknowledge the following named funds held within the Manitoba Opera Endowment Fund:

- Marylla van Ginkel Endowment Fund for the Performing Arts
- Elba ♦ & Marshall ♦ Haid Endowment Fund
- Audrey Hubbard ♦ Fund
- Iona & Bob McPhee Fund

The Power of Voice Campaign

Gifts made to the A. Kerr Twaddle Robert H. Thorlakson Manitoba Opera Endowment Fund

\$1,000,000 +

Michael Paterson & Gail Asper, O.C., O.M., LL.D.

\$250,000-\$999,999

BMO

Mr. & Mrs. Phil & Ilse Ens

Mrs. Tannis M. Richardson

\$100,000-\$249,999

Elba ♦ & Marshall ♦ Haid & Lara Secord Haid

Raymond & Lynne-Anne McFeetors

Mrs. Deborah Thorlakson - in Memory of Dr. Robert H. Thorlakson

\$25,000-\$99,999

Ms. Susan Glass & Mr. Arni Thorsteinson

E.J. (Ted) Ransby
Lori Yorke

\$5,000-\$24,999

Carol Bellringer & Greg Doyle

Judith ♦ & Markus Chambers

Dr. David Folk ♦ & Laurel Malkin

Carol Harvey

Richard Irish

Mile Road Productions

Mrs. Donna Plant

Drs. Bill Pope & Elizabeth Tippett Pope

Gerry & Barb Price

Sanford & Deborah Riley

Keith ♦ & Alora Sinclair

Robert Vineberg & Lena Horne

One Anonymous Donor

\$1000-\$4,999

Dr. Linda Asper in Memory of Aubrey Asper

Mrs. Susan Bowden Twaddle - in Memory of the Hon. A. Kerr Twaddle

Ms. Diane Boyle

Dawn Bruch & Paul Bruch-Wiens

D. J. Cowan

Economical Insurance
Marion Lewis

Ms. & Mr. Abbie & Garth Grieder

Alex Robinson ♦ & Natasa Simeonidis

Mr. & Mrs. Robert & Eileen Stuebing

Dale & Velvet Sulymka - in Memory of Peter & Jessie Neufeld

Dale & Velvet Sulymka - in Memory of Brian Sulymka

Dale & Velvet Sulymka - in Memory of Lloyd & Irene Sulymka

Dr. Susan A. Thompson

Faye Warren

Two Anonymous Donors

UP TO \$999

Doneta Brotchie, C.M. & Harry Brotchie

Bethany Bunko ♦

Katherine Cobor & Gordon Steindel

Barbara & Brian Crow

Ginny Devine & Gary Doer

James & Lorraine Griffiths

Ray Karasevich ♦ & Allison Fulford

Alan & Shirley Kessler

Barbara Scheuneman

Howie & Sue Simpson

Terracon Development Ltd.

Three Anonymous Donors

Please consider making a gift to the Power of Voice Endowment Campaign. Visit mbopera.ca/powerofvoice/ to make a donation today!

21st Century Métis: Art, Identity & Innovation Launches November 24

An art exhibit - 21st Century Métis: Art, Identity & Innovation opens on Friday, November 24 on the Piano Nobile. Manitoba Opera is proud to have this exhibit coincide with the world premiere of *Li Keur: Riel's Heart of the North*. Curated by Liz Barron, the exhibit will be featured until Thursday, November 30.

"Curated to be a part of the heart of Manitoba where the echoes of history reverberate, we are thrilled to present an extraordinary gathering of Métis artists at the Piano Nobile Gallery," commented Liz Barron.

"This exhibition, featuring the remarkable works of **Jason Baerg, David Garneau, Claire Johnston, and Amanda Smart**, invites us to explore the vibrant and ever-evolving Métis identity. This visionary assembly of artists transcends boundaries, delving deep into the contemporary Métis experience. With their powerful narratives and innovative expressions, they illuminate the complex interplay between heritage, culture, and the path forward."

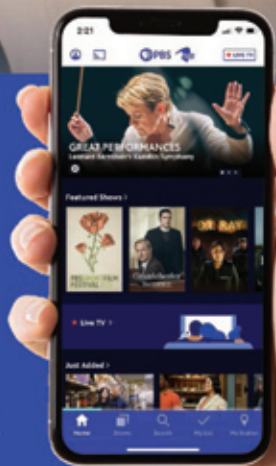


GET THE FREE
PBS APP*



and start
streaming
anytime,
anywhere.

**Some programming may require a Prairie Public membership.*





Celebrating
diverse
communities
through artistic
expression

Proud to support arts that teach and
connect us on a deeper level.

Canada Life and design are trademarks of The Canada Life Assurance Company.

canada ™