



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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MANITOBA OPERA UNCORKS A SEASON OF ROMANCE

**2024/25 Season Productions Overflow
with Young Love, Laughter & Loss**

Manitoba Opera (MO) will present two crowd-pleasing productions in its 2024/25 Season. The season will kick off with the Donizetti comedy that is sure to win everyone's heart, *The Elixir of Love* **October 26, 30, and November 1, 2024**. The timeless tale of love and loss, Puccini's *La Bohème* will close the season **April 5, 9, and 11, 2025**. All performances take place at the Centennial Concert Hall.

"We have two lovely vintages on the list, so I invite you to join us in uncorking a season of delicious opera next year," commented Larry Desrochers, General Director & CEO. "First off, we have *The Elixir of Love*, a sparkling champagne of an opera, effervescent with charm and laughter. If *The Elixir of Love* is champagne, then *La Bohème* is surely a rich and velvety red, swirling with passion and pathos."

THE ARTISTS

The Elixir of Love

Savor the antics of Nemorino as he tastes the elixir of love itself, a potion crafted with care and sold by Dr. Dulcamara, with an offering of courage in every sip. The aim of his affections is Adina, sung by the incomparable **Andriana Chuchman**, returning to Manitoba Opera in the role in which she made her Metropolitan Opera debut in 2014. *New York Classical Review* called her "sensational." American tenor **Jonah Hoskins**, the 2021 Second Prize winner of the Placido Domingo Operalia competition, sings and sighs his way through the role of Nemorino.

2. Manitoba Opera announces 2024/25 Season

The scene-stealing Canadian baritone **Peter McGillivray** returns for the role of the potion-peddling Dr. Dulcamara. Peter last appeared with MO as the hilarious wine-swilling, grape-stomping Don Magnifico in *La Cenerentola*. American baritone **Jorell Williams** makes his MO debut as Sergeant Belcore, Nemorino's nemesis.

La Bohème

Mimi doesn't need a potion to fall for Rodolfo, she just needs candlelight and a good aria. "A voice to follow" *Le Devoir*, soprano **Suzanne Taffot** sings the role of Mimi and leads an exciting all-Canadian cast of young bohemians. Tenor **Zachary Rioux**, currently a member of the Bayerische Staatsoper in Munich, is the poet Rodolfo who steals Mimi's heart. He has been called "A show-stopping tenor." (Ludwig van Toronto)

Fresh from making his debut at Milan's Teatro alla Scala is baritone **Hugo Laporte** as the painter Marcello, Rodolfo's roommate and Musetta's boy toy. He's been credited with a "...sumptuous voice, elegance of phrasing, and supreme musical intelligence." (*Avant Scène Opéra*) The fiery Musetta is sung by **Charlotte Siegel**, named as one of CBC's 30 Hot Canadian Classical Musicians Under 30 for 2021. "...the right amount of effervescence and flamboyance as the temptress Musetta." (*La Scena Musicale*)

Praised for "a voice that is both powerful and expressive" (SesayArts Magazine), bass-baritone **Alexander Halliday** plays the role of Colline, a philosopher willing to sacrifice his most cherished item to comfort Mimi in her hour of need. Rounding out the cast of Parisians is baritone **Clarence Frazer** as Schaunard, a musician who is quick to crack open a bottle and celebrate when times are good. "Frazer's baritone was full and powerful." (Schmopera)

Winnipeg favourite **David Watson** will return in the dual roles of Benoit, the bohemians' landlord, and Alcindoro, Musetta's latest sugar daddy.

Female directors will lead next season's productions. Veteran Winnipeg director **Ann Hodges** will direct *The Elixir of Love* and Canadian director **Anna Theodosakis** will direct *La Bohème*.

Manitoba Opera's Music Advisor and Principal Conductor **Tyrone Paterson** will conduct both productions which will also feature the **Manitoba Opera Chorus** and **Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra**.

3. Manitoba Opera announces 2024/25 Season

STORIES & MUSICAL HIGHLIGHTS

THE ELIXIR OF LOVE An Intoxicating Delight

Music by Gaetano Donizetti Libretto by Felice Romani
Based on the French comedy *Le Philtre*

Lovesick Nemorino, the poor but good-hearted country boy, has fallen madly in love with the rich, smart, and beautiful Adina. She's out of his league, but luckily the scheming Dr. Dulcamara has just the cure for what ails him: drink his celebrated love potion and within 24 hours, Adina will be unable to resist him. Will this magical tincture really work?

Gaetano Donizetti's sparkling opera is overflowing with tunes to dazzle your ear and warm your heart. Features one of the most popular tenor solos ever written, Nemorino's achingly beautiful and touching "Una furtiva lagrima" (One furtive tear) and the show-stopping ensemble "Adina, credimi" (Adina, believe me).

Sung in Italian with projected English translations.

LA BOHÈME A Timeless Tale of Love and Loss

Music by Giacomo Puccini Libretto by Giuseppe Giacosa and Luigi Illica

Poor in cash but rich in dreams, the poet Rodolfo and the frail but beautiful seamstress Mimì chance upon each other one cold winter's night and fall in love. But soon winter fades, taking with it the love of a lifetime.

Set in the Latin Quarter of Paris in the 1830s, this true-to-life tale of struggling young artists living life to the fullest will make you laugh and break your heart.

A brilliant mix of light and darkness, *La Bohème* is one of the most romantic operas ever written. Soaring, lyrical, and intensely emotional, this is the music that made Puccini a legend and inspired the Broadway sensation and hit movie *Rent*.

Features some of opera's most famous tunes: the arias "Che gelida manina" (What a frozen little hand), "Mi chiamano Mimì" (My name is Mimì), "Quando m'en vo" (Musetta's Waltz), and the great love duet, "O soave fanciulla" (Oh lovely girl).

Sung in Italian with projected English translations.

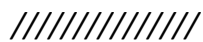
4. *Manitoba Opera announces 2024/25 Season*

TICKETS

Tickets are currently available by subscription only; single tickets will be available in early summer.

For more information contact the Box Office, 204-957-7842 or online at mbopera.ca

Casting Subject to Change



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