



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION  
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**MOZART'S MASTERPIECE, *THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO*,  
CLOSES 2025/26 SEASON  
April 18, 22, 24**

Mozart's comic masterpiece *The Marriage of Figaro (Le nozze di Figaro)* will close Manitoba Opera's 2025/26 season with three performances April 18, 22, and 24 at the Centennial Concert Hall. **Limited tickets remain** for this iconic opera that takes place over one crazy day – the wedding day of Susanna and Figaro. For tickets, go to [mbopera.ca/204-944-8824](http://mbopera.ca/204-944-8824).

Mozart's great ensemble comedy features a colourful cast of characters and a whirlwind of tricks, disguises, and mistaken identities. It is set to some of the most exquisite music ever composed. The witty and intricate plot of Mozart's beloved opera takes place over the course of one day as Susanna and Figaro, servants to the Count and Countess Almaviva, attempt to keep their wedding day from being sidelined.

From the famous overture to the finale and the Count's lesson in marital fidelity, this social commentary on class and love unfolds with brilliant music, memorable melodies, and heart-breaking tenderness as the characters ponder young love, lost love, and forgiveness.

**THE SETTING/TIME PERIOD**

*The Marriage of Figaro* was originally set in a Spanish chateau during the 18<sup>th</sup> century. This production has been re-set to a manor house near Seville in the 1950s. Designed for Pacific Opera Victoria's 2024 production, Canadian designer Ken McDonald's set is inspired by the renowned Spanish artist Joan Miró's whimsical, surrealistic, and colourful shapes.

**THE STORY: Oh, What a Day!**

Music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart                      Libretto by Lorenzo da Ponte  
*Based on Pierre-Augustin Beaumarchais' comic play Le Mariage de Figaro*

It's the eve of Figaro and Susanna's wedding, servants in the house of Count and Countess Almaviva. Nothing is going right. The Count's wandering eye has landed on the bride-to-be and Figaro vows to outmaneuver his boss's advances. Cherubino, the lovesick page, is sweet on the Countess and has asked Susanna for help. The Count has caught him with the gardener's daughter and as punishment, intends to send him away for military service. Marcellina, the governess, is chasing after Figaro. If he reneges on his loan? He is bound by their agreement to marry her.

## 2. MO The Marriage of Figaro April 18, 22, 24, 2026

Can the servants turn the tables on the masters in order to teach the Count a lesson and save the wedding? Will love triumph?

### THE ARTISTS

Making his Manitoba Opera debut, baritone **Phillip Addis**, charms as the scheming count. A veteran of leading roles across North America and Europe, Addis has been praised for his compelling performances.

**Miriam Khalil** joins the cast as the countess. Khalil has established herself as one of Canada's most versatile and expressive performers.

Baritone **Robert Mellon**, praised not only for his "glorious voice that burst[s] out brimming with life and vigor," but also for having "immense skill as an actor," will be making his MO debut as Figaro.

Also making company debuts are **Caitlin Wood**, who will bring her acclaimed comedic timing and vocal brilliance to the beloved character of Susanna, and mezzo-soprano **Pascale Spinney** who sings the trouser role of the young page Cherubino. The *Edmonton Journal* noted that, "Wood's effervescent stage presence and crystal-clear soprano make her a natural for roles that demand both vocal dexterity and comedic flair." Spinney's performance credits include working with Opéra de Montréal, White Snakes Projects (Boston), St. Petersburg Opera, and the Philadelphia Orchestra.

**Peter McGillivray** returns as the wily Bartolo. McGillivray is an audience favorite renowned for his comedic timing and resonant bass-baritone. **Krisztina Szabó** makes her company debut as the feisty Marcellina. Szabó is an artist whose versatility and expressive artistry have made her a standout in opera houses across the country.

Winnipeg tenor **James McLennan** will be singing the roles of both Don Curzio and Don Basilio. McLennan has been featured on opera and concert stages across Canada. Bass-baritone **David Watson**, who has appeared in over 50 MO productions, will be singing the role of the gardener Antonio. Soprano **Grace Budoloski** makes her company debut in her hometown as Barbarina, the gardener's daughter.

Brandon-born conductor **Gordon Gerrard** will take the podium to conduct this lively and effervescent production, bringing his dynamic artistry and deep musicality to the score. This is Gerrard's company debut. Also featured are the **Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra** and members of the **Manitoba Opera Chorus**.

The production is directed by **Rob Herriot** with lighting design by **Scott Henderson**.

*The Marriage of Figaro* will be sung in Italian with projected English translations.

## **2025/26 Season Partners & Funders**

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