



THE 2009/2010 SEASON – 30TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON 30 YEARS AND JUST AS ENCHANTING!

SIX PRODUCTIONS, TWO NEW AND TWO PREMIERES, NELLIGAN AT THE ATELIER LYRIQUE, AND THE GALA

Montreal, April 1, 2009 — The **Opéra de Montréal** team, led by General Director **Pierre Dufour**, revealed the programme of works selected by Artistic Director **Michel Beaulac** for the company's **30th season** at Place des Arts today. On the programme for the 09/10 anniversary season: six productions, of which two are new, including Massenet's **Cendrillon**, presented in Montreal for the first time since 1912; Verdi's **Simon Boccanegra**; Mozart's **The Magic Flute**; a double bill of Leoncavallo's **Pagliacci** and Puccini's **Gianni Schicchi**; **Nelligan**, by the team of André Gagnon and Michel Tremblay, presented by the Atelier Lyrique; the benefit event, Le Gala, in December; and awareness and outreach projects that are more popular than ever (metrOpera, preOpera, coOpera, open dress rehearsals, school matinee)! From fairytale to political intrigue, humour, drama, and magic... one word best describes what the composers have to offer us: ENCHANTMENT!

Opera

Laughs and tears — Both are present in the double bill that kicks off the Opéra de Montréal's 30th season: Leoncavallo's **Pagliacci**/Puccini's **Gianni Schicchi**, a new production directed by the inventive Alain Gauthier (Suor Angelica in 2006; The Barber of Seville in 2008). Appearing on the main stage will be **Marc Hervieux** in the legendary role of Canio (Pagliacci), alongside **Marie-Josée Lord** (Nedda) and **Gregory Dahl** (Tonio), the latter of whom will portray Gianni Schicchi in Puccini's eponymous opera, alongside **Marianne Fiset** (Lauretta)—a first major role at the company for this Grand Prize winner of the 2008 Montreal International Musical Competition—, and **Marie-Nicole Lemieux** (Zita). **James Meena** will be at the podium leading the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal.

Enchanting Mozart — **The Magic Flute** certainly promises magic and wonder. Making this production from the San Francisco Opera truly shine are **Karina Gauvin**, who will appear as Pamina, and **Aline Kutan**, who will sing the demanding role of the Queen of the Night. Their masculine counterparts: **John Tessier** (Tamino) and **Aaron St. Clair Nicholson** (Papageno). Quebecker **Alain Trudel** will make his company debut leading the Orchestre Métropolitain du Grand Montréal.

A work to discover! — **Simon Boccanegra** by Verdi... a rarely performed masterpiece, powerful music and a libretto that immerses us in the political intrigues of medieval Italy! This San Diego Opera production, and this première for the company presented for the first time in Quebec, sees the return of soprano **Hiromi Omura**, our sublime Butterfly in 2008, in the role of Amelia. She will share the stage with the great baritone **Alberto Gazale** (Simon), making his company debut in this production directed by **David Gately**. **Keri-Lynn Wilson** will lead the Orchestre Métropolitain du Grand Montréal.

The fairytale returns! — Massenet's **Cendrillon** has not been heard in Montreal since 1912! This première by the Opéra de Montréal (co-produced with the Badisches Staatstheater in Karlsruhe and first staged at the Opéra National du Rhin) promises an extraordinary trip through time. There's only a fine line between the tale's timeless dream world and the 1950s, and it's one that stage directors and set and costume designers **André Barbe** and **Renaud Doucet** happily cross! **Cendrillon** features a fresh-faced cast made up entirely of singers from Quebec including, notably, **Julie Boulianne** as Cendrillon and **Frédéric Antoun** as Prince Charming. Lighting is by **Guy Simard**.

OPERA PLUS

Tosca – a 30th anniversary present — A dazzling cast has been assembled for this work by Puccini working at the peak of his craft: soprano **Nicola Beller Carbone** (Floria Tosca), tenor **David Pomeroy** (Cavaradossi)—both making their company debuts—, along with baritone **Greer Grimsley** (Scarpia). Passion, desire, and murder... these are the ingredients that made up the Opéra de Montréal's inaugural opera in 1980, and that are being brought back to celebrate our 30th anniversary in a new setting from the San Diego Opera, featuring sets by **Jean-Pierre Ponnelle**. An anniversary gift for all lovers of opera.

A great poet is celebrated: Nelligan — **Nelligan**, the romantic opera by **André Gagnon**, set to **Michel Tremblay**'s libretto about the life of the great Quebec poet, will be 20 years old when **Dominique Côté** (Young Nelligan), **Marc Hervieux** (Old Nelligan), and the singers of the Atelier lyrique take to the stage. And the Atelier lyrique will be celebrating its 25th year! In collaboration with the National Theatre School of Canada, this new production of **Nelligan**—a version for two pianos and cello, arranged by **Anthony Rozankovic**—will be directed by actor **Normand Chouinard**, who is making his debut at the Atelier lyrique with his first stage direction for opera.

LE GALA

30 years, 30 arias — **Le Gala**, 14th edition, remains the annual celebration of opera, featuring today's finest voices performing famous works from the great opera repertoire with the Orchestre Métropolitain du Grand Montréal and the Opéra de Montréal Chorus.

CANADIAN AND INTERNATIONAL CASTS

In leading roles, Canadian opera stars—**Karina Gauvin, Aline Kutan, Marianne Fiset, Marie-Nicole Lemieux, Marie-Josée Lord, Gaétan Laperrière, Marc Hervieux, Etienne Dupuis, Gregory Dahl, Julie Boulianne, Aaron St. Clair Nicholson, John Tessier, Frédéric Antoun, Alexandre Sylvestre, Pascal Charbonneau, Antoine Bélanger, Noëlla Huet, Marianne Lambert**—alongside great artists from the international opera world, such as **Hiromi Omura, Alberto Gazale, Nicola Beller Carbone, David Pomeroy, Greer Grimsley, Burak Bilgili, Israel Lozano**...

In the orchestra pit over the course of the season, the **Orchestre symphonique de Montréal** and the **Orchestre Métropolitain du Grand Montréal** will be led successively by **James Meena** from the U.S., **Alain Trudel** and **Keri-Lynn Wilson** from Canada, **Jean-Yves Ossonce** from France, and **Paul Nadler** from the U.S.

OPÉRA DE MONTRÉAL | 09/10 SEASON

All operas are performed in their original language with English and French surtitles.

SALLE WILFRID-PELLETIER, PLACE DES ARTS

LEONCAVALLO –Pagliacci / PUCCINI – Gianni Schicchi (Double bill) | September 26, 30, 2009 & October 3, 5, 8, 2009 at 8 p.m.

MOZART – The Magic Flute | November 7, 11, 14, 16, 19, 2009 at 8 p.m. & November 21, 2009 at 2 p.m.

VERDI – Simon Boccanegra | March 13, 17, 20, 22, 25, 2010 at 8 p.m.

MASSENET – Cendrillon | May 22, 26, 29, 31, 2010 & June 3, 2010 at 8 p.m.

PUCCINI – Tosca – 30th ANNIVERSARY PRODUCTION | January 30, February 3, 6, 8, 11, 2010 at 8 p.m. & February 13, 2010 at 2 p.m.

Le Gala | 14th edition, December 6, 2009 at 2 p.m.

MONUMENT-NATIONAL

Atelier lyrique de l'Opéra de Montréal

GAGNON/TREMBLAY – Nelligan | March 6, 8, 10, 11, 2010 at 8 p.m. & March 13, 2010 at 2 p.m.

Graphic design of Opéra de Montréal's 0910 campaign: **orangetango**

TICKET SALES

SUBSCRIPTIONS

OPERA: subscription to 4 productions (Pagliacci/Gianni Schicchi, The Magic Flute, Simon Boccanegra, Cendrillon)

OPERA PLUS: subscription to 5 productions (OPERA + Tosca OR Nelligan)

OPERA PLUS +: subscription to 6 productions (OPERA + Tosca + Nelligan)

NEW FOR OUR 30th ANNIVERSARY: for Monday performances, subscribers can take advantage of savings of up to 30%.

TO SUBSCRIBE

- Opéra de Montréal Box Office only: 514-985-2258 / 1-877-385-2222
- Subscriptions start at \$151, on sale from April 1st to October 8, 2009

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 18-30 YEAR-OLDS: TD BANK TAKES YOU TO THE OPERA

Through the support of TD Canada Trust, the Opéra de Montréal is continuing its special subscription offer for 18-30 year-olds: \$30 per ticket when you subscribe! Minimum purchase of two operas in the regular season is required. Subscriptions available beginning on August 10, 2009 at the Opéra de Montréal Box Office, and beginning October 9, 2009 at Place des Arts.

SINGLE TICKETS

Place des Arts Box Office: 514-842-2112 • 1-866-842-2112
Starting at \$46, on sale beginning August 5, 2009.

operademontreal.com

For more information on the productions, special events and educational programmes, subscription options, single ticket prices and group rates, PRIMA and corporate packages.

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