Press Release
For immediate release
37th season / 2016-2017

OPÉRA DE MONTRÉAL

DON GIOVANNI

by W.A. Mozart

"I LOVE YOU…" "NOR DO I."

Musical excerpts / TV Ad / Video

Montreal, October 11, 2016 – The Opéra de Montréal's 37th season continues with the presentation of ***Don Giovanni*** by Mozart, the very essence of the mythical figure of Don Juan, and one of the greatest works in the history of opera. On deck in this *dramma giocoso* (joyful drama) that blends together drama and comedy: youthful singers and a fresh set design that sets the story in the 1940/50s. For his Opéra de Montréal debut, **David Lefkowich** brings us a surprising staging, following his first encounter with *Don Giovanni*, which he directed at the Ravinia Music Festival with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. **Production**: Boston Lyric Opera and Glimmerglass Opera. Performances of *Don Giovanni* take place on **November 12, 15, 17, and 19, 2016 at 7:30 pm** in Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier at Place des Arts.

Canada's finest emerging artists…

Bass-baritone **Gordon Bintner** sings the title role, an unrepentant seducer who has become the archetypal heartbreaker; soprano **Emily Dorn**, makes her Opéra de Montréal debut in the role of Donna Anna, noblewoman, daughter of the city's Commandant, an all-powerful father, sung by bass **Alain Coulombe**. Alongside them: tenor **Jean-Michel Richer** (Don Ottavio), soprano **Layla Claire** (Donna Elvira, abandoned by the unfaithful Don Giovanni), bass-baritone **Daniel Okulitch** (Leporello, Don Giovanni's servant), as well as bass-baritone **Stephen Hegedus** and soprano **Hélène Guilmette** (the peasant couple Masetto and Zerlina). Named one of CBC's Top 30 Classical Musicians Under 30, conductor **Jordan de Souza** makes his company debut leading the Orchestre Métropolitain and the Opéra de Montréal Chorus. **David Lefkowich** directs the production, with sets by **Donald Eastman**, costumes by **Dominique Guindon**, and lighting by **Anne-Catherine Simard-Deraspe**.

The story: "I love you…" "Nor do I."

Great seducer Don Giovanni kills the city's Commandant, after entering his home and attempting to abuse his daughter, Donna Anna. Accompanied by his servant—the comical Leporello—, Don Giovanni tries to escape the condemnation of the vindictive Elvira, who he has abandoned, and of the peasant Zerlina, who he has tried to seduce. During a party in Don Giovanni's palace, Donna Anna recognizes him as the man who murdered her father, and asks Ottavio to seek vengeance. Three masked figures enter—none other than Elvira, Anna, and Ottavio, who have come to foil their enemy and his servant. In a gripping dénouement, Don Giovanni ends up paying for his depraved behaviour!

The epitome of the Don Juan myth

The success of *The Marriage of Figaro* at the National Theatre in Prague during the winter of 1786-1787 earned Mozart the commission for a new opera to be staged the following autumn. The opera was to be based on one of the great mythical figures in Western literature and theatre—Don Juan—, who, along with Faust, stirred the collective imagination at a time when people could look forward to more individual freedom. *Don Giovanni* became "the opera of operas," confirming the creative insight

of its lyrical genius and the great tragi-comic power of Da Ponte's libretto (*dramma giocoso* – literally: joyful drama), surrounded by an omnipresent aura of eroticism. The sensual beauty of the composition reveals the seductive, quasi-physical power of music that is both bright and dark.

The music of a genius

It is the extreme eloquence of the music serving both the plot and emotions that is most striking. Never before had audiences experienced such an intimate relationship between the words and the music. Moreover, the richness of this "joyful drama" comes from the superposition and confrontation of two types of action—dramatic and comic—that correspond to different types of music. The highly expressive music illustrates one and the other with great conviction. Added to this are arias and ensembles of remarkable beauty and virtuosity that are among the highlights of the opera, along with the musical overture that heralds the drama to follow.

Opera: *Don Giovanni*, by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Genre: dramma giocoso
Structure: 2 acts
Language: Italian with English and French supertitles
Libretto: Lorenzo da Ponte
Premiere: National Theatre, Prague, October 29, 1787
Production: Boston Lyric Opera and Glimmerglass Opera
Last presented at the Opéra de Montréal: May 2007

OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER AT THE OPÉRA DE MONTRÉAL

DOUG

DOUG is produced by La Biennale de Montréal with the collaboration of the **Atelier lyrique** de l'Opéra de Montréal for BNLMTL 2016, *The Grand Balcony*. DOUG was initially conceived as an online project for Film and Video Umbrella, London.
October 19 at 5 pm and October 20 at 7 pm, at the SAT
Info

MUSIQUE AU SALON

Recital showcasing the songs of Lionel Daunais and a few vocal works by other composers. With singers of the Atelier lyrique de l'Opéra de Montréal: Myriam Leblanc, Caroline Gélinas, Max van Wyck, and Carol-Anne Fraser.
October 23 at 11 am, at the Cowansville Bruck Museum
Info

MONTRÉAL À TABLE RESTAURANT WEEK

Dinner-show at the opera! Presented by Brasserie T! & the Opéra de Montréal
Performance on Saturday, November 12, 2016.
Info

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OPÉRA DE MONTRÉAL | 2016-2017 SEASON – 37TH SEASON
All operas are performed in their original language with bilingual surtitles projected above the stage.

SALLE WILFRID-PELLETIER, PLACE DES ARTS (PDA)
MOZART – *Don Giovanni* | November 12, 15, 17, 19, 2016 at 7:30 pm
POULENC – *Dialogues des carmélites* | January 28, 31, February 2, 4, 2017 at 7:30 pm
BILODEAU – *Another Brick In The Wall – The Opera* | March 11, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 2017 at 7:30 pm
(**Official programming: Montreal's 375th Anniversary**)
PUCCINI – *La bohème* | May 20, 23, 25, 27, 2017 at 7:30 pm

Graphic design for the Opéra de Montréal's 2016-2017 campaign: Brad

TICKETS

SUBSCRIPTIONS
to 4 / 5 operas available now, starting at $169, and on sale until November 19, 2016.
Only at the Opéra de Montréal box office: 514-985-2258 • 1 877 385-2222
SINGLE TICKETS
Place des Arts box office: 514-842-2112 • 1 866 842-2112
Starting at $20 and on sale **as of August 2, 2016**
NEW THIS SEASON

1. **Family package**: A new family-friendly outing to prepare the audience of tomorrow, hosted by the Yoopa channel's charming and curious Théo.
2. **My First Time Package**: Because you never forget your first time! Backstage tour, snacks, show…
3. **Flex Series**: A made-to-measure series
4. **30 and under**: 50% off, in all categories
5. **Young Associates**: cocktails, networking

Info: operademontreal.com/tickets

GET IN ON THE ACT! GET THE OPERA EXPERIENCE ONLINE AT **OPERADEMONTREAL.COM**

Opéra de Montréal
Founded in 1980 and based in Montreal, the Opéra de Montréal is the largest francophone opera company in North America. Last year, close to 50,000 spectators made their way through the doors at the Opéra de Montréal, which is under the direction of General Director Patrick Corrigan and Artistic Director Michel Beaulac. Its season is made up of five operas, and several activities by the Atelier lyrique and outreach activities. The Opéra is a key player in the city's economic, cultural, and social development as, each season, it maintains working relationships with over 360 local businesses, and hires no less than 800 artists and craftspeople. Close to 80% of the artists appearing at the company are Canadians.

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