Press Release

For immediate release

35th season / 2014-2015

**Opéra de Montréal’s 2014-2015 Season**

**experience the extraordinary**

**Montreal, Tuesday, April 15, 2014** **—** The **Opéra de Montréal** team, under the general direction of **Pierre Dufour**, in the ARTVstudio, cultural space at Place des Arts, today announced the program for its **35th season**, prepared by its artistic director, **Michel Beaulac**.On the program:four operas on the main stage—including the recent work *Silent Night* by American composer Kevin Puts—, several shows by the Atelier lyrique, The Gala at the Maison symphonique, and ongoing outreach and education activities. The 2014-2015 season is an invitation to experience the extraordinary.

*Nabucco* by Giuseppe Verdi

Opéra de Montréal kicks off its 35th season with a spirited and lyrical work—*Nabucco*, an early masterpiece by Verdi, featuring a surge of rousing arias and spectacular choruses, including the immortal “Va pensiero.” Stage director and set designer Thaddeus Strassberger offers a magnificent new production that has already been hailed in major American opera houses. Starring first-rate Verdian singers.

The story:A war is being waged: Nabucco, King of Babylon, seeks revenge against the Hebrews, who have taken his daughter, Fenena, hostage. His other daughter, the ambitious Abigaille, is thirsting for power. Betrayal and madness await them…

Cast: Nabucco **Elchin Azizov\*** / Abigaille **Tatiana Melnychenko\*** / Zaccaria **Ievgen Orlov\*** / Fenena **Olesya Petrova\*** / Ismaele **Antoine Bélanger** / Conductor **Francesco Maria Colombo** / Stage Director **Thaddeus Strassberger**, re-staged by **Leigh Holman** / Sets **Thaddeus Strassberger** / Costumes **Mattie Ullrich** / Lighting **Mark McCullough**

Opéra de Montréal Chorus / Orchestre Métropolitain

Co-production: Washington National Opera, Minnesota Opera, Opera Philadelphia

**September 20.23.25.27, 2014. Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier, 7:30 pm**



Presented by

*The Barber of Seville* by Gioacchino Rossini

After having won acclaim for his brilliant portrayal of the famous barber in Europe, Quebec baritone Etienne Dupuis returns to give us all a shave! Alongside him as Rosina is mezzo Mireille Lebel, another rising star and Atelier lyrique de l’Opéra de Montréal alumna. Bringing this work imbued with humour and love to the stage is Oriol Tomas, the 2014–2016 winner of the First Prize from the Centre français de promotion lyrique, a tour of 16 of the most important opera houses in France. A youthful production, starting with Rossini’s eternally effervescent and engaging music.

The story: Beautiful Rosina is betrothed to the much older Bartolo. But young Almaviva, who is in love with her, swears to prevent the union from having to take place. Only one man can help them: the crafty Figaro!

Cast: Figaro **Etienne Dupuis** / Rosina **Mireille Lebel** / Bartolo **Carlo Lepore\*** / Almaviva **Bogdan Mihai\*** / Basilio **Paolo Pecchioli\*** / Conductor **Antonino Fogliani\*** / Stage Director **Oriol Tomas** / Sets **Robert Prévost, Guy Neveu** / Costumes **Robert Prévost**, design, and **Joyce Gauthier**, adaptation / Lighting **Anne-Catherine Simard-Deraspe**

Opéra de Montréal Chorus / Orchestre Métropolitain

Production: Opéra de Montréal

**November 8.11.13.15, 2014. Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier, 7:30 pm**

*Samson and Delilah* by Camille Saint-SaënsNew production

Internationally renowned Quebec singer Marie-Nicole Lemieux, applauded in *Falstaff* last year, sings her very first Delilah in Montreal, making the captivating melodies of Saint-Saëns’ masterpiece—including the irresistible “Mon coeur s’ouvre à ta voix”—her own. In the role of the strong man is powerful tenor Endrik Wottrich, discovered in Montreal in 2012 in *The Flying Dutchman*. Alain Gauthier, stage director of *Dead Man Walking*, winner of the 2013 Opus Award for Musical Event of the Year, helms this new production.

The story: The invincible Samson grows weak before the tantalizing seductress Delilah, who has managed to learn the secret of his great strength. But perhaps Samson’s true power is to be found in his faith…

Cast: Samson **Endrik Wottrich** / Delilah **Marie-Nicole Lemieux** / The High Priest **Gregory Dahl** / Abimélech **Philip Kalmanovitch** / Conductor **Jean-Marie Zeitouni** / Stage Director **Alain Gauthier** / Sets **Anick La Bissonnière, Eric-Olivier Lacroix** / Lighting **Éric W. Champoux** / Video Design **Circo de Bakuza Création S.A.**

Opéra de Montréal Chorus / Orchestre symphonique de Montréal

Production: PRODUCTIONS ODM INC.



**January 24.27.29.31, 2015. Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier, 7:30 pm**

Presented by



*Silent Night* by Kevin Puts

After the triumph of *Dead Man Walking* in 2013, the Opéra de Montréal continues its exploration of the contemporary repertoire. Inspired by the film *Joyeux Noël* (2005), young American composer Kevin Puts’ first opera, to a libretto by Mark Campbell, arrives just in time to mark the 100th anniversary of the First World War. A deeply moving story, sung in three languages, which tells of a miraculous truce in the trenches on Christmas night. This stirring plea for peace has won audience acclaim and was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for music in 2012. Featuring some of today’s finest Canadian singers in the main roles: Marianne Fiset, Phillip Addis, Joseph Kaiser, and Daniel Okulitch.

The story: December 24, 1914: French, German, and Scottish soldiers defy their superiors and make peace. Overnight, enemies become brothers, celebrating Christmas together. The following morning, will they be able to resume fighting?

Cast: Anna Sørensen **Marianne Fiset** / Nikolaus Sprink **Joseph Kaiser** / Lieutenant Audebert **Phillip Addis** / Lieutenant Gordon **Alexander Hajek\*** / Lieutenant Horstmayer **Daniel Okulitch** / Ponchel **Alexandre Sylvestre** / Conductor **Michael Christie\*** / Stage Director **Eric Simonson** / Sets **Francis O’Connor** / Costumes **Kärin Kopischke** / Lighting **Marcus Dilliard** / Projections **Andrzej Goulding**

Opéra de Montréal Chorus / Orchestre Métropolitain

Production: Minnesota Opera, Opera Philadelphia, Cincinnati Opera, Fort Worth Opera (owners of the sets, props, costumes, and media files for this production.) Based on the screenplay by Christian Carion for the motion picture *Joyeux Noël* produced by Nord-Ouest Production. Commissioned by Minnesota Opera. A Minnesota Opera New Works Initiative Production. Music by Kevin Puts; libretto by Mark Campbell, by arrangement with Aperto Press, publisher, Bill Holab Music: Sole Agent

**May 16.19.21.23, 2015. Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier, 7:30 pm**

*\*Company debut*

*Le Gala, 19th edition*

Maison symphonique de Montréal. Sunday, December 14, 2014, 2 pm

**THE SINGERS**

**From Canada**: Phillip Addis, Antoine Bélanger, Gregory Dahl, Étienne Dupuis, Marianne Fiset, Alexander Hajek\*, Joseph Kaiser, Philip Kalmanovitch, Mireille Lebel, Marie-Nicole Lemieux, Daniel Okulitch, Alexandre Sylvestre

**From abroad**: Elchin Azizov\*, Carlo Lepore\*, Tatiana Melnychenko\*, Bogdan Mihai\*, Ievgen Orlov\*, Paolo Pecchioli\*, Olesya Petrova\*, Endrik Wottrich

**ORCHESTRAS**: Orchestre Métropolitain and Orchestre symphonique de Montréal

**CONDUCTORS**:Michael Christie\*, Francesco Maria Colombo, Antonino Fogliani\*, Jean-Marie Zeitouni

**STAGE DIRECTORS**: Alain Gauthier, Eric Simonson, Thaddeus Strassberger, Oriol Tomas

\*Company debut

**Atelier lyrique de l’Opéra de Montréal**

****Presenting Partner Financial Partner

****

The Atelier lyrique is collaborating with several other organizations this season.

***La voix humaine*** by Poulenc*/* ***Trouble in Tahiti*** by Bernstein

* Théâtre Outremont: February 3, 2015
* Concert version with staging
* In collaboration with the McGill Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Boris Brott

***Zémire et Azor*** by Grétry (after *Beauty and the Beast*)

* Maison symphonique de Montréal: May 23, 2015; Palais Montcalm in Quebec City: May 27, 2015
* Concert version with staging; Denys Arcand’s first foray into opera
* In collaboration with Les Violons du Roy, conducted by Mathieu Lussier

***Les amoureux célèbres*** – Le Conseil des arts de Montréal on tour

* Script and stage direction by Marie-Lou Dion; with piano
* 12 shows – dates listed on the schedule at operademontreal.com

**Concerts**

*Messiah* – December 6, 2014; Orchestre symphonique de l’Estuaire, conducted by Luc Chaput

December 9-10, 2014; Orchestre symphonique de Laval, conducted by Alain Trudel

Les Mélodînes – *La bonne chanson*; Artistic Director: Louise-Andrée Baril

**Opera creation project: 31**

Starting this season, the Atelier will play an active role in workshopping an opera by Tim Brady, to a libretto by Guillaume Corbeil, in collaboration with the SMCQ. The opera—with a working title of “31”—will feature six soloists from the Atelier lyrique and tell the story of three sisters and their loved ones, each facing very different realities within the social context of the 1970 October Crisis in Montreal.

The opera will have its world premiere in the fall of 2016 as part of the activities marking the 50th anniversary of the SMCQ.

**Opéra de Montréal |** **2014-2015 Season**

All operas are performed in their original language with bilingual surtitles projected above the stage.

**Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier, Place des Arts (PDA)**

**VERDI – *Nabucco****|* September 20, 23, 25, 27, 2014 at 7:30 pm

**ROSSINI – *The Barber of Seville*** *|* November 8, 11, 13, 15, 2014 at 7:30 pm

**SAINT-SAËNS – *Samson and Delilah*** *|* January 24, 27, 29, 31, 2015 at 7:30 pm

**PUTS *– Silent Night*** *|* May 16, 19, 21, 23, 2015 at 7:30 pm

**Maison symphonique de Montréal**

**Le Gala** *|* 19th edition, December 14, 2014 at 2 pm

Graphic design for Opéra de Montréal’s 2014-2015 campaign: **orangetango**

**Tickets**

**Subscriptions** to 4 operas

Only at the Opéra de Montréal box office: 514-985-2258 • 1 877 385-2222

Subscriptions starting at $166, on sale **until November 15, 2014**.

**Subscriptions for those 30 and under – TD Takes You to the Opera**

The Opéra de Montréal is continuing its collaboration with TD Bank, offering subscriptions for those age 30 and under: get 50% off single tickets in any category. Subscriptions available **starting August 5, 2014** at the Opéra de Montréal box office.



**Single Tickets**

Place des Arts Box Office: 514-842-2112 • 1 866 842-2112

Starting at $20, on sale **as of August 5, 2014**.

The OPÉRA experience, online at [**operademontreal.com**](http://www.operademontreal.com)

Related Activities

Outreach and Education

**preOpera –** *Get to the heart of the operas*

To learn more about each opera in the season, join musicologist Pierre Vachon prior to each performance for an introduction to the work and its context, highlighted with musical excerpts. In the Piano Nobile, in Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier at Place des Arts, starting at 6:30 pm. Duration: 30 minutes. Free for subscribers and $5 for non-subscribers (tickets on sale at the Place des Arts box office on performance dates).

**coOpera –** *Opera seen through the eyes of schoolchildren*

For the eleventh year in a row, the Opéra de Montréal is continuing its coOpera educational project, which allows some one hundred students from four elementary schools in underprivileged areas to create their own musical performance, based on an opera presented at the OdM. From set design to the libretto to voice workshops, students benefit from the technical and artistic support of the OdM team and the singers of the Atelier lyrique. This project has proven to be extremely successful with students who put their creativity and openness towards others to the task. The project begins in September and concludes in May with the presentation of the show before an audience.

Partners

****

****

**school matinee –** *For elementary school students*

In collaboration with the Department of Education, Recreation and Sports’ Montreal school program *Une école montréalaise pour tous*, the Opéra de Montréal continues with a third year of school matinees.

Partners

cid:image001.png@01CEAE2C.68AC00E0****

**Open dress rehearsals –** *Schools get a sneak peek at the main stage*

The Opéra de Montréal continues to open its doors to groups of high school and college students between the ages of 12 and 17, giving them the opportunity to enjoy free access to three dress rehearsals in Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier at Place des Arts: *The Barber of Seville* (November 6, 2014); *Samson and Delilah* (January 22, 2015); *Silent Night* (May 14, 2015).

A study guide (including the theme, historical context, notes on the composer, a synopsis, information on the stage and on behind-the-scenes aspects of a production, important dates in the history of opera, etc.) is provided to teachers to help them prepare their students to attend the performance. To learn more, please visit the Opéra de Montréal website: operademontreal.com/education.

Open dress rehearsals are presented through the generous support of

MR. AND MRS. .

BERNARD STOTLAND

AND FAMILY

**-30-**

**Alain Labonté Communications: media relations**

**514.523.9922 |** [**alain@alainlabonte.com**](mailto:alain@alainlabonte.com)



