



**Commission
scolaire
de Montréal**

For immediate release

**Opéra de Montréal signs a three-year agreement
with the Commission scolaire de Montréal**

Montreal, March 22, 2014 – The President of the Commission scolaire de Montréal (CSDM), Ms. Catherine Harel-Bourdon, today announced a three-year agreement, beginning in the current 2013-2014 season, under which the CSDM will contribute \$30,000 per year to the Opéra de Montréal's educational projects. These funds will allow the Opéra de Montréal to continue its efforts to introduce elementary and high school students to opera. "This agreement reflects our joint commitment to providing greater access to opera and to culture for the greatest possible number of our students, and I am delighted about it," stated Ms. Harel-Bourdon.

"Education through opera is one of the Opéra de Montréal's missions," declared Pierre Dufour, General Director of the Opéra de Montréal. "We feel that it is essential to initiate young people through educational projects that are both formative and empowering."

The Opéra de Montréal's educational projects are: **three dress rehearsals** open free of charge to 6,000 high school students; a **school matinee** for 1,300 elementary school students; **interactive workshops** in schools, with singers and a group leader; the **coOpera** project, which, over the course of the school year, guides some 100 elementary school students from underprivileged backgrounds through each step in the creation and production of a show inspired by an opera presented at the Opéra de Montréal; and a **coOpera kit**, which will give schools throughout Quebec the means to experience the coOpera project over a shorter period of time.

The Opéra de Montréal is ranked as one of the fifteen largest opera companies in North America. Each year, it presents four operas, performances by the Atelier lyrique, a Gala, and a number of educational and outreach activities. Opéra de Montréal facts and figures: over 150 artists, craftspeople, and creators taking part in each of its shows; economic spinoffs benefitting over 360 Quebec companies; over 48,000 spectators per year; and an annual budget of \$7.2 million.

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