



THE OPÉRA DE MONTRÉAL'S 2015-2016 SEASON: A MONUMENTAL SEASON

Montreal, Monday, February 23, 2015 — For its 36th season, the **Opéra de Montréal** announces the presentation of four operas, including two new productions and the world premiere of the leading work by Quebec playwright Michel Marc Bouchard—*Les feluettes*—, set to music by Australian composer Kevin March.

Artistic Director **Michel Beaulac** is proud to present his new program for 2015/16: "A monumental season! On the program: a world premiere and three works that are high points of each their respective composers' bodies of work," namely:

- ***Madama Butterfly*** by Puccini, an absolute must-see by this composer, and the ideal introduction to opera for all audiences.
- ***Elektra*** by Strauss, which Yannick Nézet-Séguin will conduct for the first time in Quebec; this production is the first presentation of this work by a resident company in Quebec, and a first Spain-Canada collaboration.
- ***Otello*** by Verdi, the ultimate tragic hero, for whom the composer wrote music that is as moving as it is magnificent.
- The highly anticipated premiere of the opera version of ***Les feluettes***, after the play by Michel Marc Bouchard, set to music by composer Kevin March.

FOUR OPERAS

MADAMA BUTTERFLY BY GIACOMO PUCCINI

The Opéra de Montréal opens its 36th season with the opera Puccini considered to be the "most sincere and evocative" of all the operas he composed. Evocative, with its rich and exotic musical colours... and sincere in its heroine's flights of lyricism, such as the famous aria "Un bel di vedremo." *Madama Butterfly* will come to life, staged by renowned Quebec director François Racine.

Synopsis: Young Japanese girl Cio-Cio-San's naïve love for American officer Pinkerton—who marries her and abandons her after their wedding night—is gradually transformed into a profound understanding of life's injustices. Once she is fully aware of how she has been betrayed, what can she do to escape dishonour?

Cast

Cio-Cio-San – Melody Moore*

Pinkerton – Alexey Dolgov

B.F. Sharpless – Morgan Smith*

Suzuki – Allyson McHardy

Conductor – James Meena

Stage director – François Racine

Opéra de Montréal Chorus / Orchestre Métropolitain

September 19.22.24.26, 2015. Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier, 7:30 pm

Production: Opéra de Montréal

ELEKTRA BY RICHARD STRAUSS**NEW PRODUCTION**

Richard Strauss's tragedy, *Elektra*, is a steady build-up of tension, powerful emotions, and violence, condensed into just one single act. Lise Lindstrom and Nicola Beller Carbone, two Straussian sopranos acclaimed for their respective portrayals of the title role of *Salome*, sing Elektra and her sister Chrysothemis under the red-hot direction of Yannick Nézet-Séguin, in sets designed by Spanish sculptor Victor Ochoa. A first for Yannick Nézet-Séguin, the first presentation of this opera by a resident company in Quebec, and a first collaboration between Spain and Canada.

Synopsis: Elektra desperately wants to punish her mother, Klytaemnestra, who is guilty of adultery and of killing her husband Agamemnon, Elektra's father. She first seeks support from her sister Chrysothemis, and then from her brother Orest. Will her vengeance leave any survivors?

Cast

Elektra – Lise Lindstrom

Chrysothemis – Nicola Beller Carbone

Klytaemnestra – Agnes Zwierko*

Orest – Alan Held

Conductor – Yannick Nézet-Séguin

Stage director – Alain Gauthier

Opéra de Montréal Chorus / Orchestre Métropolitain

November 21.24.26.28, 2015. Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier, 7:30 pm

New production: Opéra de Montréal

OTELLO BY GIUSEPPE VERDI**NEW PRODUCTION**

The orchestral storm that opens *Otello*, Verdi's penultimate work, sets the tone for this opera of extremes in which Otello's uncontrolled aggressiveness, Iago's calculated coldness, and Desdemona's pure lyricism collide head-on. Soprano Hiromi Omura—a favourite of Montreal audiences who has been acclaimed for her moving portrayals—returns to the Opéra de Montréal stage to personify this tragic heroine. Alongside her will be tenor Kristian Benedikt, who was applauded at the Opéra's Gala.

Synopsis: To get revenge on Otello, a general in the Venetian army, Iago tells a series of lies about the alleged infidelity of Otello's wife, Desdemona. Falling prey to his passions and blinded by jealousy, Otello can no longer control his rage...

Cast

Otello – Kristian Benedikt

Desdemona – Hiromi Omura

Iago – Aris Argiris*

Conductor – Keri-Lynn Wilson

Stage Director – Glynis Leyshon*

Opéra de Montréal Chorus / Orchestre symphonique de Montréal

January 30 + February 2.4.6, 2016. Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier, 7:30 pm

New production / Co-production: Pacific Opera Victoria

LES FELUETTES BY MICHEL MARC BOUCHARD / KEVIN MARCH**WORLD PREMIERE**

To bring the 36th season to a close, the Opéra de Montréal furthers its exploration of the contemporary repertoire with the presentation of the world premiere of a new opera: *Les feluettes*, after the play by Quebec playwright Michel Marc Bouchard, set to music by Australian composer Kevin March. Two rising stars trained at the Atelier lyrique de l'Opéra de Montréal—baritone Etienne Dupuis and tenor Jean-Michel Richer—sing the main roles in this work of uncommon dramatic intensity.

Synopsis: Old Simon, wrongly convicted of the murder of his first love Count Vallier de Tilly, calls to the prison Bishop Jean Bilodeau, whom he suspects to be the true culprit. Filled with a desire for vengeance

in the face of this injustice, he holds the prelate captive and, with the help of his fellow inmates, stages a play depicting events relating to the crime. Who will make the long hoped-for confession?

Cast

Young Simon – Etienne Dupuis

Vallier de Tilly – Jean-Michel Richer

Old Simon – Gino Quilico

Monseigneur Bilodeau – Gordon Gietz

Conductor – Timothy Vernon

Stage director – Serge Denoncourt

Opéra de Montréal Chorus / Orchestre Métropolitain

May 21.24.26.28, 2016. Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier, 7:30 pm

Co-production: ODM Productions Inc. + Pacific Opera Victoria



Presented by



*Company debut

OPÉRA DE MONTRÉAL | 2015-2016 SEASON – 36th SEASON

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

SALLE WILFRID-PELLETIER, PLACE DES ARTS (PDA)

PUCCINI – *Madama Butterfly* | September 19, 22, 24, 26, 2015 at 7:30 pm

STRAUSS – *Elektra* | November 21, 24, 26, 28, 2015 at 7:30 pm

VERDI – *Otello* | January 30, February 2, 4, 6, 2016 at 7:30 pm

MARCH/BOUCHARD – *Les feluettes* | May 21, 24, 26, 28, 2016 at 7:30 pm

Graphic design for the Opéra de Montréal's 2015-2016 campaign: Brad

TICKETS

SUBSCRIPTIONS to 4 operas

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

Subscriptions starting at \$167, on sale **until November 28, 2015**.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR THOSE 30 AND YOUNGER – 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 3, 2015** 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 4, 2015.**

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