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A night at the opera isn't complete without the good ol' hockey game

Canadian tenor Michael Schade makes his debut as Eisenstein in the Canadian Opera Company's new production of Die Fledermaus at the Four Seasons Centre in Toronto, Oct. 4 to Nov. 3. A week until opening night and what is it I'm thinking about? Not opera, but NHL hockey! When I signed on to the role of Eisenstein, I was thrilled. Not only did it mean I would get to sing

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at home but it also meant I'd be in Canada for the start of the hockey season for the first time in years. I had visions of wearing my Maple Leafs jersey to a game and perhaps even getting the chance to sing the national anthem at one. No hockey for hockey fans is like coming

to an opera and having a cancelled show because a singer is sick — it's all rather nasty even if it only happens four out of every 20 seasons. The life of an opera star.

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