

Press Release**THE COC'S ANNUAL OPERA PARTY SET TO "LIGHT UP" THE FOUR SEASONS CENTRE**

Photo Credit: Dexter Quinto, 2014. Dress by Jonathan Saunders available at The Room, Hudson's Bay

**TORONTO, ON September 15, 2014** —An evening of the most scintillating array of music, fashion, food and arts, the **Canadian Opera Company's** must-attend fundraiser of the season *Operanation* returns to the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts on Thursday, October 16, 2014. *Operanation: Light up the Night* is set to entice over 1,000 of Toronto's top arts patrons, notable personalities and party-goers to the COC's acclaimed opera house to once again raise over \$100,000 for the opera company's Ensemble Studio, Canada's premier training program for young opera professionals. This year's theme, *Light up the Night*, will deliver a luminous affair bursting with opera-meets-modern-music performances, dazzling displays of fashion and art installations, and inspired culinary flavours.

"*Operanation* is an important event for the COC, not only because as a fundraiser it sells-out year-after-year but because it continues to draw new audiences in to explore and engage with the operatic artform," says **COC General Director Alexander Neef**. "*Operanation* audiences have enthusiastically responded to the uniqueness of the event. It is an inspirational evening that crosses all artistic genres to showcase the beauty of opera while also raising money for our Ensemble Studio, an essential program in the development of Canada's emerging opera talent."

### Music's Brightest Stars

*Operanation* began as a modest fundraiser in 2005 and has since expanded into a grand affair that now hosts over 1,000 guests to the opera "it" party of the season. *Operanation* reaches new audiences with a creative presentation that showcases the diversity of the artform.

*Operanation* evolved in 2010 to incorporate collaborative efforts when Alexander Neef and Jeffrey Remedios, Arts & Crafts President and past *Operanation* Co-Chair, rejuvenated the performances to blend opera with modern popular music. The 2014 theme, *Light up the Night*, hits its highest note as colour and light come together to signify the event's success in bringing together multiple musical genres. Guests will be dazzled as

they witness the collaboration of a modern musical artist with a young opera star from the COC's Ensemble Studio. Building on the success of past collaborations featuring **Sam Roberts Band, Rufus Wainwright, Nelly Furtado, Broken Social Scene** and **Arkells**, *Operanation: Light up the Night* promises to impress with this year's musical collaboration.

This year's event is spearheaded by co-chairs **Randi Bergman**, Executive Digital Editor at Fashion Magazine, **Anne Maggisano** of Burgundy Asset Management and **Patrick Sambrook** of Eggplant Entertainment who will bring a diverse portfolio of experience with fashion, finance and music to inspire the guests of *Operanation: Light up the Night*.

*Operanation* raises money for the COC's Ensemble Studio, Canada's premier training program for young opera professionals. Since the inception of the program in 1980, over 180 young professional Canadian singers, opera coaches, stage directors and conductors have acquired their first major professional operatic experience through the Ensemble Studio. The members of the Ensemble Studio are the COC's resident artists and important ambassadors for the company. They receive a blend of advanced study and practical experience through an individually tailored, multi-year program, involving understudying and performing mainstage roles, intensive vocal coaching, language and acting studies, and career skills development, as well as participation in masterclasses with internationally renowned opera professionals.

### **Operanation's Spanish Style**

Taking inspiration from the COC's production of the riotous operatic romp *The Barber of Seville*, *Operanation: Light up the Night* will infuse the **Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts** with a modern Spanish flair featuring bright and colourful illuminations and neon accents throughout the opera house. This year's original creative works off the theme's Latin flavour, as styled by event Co-Chair **Randi Bergman** (Executive Digital Editor at Fashion Magazine), and features the season's latest trends from **The Room** including a **Jonathan Saunders** dress and shoes by **Gianvito Rossi**.

The COC has collaborated with three modern designers to design snap bracelets that are available through the buy-in of their annual raffle. Designers include; **Chloe and Parris Gordon (BEAUFILLE)**, **Tania Martins** and **Mona Koochek (MARKOO)**, and **Kaelen Haworth (KAELEN)**. The bracelets will encompass the theme of the highly anticipated event, a look that is both vibrant and innovative.

Onlookers will have the opportunity to transcend the colour of the evening into their own wardrobe with the top raffle prize being \$10,000 to **The Room**. Other highlights include caterer **10tation** and signature *Operanation: Light up the Night* cocktails crafted by **David Mitton** of The Harbord Room and Canadian Whisky Ambassador.

### **Tickets**

Tickets for the party portion of *Operanation: Light up the Night* are \$150 per person, available online at [Operanation.ca](http://Operanation.ca) or by calling COC Ticket Services at 416-363-8231.  
*Early Bird Tickets Sold Out.*

### **Acknowledgements**

**Presenting Sponsor:** TD Bank Group

**Preferred Fragrance:** Calvin Klein Fragrances

**Partnering Sponsor:** Burgundy Asset Management

**Contributing Sponsors:** Bloomberg, Canaccord Genuity, Birks

**Event Supporters:** BT/A, Chairman Mills, Knot PR, Mill St., Perrier, The Room, Toronto Life, Trius Wines, and 10tation. J.P. Wiser's® Canadian Whisky, Lot No. 40™ Canadian Whisky, Pike Creek™ Canadian Whisky, Jameson® Irish Whiskey, The Glenlivet® Single Malt Scotch Whisky, Aberlour® Single Malt Scotch Whisky,

and Beefeater® Gin.

**Operanation: Light up the Night Co-chairs:** Randi Bergman, Anne Maggisano and Patrick Sambrook  
**Operanation: Light up the Night Campaign Credit:** Photo: Dexter Quinto, 2014. Dress by Jonathan Saunders available at The Room, Hudson's Bay. Shoes by Gianvito Rossi.

The COC Ensemble Studio, underwritten in part by Peter M. Deeb and The Slight Family Foundation, is Canada's premier training program for young opera professionals and provides advanced instruction, hands-on experience, and career development opportunities. The Ensemble Studio is also supported by the Government of Canada through the Department of Canadian Heritage, RBC Foundation, Hal Jackman Foundation, and other generous donors.

## **ABOUT OPERANATION**

*Operanation* is the Canadian Opera Company's premier fundraising event. For arts patrons as well as the opera-curious, *Operanation* presents a unique experience, equal parts party and performance, with special collaborations between classic and modern music and complementary art forms ranging from visual arts to fashion. Attracting over 1,000 guests, *Operanation* takes over three floors of the COC's opera house, the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts. Funds raised for *Operanation* are directed towards the COC's Ensemble Studio, Canada's premier training program for young opera professionals. For more information on *Operanation*, visit [operanation.ca](http://operanation.ca), [@operanation](https://www.instagram.com/operanation), or [facebook.com/Operanation](https://www.facebook.com/Operanation).

## **ABOUT THE CANADIAN OPERA COMPANY**

Based in Toronto, the Canadian Opera Company is the largest producer of opera in Canada and one of the largest in North America. The COC enjoys a loyal audience support-base and one of the highest attendance and subscription rates in North America. Under its leadership team of General Director Alexander Neef and Music Director Johannes Debus, the COC is increasingly capturing the opera world's attention. The COC maintains its international reputation for artistic excellence and creative innovation by creating new productions within its diverse repertoire, collaborating with leading opera companies and festivals, and attracting the world's foremost Canadian and international artists. The COC performs in its own opera house, the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts, hailed internationally as one of the finest in the world. Designed by Diamond Schmitt Architects, the Four Seasons Centre opened in 2006, and is also the performance venue for The National Ballet of Canada. For more information on the Canadian Opera Company, please visit its award-winning website, [coc.ca](http://coc.ca).

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