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Top: Amanda Majeski as Vitellia and Andrew Funk as Publio in Chicago Opera Theater's production of La clemenza di Tito. 2009. Photo: Rich Hein Right: Video still by Bill Viola for Opéra national de Paris' production of Tristan und Isolde, 2004/2005. Photo: Kira Perov

CONTENTS

THE EVEREST OF OPERA:

Peter Sellars scales Tristan und Isolde BY SUZANNE VANSTONE

10 NEGOTIATING THE CORRIDORS OF POWER:

Christopher Alden discusses La clemenza di Tito BY SUZANNE VANSTONE

16 NOW'S YOUR CHANCE TO JOIN US ON STAGE!

20 THE COC IS THRILLED TO ANNOUNCE OUR 2013/2014 SEASON

Discover our seven operas on the following pages: La Bohème pg. 20; Peter Grimes pg. 22: Così fan tutte pg. 24: Un ballo in maschera pg. 26: Hercules pg. 28; Roberto Devereux pg. 30; Don Quichotte pg. 32

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Cover images: Tristan und Isolde: Video still by Bill Viola for Opéra national de Paris' production of Tristan und Isolde, 2004/2005. Photo: Kira Perov

La clemenza di Tito: Renata Pokupić as Sesto in Chicago Opera Theater's production of La clemenza di Tito, 2009. Photo: Rich Hein

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OF OPERA

PETER SELLARS TRISTAN UND ISOLDE

BY SUZANNE VANSTONE

The COC presents Tristan und Isolde. Video still by Bill Viola (Opéra national de Paris, 2004/2005).

The words "one-of-a-kind" are bandied ■ about these days in order to entice patrons and consumers and convince them that the experience they will have, or product they will purchase, is unlike anything else. But to experience this winter's production of Tristan und Isolde, directed by the legendary Peter Sellars in collaboration with renowned video artist Bill Viola, is truly "one-of-a-kind." Unless you were fortunate enough to see the production with Opéra national de Paris in 2005, you are witnessing a very rare event. Viola is a pioneer in the medium of video art and internationally recognized as one of today's leading artists. For Tristan und Isolde, he has created a video that is integral to this production and runs

for the entire length of the five-hour opera. The synthesis of video, music and drama is exquisite and Viola's dramatic use of primal elements of fire and water follow the lovers through their emotional journey.

Sellars laughs when he says, "This production is so much more fun than watching an opera! David Ross and I curated the 25-year retrospective of Bill's work that toured several museums and I wouldn't let them have wall labels. There are no wall labels at Disneyland. You just enjoy yourself. Tristan is an invitation for you to visit everything in your deepest self, everything you love and feel. Zero knowledge is required at the point of entry. It is the most immersive opera ever created - no fencing, no gateway, you just

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145 Richmond Street West | Toronto, Ontario | M5H 2L2 416 860 6800 | opentable.com/tundra-hilton-toronto | tundra.toronto@hilton.com plunge. This opera takes everyone to their own private ocean with the shore nowhere in sight. You get lost in the most profound and beautiful way."

It's exactly the opposite of our current culture, where your attention is directed at every moment and you're told what to think and where to look. Sellars says that Viola's video imagery is not literal nor is Wagner's music and "the text is this churned up, incredible psycho-spiritual compost that, in the process of decomposing, turns into something new and beautiful and healthy—the next chapter in the history of life. It's a good place to be in your own personal meltdown!"

Often patrons feel they must prepare or do homework before they attend the opera. Especially with Wagner. "Wagner can sometimes be long and tedious and with Tristan the action only occurs during the last four minutes of each act. But Bill engages this other strata - not who did what to whom. but examining where these feelings are coming from. Deeply iconic work opens you up to your own place and *Tristan* is a way to explore that. There are a hundred versions of the myth of the two lovers - the mythology is a template for you to pour in your own emotions. Every version of the myth is different, and it's all perfectly interesting, but to attend the opera you don't need to deal with all that, Tristan is about these incredible layers of consciousness that all of us are experiencing - from this lifetime, other lifetimes, things from the past and things right up to this minute."

Sellars also stresses that this tale is about an older love, a more mature love. In our culture we are surrounded by young love and the endless eroticism of youth. Tristan and Isolde have been around the block a few times. "What is powerful about adult relationships is the complexity and intricacy of all the ways in which people hurt each other, and then all the ways that they have to learn to heal each other. I would also emphasize the sheer thrill of the experience. You are the only person on earth who can see and feel what you will see and feel during the opera. Bill's videos themselves are totally immersive and, like Wagner's music, they move at a slow pace which can be very exciting. Everything moves just a little too fast in life, and when something slows down you have the chance to look inside it and begin to deal with the subtlety, the nuance, the meaning. That is the beauty of both Bill's work and Wagner's work.

"One of the most touching things about Wagner was his deep interest in Buddhism and it just was not visible in mid-19th century Germany. The translations that existed of the Wisdom of the East were incomprehensible. Today there is a practicing Tibetan Buddhist master in every major city of the world and all kinds of access to these ideas. Wagner was really looking for some spiritual salvation beyond Victorian Christianity and its limits. He felt there was something deeper going on and he was truly trying to find another religion. All of his operas are



Peter Sellars. Photo: Ruth Walz

about that search and about him testing the limits of the Christian world.

"The libretto to *Tristan* reaches past Schopenhauer and tries to move into these levels of Buddhism but Wagner had no idea how to get there. Bill and his wife and long-time collaborator Kira Perov spent 18 months in Japan studying with a Zen master. All of that material that Wagner was hungering for, but just had no access to, was very much part of their artistic formation. So in a way worlds are able to meet. Wagner kept referring to the artwork of the future, but of course couldn't imagine video. Bill is one of the pioneers of the artwork of the future and it's marvellous that his work completes the circle that Wagner is trying to form. It's not an illustration of Wagner, it's a response to Wagner. And it's a response to Wagner from where we are and where we're going. It's something quite unusual in the history of opera production."

And of course the sheer task of singing *Tristan* is psychologically very intense and an athletic feat. Sellars talks about us being in the realm of the Olympics. "Wagner's demands are so extreme that you're getting quite a gamut of human emotion just from the singers. For me what's important is that every performer is the heat centre – all the heat and power is emanating from them. It's a pleasure to be able to meet this work





Left: Bill Viola. Photo: Kira Perov

Bottom left: Video still by Bill Viola for Opéra national de Paris' production of *Tristan und Isolde*, 2004/2005. Photo: Kira Perov

with all of that going on – the cast is just thrilling. These are people who profoundly know what they are doing and in many cases have devoted a lifetime to these roles. So you're getting something that isn't just for my rehearsal, but you're getting a whole life story of these extraordinary performers."

Sellars finds it hard to imagine directing Tristan without Viola's work. "I spent nearly 30 years working on Tristan and could never figure it out until Bill. You need new forms - new artistic forms - to represent what Wagner is trying to get at. We have met this piece in a very rare and special way. And I want to let everyone know it also goes the other way. This is probably a summa in the life of Bill Viola and one of the greatest moments of his entire artistic body of work held in one place. It is an extraordinary moment in the work of a great artist. For me, it's like Raphael's "Transfiguration." Viola's masterpiece can only be seen when we do Tristan. You cannot see it in a museum. You cannot see it online. It is literally an experience that only occurs when we do Tristan. So it's rare in both directions. Tristan is not something you can perform often. It is one of those Everests that from time to time you try and scale, but it's not part of your daily landscape. It's really something special." One-of-a-kind.

Suzanne Vanstone is Senior Communications Manager, Editorial at the Canadian Opera Company.

FOR FURTHER INSIGHT INTO *TRISTAN UND ISOLDE*, PLEASE READ INTERVIEWS WITH VIDEO ARTIST BILL VIOLA, AND COC TECHNICAL STAFF DAVID FEHELEY AND BARNEY BAYLISS, AVAILABLE IN THE WINTER ISSUE OF *PRELUDE* ONLINE AT COC.CA/PUBLICATIONS AS WELL AS AN INTERVIEW WITH *TRISTAN UND ISOLDE* CONDUCTOR JOHANNES DEBUS ON THE COC'S BLOG AT COC.CA/PARLANDO.

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NEGOTIATING CORRIDORS



The COC presents La clemenza di Tito. Top: Charlotte Dobbs as Servilia. Opposite: A scene from La clemenza di Tito. Photos from Chicago Opera Theater, 2009. Bottom: Christopher Alden, Photo: Dario Acosta Following his success with this fall's Die Fledermaus, Christopher Alden returns to direct Mozart's La clemenza di Tito. When first mounted at Chicago Opera Theater, the production received great critical acclaim and Alden can't wait to direct it for COC audiences. "I have been madly in love with this opera ever since I first started listening to the Colin Davis recording back in the early '70s. The first time I directed this production was in Chicago and it was pure pleasure - this piece is nothing but magic from beginning to end. I am thrilled to get the chance to do it again."

One of Mozart's final works, La clemenza di Tito's plot revolves around betrayal,

THE **OF POWER:**

forgiveness and the shifting balance of power surrounding an assassination attempt on the life of Emperor Tito. Commissioned in 1791 to celebrate the coronation of Emperor Leopold II as King of Bohemia, Tito was written to flatter a new emperor, but Alden's production tackles the human emotions at the core of the opera and the fascinating ambivalence which lurks underneath its celebratory surface.

"The wonderful thing about Mozart is that he could take any libretto and no matter how one-dimensional it appeared on the page, he breathed life into it. That was his talent, his gift. He could create dynamic, three-dimensional human beings fully

psychologized through his music. His premature death is a great tragedy as his musical style was developing so rapidly by this point in his life, his ability to let go of conventions and push through to more fluid and expressive modes so sure-footed. It's extraordinary how forward-thinking much of the music in Tito is. An aria like Servilia's "S'altro che lagrime" is so simple and stripped down, its musical shape emerging so organically from its text that it feels as modern as a song by Joni Mitchell or Paul Simon.

"Amazingly, Mozart wrote Tito very quickly, using a 50-year-old libretto, which had already been set a number of times,

The young artists of the Canadian Opera Company's Ensemble Studio take to the mainstage in lead roles for their own performance of Mozart's La clemenza di Tito on Wednesday, February 6, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. at the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts. Members of the Ensemble Studio frequently appear in smaller roles or understudy roles in COC mainstage productions. This specially priced performance is an exciting opportunity for audiences to see these young Canadian artists highlighted in principal roles.

written in a style which by then probably seemed somewhat outmoded to progressive artists like him. He had the libretto cleverly reworked from the original version written in an earlier era by the renowned Metastasio. Fortunately, it was a brilliant libretto - filled with powerful themes which are worked out through a series of compellingly confrontational scenes. It's a shame that Mozart didn't have time to compose the recits himself, as his mastery of the 18th-century version of sprechgesang (spoken singing) was unsurpassed. Nonetheless, the force of Metastasio's words triumphs over their inferior musical setting and offers the singer/ actors rich fodder out of which to create powerful theatre. Is there a more heartbreakingly intense scene in all of opera than the Act II confrontation between Tito and his best friend and failed assassin, Sesto? The fascinating ambivalence of their passionate love/hate relationship is portrayed with such devastating force that this scene emerges as the true white-hot centre of the piece."

Alden and his design team, Andrew Cavanaugh Holland and Terese Wadden, conceived the set and costumes as an attempt to evoke ancient Rome with a timeless edge, referencing a mid-20th century architecture very much based in classicism. "The Lincoln and Kennedy centres were our inspiration imposing civic spaces whose vast travertine marble walls are designed to inspire feelings of civic awe and responsibility. The bottom line is that this work is about the heady thrill and looming danger of negotiating the

corridors of power, the delicate balance which people that dwell within those corridors must constantly attempt to manage."

Alden reflects that *Tito* deals with issues that had already appeared in a number of Mozart's earlier operas. "The concept of forgiveness, which is at the core of so many Mozart operas, is central here as well - the difficult but rewarding process of people struggling to let go of ego issues and affirm their common humanity through forgiveness. But forgiveness can be a double-edged sword - and in Tito, the relentlessly beneficent and forgiving titular hero emerges as a telling portrait painted by Mozart of all the powerful patriarchs to whom he was beholden throughout his whole life. From the time he was a child, promoted by his father as a prodigy and paraded throughout the courts of Europe in his little court costume, Mozart's livelihood was totally dependent on his ability to appeal to powerful people. So much of his *oeuvre* was composed to flatter the monarchy, but beneath its adulatory surface, Tito exposes the darker, more ambivalent feelings which flow between the ruler and his subjects.

"In Metastasio's text, the Emperor Tito is written as something of a plaster saint, never swerving even when presented with someone who has attempted to assassinate him, while Mozart's musical psychologizing of this revered patriarch seems to introduce more ambiguous subtextual layers to Tito's clemency, perhaps suggesting that this is his way, whether conscious or not, of

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NEGOTIATING THE CORRIDORS OF POWER: Christopher Alden Discusses La clemenza di Tito

controlling the people around him. During his all-too-brief lifetime spent begging for sustenance and forgiveness from an endless succession of godlike men, especially the domineering father who micro-managed not only his professional life but his personal one as well, how much did Mozart ever feel like a completely free man in control of his own destiny? To me,

much of the strength of Mozart's last completed opera derives from the intensely personal feelings about his own life with which it is infused. What a movingly bittersweet last will and testament La clemenza di Tito is - and how excited I am to bring it to life for COC audiences!" ■

Suzanne Vanstone is Senior Communications Manager, Editorial at the Canadian Opera Company.

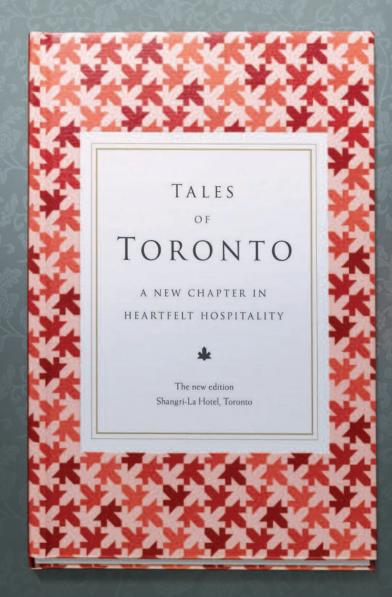
FOR FURTHER INSIGHT INTO LA CLEMENZA DI TITO. PLEASE READ JON KAPLAN'S INTERVIEW WITH ISABEL LEONARD, AVAILABLE IN THE WINTER ISSUE OF PRELUDE ONLINE AT



(I - r) First-Prize Winner and Audience Choice Award recipient bass-baritone Gordon Bintner, Third-Prize Winner mezzo-soprano Charlotte Burrage and Second-Prize Winner tenor Andrew Haji at the COC's Second Annual Ensemble Studio Competition Photo: Chris Hutcheson

On November 29, 2012, the second annual Ensemble Studio Competition took place in the Richard Bradshaw Amphitheatre. Ten finalists from across Canada were selected from 146 singers in preliminary auditions in Toronto, Vancouver, Montreal and New York. Each finalist performed two arias with piano accompaniment in front of a sold-out audience and an adjudication panel comprised of COC General Director Alexander Neef, COC Artistic Administrator Roberto Mauro, COC Music Administrator Sandra Gavinchuk, Head of the COC Ensemble Studio Liz Upchurch, and Canadian soprano, singing teacher and Ensemble Studio alumna Wendy Nielsen.

Bass-baritone Gordon Bintner of Regina took home first prize of \$5,000. Tenor Andrew Haji of London, Ont., won second prize of \$3,000, and mezzo-soprano Charlotte Burrage of Woodstock, Ont., was awarded third prize of \$1,500. In addition, Bintner was selected by the audience as the winner of the Audience Choice Award, worth \$1,500.





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No speaking or singing is required, but an active onstage presence is essential. Supers will likely be required for three or four rehearsals each week (weekday evenings and any time Saturdays and Sundays) leading up to the opening - and, of course, all performances. Each rehearsal lasts from two to four hours and, from time to time, supers may be called in on short notice. This is a volunteer position and a small honorarium is provided.

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This winter, director Peter Sellars and video artist Bill Viola bring their legendary production of Tristan und Isolde to Toronto. It could not have happened without generous financial support from a consortium of production and artist underwriters, and a significant corporate sponsorship from BMO Financial Group.

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Video still by Bill Viola for Tristan und Isolde (Opéra national de Paris, 2004/2005), Photo: Kira Perov

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TRISTAN UND ISOLDE

by Richard Wagner

Drama in Three Acts, Libretto by the composer

First performance: Royal Court and National Theatre, Munich, June 10, 1865

Recreation of the Opéra national de Paris production (2005) Last performed at the COC in 1987 January 29, February 2, 8, 14, 17, 20, 23, 2013 Sung in German with English SURTITLES™

THE CAST

(in order of vocal appearance)

A Young Sailor Owen McCausland†*

Isolde, an Irish princess Melanie Diener (January 29, February 2, 14, 17, 20)

Margaret Jane Wray (February 8, 23)

Brangäne, Isolde's companion Daveda Karanas Kurwenal, one of Tristan's retainers Alan Held

Ben Heppner^** (January 29, February 2, 14, 17, 20) Michael Baba (February 8, 23)

Melo

Tristan, a Cornish knight, nephew to King Marke

Marke, King of Cornwall Franz-Josef Selig

A Shepherd Adam Luther^ A Steersman Robert Gleadow^***

Conductor: Johannes Debus

Director: Peter Sellars Visual Artist: Bill Viola****

Associate Director: Clare Whistler Costume Designer: Martin Pakledinaz Lighting Designer: James F. Ingalls Chorus Master: Sandra Horst^ Production Supervisor: Elsa Grima

Stage Manager: Cynthia Toushan Technical Director, Video:: Alex MacInnis

SURTITLES™ Producer: Gunta Dreifelds

Performance time is approximately five hours, including two 30-minute intermissions.

The video of Tristan und Isolde was produced by Bill Viola Studio, Kira Perov, executive producer, in collaboration with Opéra national de Paris; the Los Angeles Philharmonic Association; Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts: the James Cohan Gallery, New York; and Haunch of Venison, London,

Production Sponsor: BMO Financial Group

Tristan und Isolde has been generously underwritten by Lisa Balfour Bowen and Walter M. Bowen; Philip Deck and Kimberley Bozak; Donald O'Born; Tim and Frances Price; Colleen Sexsmith; and Sandra L. Simpson.

Johannes Debus is generously sponsored by Anne and Tony Arrell.

Ben Heppner's performance is generously sponsored by Michele and Ryerson Symons. **Bill Viola is generously sponsored by Cecily and Robert Bradshaw.

*Owen McCausland's performance is generously sponsored by Peter and Hélène Hunt. ***Robert Gleadow's performance is generously sponsored by Melanie Whitehead.

Program information is correct at time of printing. All casting is subject to change.

PROGRAM NOTES

Moving Image World for *Tristan und Isolde*

by Bill Viola

"THE WOUND IS THE PLACE WHERE THE LIGHT ENTERS YOU." - RUMI

ichard Wagner's Tristan und Isolde K is the story of a love so intense and profound that it cannot be contained in the material bodies of the lovers. In order to fully realize their love, Tristan and Isolde must ultimately transcend life itself. This theme of the spiritual nature of human love is an ancient one whose roots can be traced out beyond the specific medieval origins of the Celtic legend, and deep into the Hindu and Buddhist traditions of Tantra that lie submerged in the Western cultural unconscious. It was Peter Sellars who first made me aware of Tristan's connection to the Eastern sources that have long preoccupied me. I was soon drawn into Wagner's 19th-century work by the latent traces of their magnetic pull and the stark but rich simplicity of the composer's conception.

In terms of working method, I first listened to various versions of the music but then worked primarily from the libretto to visualize an image world flowing within, and without the dramatic storyline being enacted on the stage. Moving images live in a domain somewhere between the temporal urgency of music and the material certainty of painting, and so are well suited to link the practical elements of stage design with the living dynamics of performance. I knew from the start that I did not want the images to illustrate or represent the story directly. Instead, I wanted to create an image world that existed in parallel to the action on the stage, in the same way that a more subtle poetic narrative mediates the hidden dimensions of our inner lives.

The images are intended to function as symbolic, inner representations that become, to echo the words of Sevved Hossein Nasr. "reflections of the spiritual world in the mirror of the material and the temporal." They trace the movement of human consciousness through one of its most delicate, poignant states: the surrender to an absolute, all-consuming love. The range of experience of this power extends over an entire lifetime, from the excited, naïve heartbeats of a teenager's first love to the expansive realization of a much larger Love that is the fundamental, universal principle of human existence, glimpsed later in life and described in detail by saints and mystics in all cultures throughout history.

The images in the three acts contain interweaving, recurring threads but are distinct in reflecting different stages of the lover's path toward liberation.

Act I presents the theme of Purification, the universal act of the individual's preparation for the symbolic sacrifice and death required for the transformation and rebirth of the self. The mutual decision to drink death plunges the lovers beneath the surface to reveal the infinite ocean of an invisible immaterial world.

Act II concerns The Awakening of the Body of Light – the release, through the cleansing illumination of love, of the luminous spiritual form encased within the dark inertia of the material body. The theme is bringing light into the world, but when the outer world finally encroaches on their ecstatic union, a temporal and material darkness descends on the lovers whose only release lies in the pain of separation and self-sacrifice.

Act III describes The Dissolution of the Self in the stages of dying, the delicate and excruciating process of the separation and disintegration of the physical, perceptual and conceptual components of conscious awareness. We are plunged into the agony and delirium of death and suffering, replete with visions, dreams and hallucinatory revelations that play across the surface of a dying man's mind. When the flames of

passion and fever finally engulf the mind's eye, and desire's body can never be met, the reflecting surface is shattered and collapses into undulating wave patterns of pure light. Finally, the lovers ascend in turn and are drawn up in peace to a realm beyond the polarities of male and female, birth and death, light and darkness, beginning and end.

© Bill Viola

SYNOPSIS

by Peter Sellars

ACT I

Two damaged, angry, desperate, and hurt human beings are on a long trip in the same boat. Neither expects to survive the journey. For Isolde, suicidal despair takes the form of violent, destructive mood swings, bitter sarcasm, uncontrollable weeping and the need to talk everything out. For Tristan, it is the scarred, painful silence of emotional blockage and denial (during the entire trip Tristan has refused to acknowledge Isolde's presence). Their closest friends, Brangane, a healer and seer, and Kurwenal, an old soldier, are determined to help them through their darkest hours, and to prevent them from inflicting more harm on themselves or each other. Years before, Tristan had killed the Irish knight Morold in combat and himself been wounded by Morold's poison-tipped blade. This wound could only be healed by Morold's fiancée, the princess and shamaness Isolde. Under the name "Tantris" he went to her to be cured. She removed the poison and cured the wound, saving his life. When he looked up into her eyes, she put down her weapon. He went back to his own country.

Now he has returned, but not, as Isolde had hoped, to deepen and consummate their relationship. Instead, he has come to collect her, as a kind of courier service, to present her as a trophy bride to his friend, King Marke of Cornwall. She is privately devastated and publicly humiliated. The women have brought with them on the journey a secret stash of potent ointments and elixirs, a gift from Isolde's mother. Among them, the most sacred and beautiful is a philter of nectar of the purest, most distilled essence of love. Alternatively, there is a death drink, a quick solution to snuffing out a wasted life when the pain becomes just too unbearable.

At the climax of the trip, Isolde toasts Tristan with the lethal cocktail. They look into each other's eves and drink avidly, each eager for a blessed exit and extinction. What they do not realize is that Brangane has switched the vials, and they are drinking in pure love. For an infinite instant they think they have crossed the barrier from life into death; their hearts are free. Their secret love begins to flow in an irresistible, transforming torrent as the ship comes into port and King Marke is announced with blazing trumpets. The bright lights of the world of power and prestige eclipse their dream, and they are left confused and amazed.

INTERMISSION

ACT II

As dusk deepens the sound of hunting horns echoes through the woods. Tristan's "best friend" Melot has organized a night hunt for King Marke. In the dying light Brangane foresees that the true quarry is Tristan himself. Isolde has eyes and ears only for the beauty of nature, the harmonies of the evening and the better self that lives in every human heart. Her heart is illumined by the moon, the goddess of love, the feminine power that surges through the universe. When she puts out the last torch, Tristan, who is waiting deep in the forest, will join her in the moonlight. Brangane senses that spies are everywhere. She begs Isolde to keep the torch burning, and leaves for her watchtower. Isolde smothers the flame and waits for her lover's approach in the dark.

Their initial adrenalin rush of danger and exhilaration gives way to disbelief, then to slightly awkward banter, and, finally, to hard work. Isolde asks Tristan directly why he tried to betray her. What possessed him? With her help, and in painful bursts of self-recognition, gradually everything that Tristan sealed off comes pouring out. The allure of brilliant fame, the world's honours, and the flash of success warped his personality, making him a stranger to himself. He hurt his closest friends without realizing it, and the growing disparity between his public image and his always low personal sense of self-worth produced a seething self-hatred. He felt unworthy of the woman whose praises he was singing, and tried to compensate by plunging into military adventurism.

Isolde begins to understand that the man she saw as arrogant and cold was in fact frightened and desperate. But she also has to acknowledge how deeply she was hurt, and how much of that hurt she still carries. The basis for a serious relationship now can only be built as they deal with each other's failures, disappointments and deceptions, separating the empowering and transforming imagination that sustains

romance from the lies, evasions and falsehoods that poison trust.

Together they step into the realm of night, the nocturnal self, the vast space in every human being that has nothing to do with anyone's day job. All thinking, all appearance, all remembrance are extinguished in a night of perfect love "heart on heart, mouth on mouth, merged into one breath." As their rapture reaches its peak, Brangäne's warning voice peals across the night sky like clouds rolling in from the sea. The reality that all joy in this world will pass away, all beauty will die or be killed sublimates and elevates the love music – we hear the celestial voice of compassion expounding the Buddha's four noble truths to mortals.

Isolde begins to wonder what will happen in the morning. Marke and Melot are watching in the woods. Tristan has a strange premonition of his own death and declares that he is ready to die tonight. Isolde gently reminds him of the little word "and" in "Tristan and Isolde." From now on he should try to include her in his dreams and nightmares – he is no longer alone. Tristan is Isolde and Isolde is Tristan. Even in death they will live in a love without fear, nameless, endless, with no more suffering and no separation.

The day breaks. Melot takes the direct path to political power, denouncing forbidden love with great moral indignation and calling for maximum penalties to be imposed on vulnerable people. King Marke knows this path offers neither restitution nor justice. As he pours out his heart we realize that the king is just a man, that he was Tristan's first lover, and that the "love that dare not speak its name" is as strong as any other love. He is infinitely tender with the man who betrayed him. He is in hell. He hopes one day to know why.

Tristan ran from King Marke to find Isolde, and then he ran from Isolde by offering her to Marke. Covered in shame, Tristan sees that the only thing he has to offer Isolde, if she chooses to stay with him, is a life of failure and death. He has no home. He never had a home. He never knew his father or his mother, who died bringing him into the world. Isolde's words of comfort are miraculous. Wherever they go together will be their home; she loves Tristan more deeply in his failure than in his success.

Thirty seconds later he is dead. After provoking Melot, he is killed without resistance.

INTERMISSION

ACT III

After love, the last task in a human life is death. We plunge into a dying man's last agony, hallucinations, flashbacks, visions. The senses are intermittent, but the pain is continuous. One door is opening and another is closing.

Tristan is in a coma for weeks. Kurwenal brings the body back to the ancestral home in Kareol. On a cliff overlooking the sea he waits and watches his best friend's long, slow descent into death. A shepherd farther up the mountain plays on a pipe an endless ancient melody drifting in the chilly air as the day wanes. Kurwenal has asked the shepherd to change his tune if he sees a ship approaching. He has sent for Isolde who, if she is still alive, is the only healer who can bring Tristan back from the realm of death.

Tristan stirs. The ancient melody is calling him back into this world. He tries to describe the land on the other side, a state of infinite, ultimate forgetfulness. Here, the sunlight is blinding, the searing pain in his body is unbearable. Within "the light is not yet out, the house is still not dark: Isolde lives and wakes; she called me from the night."

Tristan is sure that he sees her ship in the distance, that she is coming to him again to heal his wounds. But there is no ship. His life keeps passing before his eyes as he slips below the threshold of consciousness. Childhood memories, thoughts of the parents he never knew mingle with the intense re-living of his previous near-death experiences. Pain floods his brain. The heat of his body is unendurable, the spirit is tearing at the flesh. At the maximum breaking point of mental and physical anguish, an instant of blazing, fiery clarity: the magic drink – was it poison or love potion? – was brewed by no-one other than himself, from all of the hurt, sorrow, suffering and joy of his own life.

A ship appears on the horizon as Tristan sustains his final heart attack. Kurwenal runs to receive Isolde. In a final paroxysm of indescribable waves of pain, Tristan tears off his bandages and bleeds freely and joyously. He hears Isolde's voice coming to him as he dies. Could he not wait for her one more hour? She pleads for him to continue breathing. She has so much to tell him. She came as his bride, how can she be punished with his funeral? Her shock and overwhelming grief deepen into silence.

A second ship is sighted. Marke and Brangane are landing. Melot leads their advance party. Kurwenal kills Melot and then himself. The group have come, too late, on a mission of forgiveness and reconciliation.

Now Isolde stirs. Looking deeply at Tristan, she sings "See him smiling, softly, softly, see the eyes that open fondly, oh my friends, don't you see, don't you feel and see? Is it only I who hear these gentle, wondrous strains of music, joyously sounding, telling all things, reconciling, coming through him, piercing through me, rising upward in the ocean of sound, in the infinite all of the cosmic breath, to drown, descending, void of thought, into the highest, purest joy."

© Peter Sellars

MUSIC STAFF Rachel Andrist (Head Coach) Christopher Mokrzewski Miloš Repický

GERMAN LANGUAGE COACH Adreana Braun

ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR Marek Šedivý

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VIDEO PLAYBACK SUPERVISORS Guilhem Jayet Sylvain Levacher

WALLY RUSSELL LIGHTING INTERN
Aaron Bernstein

UNDERSTUDIES

A Young Sailor Adam Luther

Kurwenal Ryan McKinny

Melot Jason Lamont

A Shepherd Owen McCausland

A Steersman Neil Craighead

VIDEO PRODUCTION PRINCIPALS

DIRECTOR: Bill Viola

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: Kira Perov

PRODUCER: S. Tobin Kirk
PRODUCTION MANAGER: Genevieve Anderson

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: Harry Dawson CAMERA ASSISTANT: Brian Garbellini

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: Kenny Bowers

PERFORMERS:

Tristan (earthly bodies): Jeff Mills Isolde (earthly bodies): Lisa Rhoden Tristan (heavenly bodies): John Hay Isolde (heavenly bodies): Sarah Steben

STUNT CO-ORDINATOR: Tom Ficke STUNT ACTOR: Robin Bonaccorsi

GAFFER: Bobby Wotherspoon KEY GRIP: Chris Centrella SPECIAL EFFECTS CO-ORDINATOR: Robbie Knott

PRODUCTION DESIGNER: Wendy Samuels
ART DIRECTOR: David Max
WARDROBE STYLIST: Cassendre de le Fortrie

POST PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR:
Michael Hemingway

EDITOR/LIVE VIDEO MIX: Alex MacInnis
ON-LINE EDITOR: Brian Pete
(LaserPacific Media Corp.)
COLORIST: Mike Sowa
(LaserPacific Media Corp.)
DIGITAL ARTIST: Brian Ross
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SOUND DESIGNERS: Mikael Sangrin, Becky Allen SOUND MIXER: Tom Ozanich

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ARTISTS' BIOGRAPHIES



MICHAEL BABA Tristan

German tenor Michael Baba is making his COC debut. His roles include Lucio in Wagner's *Das Liebesverbot* (Staatstheater

am Gärtnerplatz); Max in Der Freischütz (Dessau, Koblenz, Vienna Volksoper), Erik in Der fliegende Holländer (Leipzig, Dessau and Japan); Walter in Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg, Siegmund in Die Walküre (Tyrolean Festival of Erl); Florestan in Fidelio (Karlsruhe and Festival in Guadalajara); the Prince in The Love for Three Oranges (Leipzig); the Emperor in R. Strauss's The Woman without a Shadow (New National Theatre, Tokyo); King Kreon in Aribert Reimann's new opera Medea (Frankfurt Opera); Andrej in Tchaikovsky's Mazeppa (Bremen); and, the title role in Parsifal (Wroclaw Opera). Recently Mr. Baba appeared as Tichon in Kát'a Kabanová (Maastricht), Parsifal and Walter (Tyrolean Festival in Erl), Zemlinsky's Der König Kandaules (Teatro Massimo, Palermo) and Tristan (Salzburg Festival). Upcoming performances include Tristan (Schloss Neuschwanstein) and Siegfried (Tyrolean Festival of Erl).



MELANIE DIENER

Isolde German soprano Melanie Diener is making her COC

Diener is making her COC debut. She attended the universities of Stuttgart, Mannheim and Indiana.

Ms Diener won the Mozart Singing Competition in Salzburg and the Troldhaugen Grieg Prize at the Queen Sonja International Music Competition in Norway. Her appearances include the Royal Opera House Covent Garden, Metropolitan Opera, Vienna State Opera, Bayreuth Festival, Palais Garnier, the Salzburg and Aix-en-Provence festivals, as well as Dubai and Tokyo.

Ms Diener's repertoire includes Sieglinde (Die Walküre), Elisabeth (Tannhäuser),
Agathe (Der Freischütz), Leonore (Fidelio),
Chrysothemis (Elektra), Ursula (Mathis der Maler), Marschallin (Der Rosenkavalier) and the title roles in Euryanthe, Kát'a Kabanová and Ariadne auf Naxos, as well as contemporary compositions and jazz. She works regularly with the most prestigious orchestras, conductors and directors throughout Europe, the U.S. and Japan.



ROBERT GLEADOW

A Steersman
Canadian bass and
Ensemble Studio graduate
Robert Gleadow recently
appeared with the COC
as the Old Gypsy in

Il Trovatore. Other COC credits include the Speaker in Die Zauberflöte. Colline in La Bohème. Theseus in A Midsummer Night's Dream and Figaro in Le nozze di Figaro. Engagements include Angelotti in Tosca and Colline (Royal Opera House Covent Garden); Figaro (Opéra de Montréal); Speaker (Théâtre des Champs-Élysées); Guglielmo in Così fan tutte and Leporello in Don Giovanni (Glyndebourne Opera and Peralada Festival); Colline (Dallas Opera); and, Talbot in Maria Stuarda (Houston Grand Opera). This season Mr. Gleadow also appears with the COC as Publio in La clemenza di Tito and returns to Théâtre des Champs-Elysées as Leporello.



ALAN HELD

Kurwenal
American bass-baritone
Alan Held last appeared

Alan Held last appeared with the COC as Simone in *A Florentine Tragedy* and the title role in

Gianni Schicchi. He has appeared at many international opera houses, including the

Met, Wiener Staatsoper, Royal Opera House Covent Garden, Opéra national de Paris, La Scala, Teatre del Liceu, Hamburg State Opera and Lyric Opera of Chicago. Mr. Held recently performed the role of The Wanderer in Siegfried at Bayerische Staatsoper and Teatro de la Maestranza (Seville), as well as the title roles in Wozzeck at the Met and Der fliegende Holländer at Bayerische Staatsoper. Other roles include Wotan in Der Ring des Nibelungen, Leporello in Don Giovanni and the Four Villains in Les contes d'Hoffmann. This season with the COC he also sings Jochanaan in Salome.



BEN HEPPNER

Tristan
Canadian Ben Heppner
is recognized as one of
today's finest dramatic
tenors. An illustrious
graduate of the COC

Ensemble Studio, his many performances include title roles in Lohengrin and Tristan und Isolde, as well as Florestan (Fidelio), Aeneas (Les Troyens) and Hermann (The Queen of Spades) at the Met. Further roles include title roles in Idomeneo, Parsifal, Otello and Andrea Chenier, as well as Laca (Jenůfa), Walther (Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg) and the Prince (Rusalka) at the Met, Covent Garden, Vienna State Opera, La Scala, Bavarian State Opera, San Francisco Opera and Lyric Opera of Chicago. Other highlights include Tristan (Welsh National Opera, Edinburgh Festival, Helsinki Festival, Royal Opera House Covent Garden); Lohengrin (Deutsche Oper Berlin); and, Captain Ahab in Moby-Dick (world premiere with Dallas Opera, Calgary Opera). This season also includes a concert tour throughout Canada, as well as Tristan with Houston Grand Opera. Mr. Heppner is a Companion of the Order of Canada.



DAVEDA KARANAS

Brangäne Making her COC debut, Greek-American mezzosoprano Daveda Karanas is a winner of the 2008 Metropolitan Opera

National Council Auditions and an alumna of the Adler Program at San Francisco Opera (SFO). Ms Karanas recently made her German debut at Oper Frankfurt as Marfa in Mussorgsky's Khovanshchina. Other appearances include Judit in Bluebeard's Castle (Maggio Musicale Fiorentino); Azucena in Il Trovatore (Opera Grand Rapids): Amneris in Aida (Arizona Opera, Vancouver Opera, Glimmerglass Festival); and, Waltraute and the Second Norn in Götterdämmerung, Waltraute in Die Walküre, Suzuki in Madama Butterfly and the Mistress of Novices in Suor Angelica (SFO). Future seasons will see Ms Karanas in leading roles at SFO, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Opernhaus Zürich, Vancouver Opera, and Seattle Opera.



ADAM LUTHER

A Shepherd
Canadian tenor Adam
Luther is an Ensemble
Studio graduate whose
previous COC credits
include Gherardo in

A Florentine Tragedy/ Gianni Schicchi,
Second Priest in The Magic Flute (Ensemble
Studio performance), the Steersman in The
Flying Dutchman, Roderigo in Otello, and
Le Remendado in Carmen. He recently
made debuts as Anatol in Vanessa (Pacific
Opera Victoria) and Eisenstein in Die
Fledermaus (Toronto Operetta Theatre),
as well as performing the tenor roles in
Stravinsky's Renard and Le rossignol (Opéra
de Québec). This season with the COC
Mr. Luther also appears in Dialogues des
Carmélites, Salome and Lucia di Lammermoor.



OWEN McCAUSLAND

A Young Sailor Tenor Owen McCausland. a native of New Brunswick, is a first-year member of the COC Ensemble Studio. He recently

appeared as the Messenger in *Il Trovatore* and understudied the role of Spalanzani in the COC's The Tales of Hoffmann, Other operatic credits include Rinuccio in Gianni Schicchi (Opera on the Avalon), Don Ottavio in Don Giovanni (Centre for Opera Studies in Italy), Juan in Don Quichotte (Opera Nova Scotia), Spoletta in Tosca (Maritime Concert Opera) and Aeneas in Dido and Aeneas (Dalhousie Opera Workshop). Mr. McCausland studied music at Dalhousie University. This season he shares the title role in the Ensemble Studio production of La clemenza di Tito and sings the Second Nazarene in Salome.



RYAN McKINNY

Melot American bass-baritone Ryan McKinny is making season includes his role debut as Kurwenal in Tristan und Isolde

(Houston Grand Opera), Theater Basel debut as Nathanael in Scartazzini's Der Sandmann (world premiere), Jochanaan in Salome (Palm Beach Opera) and his debut as the Dutchman in Francesca Zambello's production of Der fliegende Holländer (Glimmerglass Festival). Other recent appearances include his Met debut as Lieutenant Ratcliffe in Billy Budd, Tiridate in Radamisto (English National Opera), Escamillo in Carmen (Semperoper Dresden and Staatsoper Hamburg), Amfortas in Parsifal (Deutsche Oper am Rhein) and Hercules in *Alceste* (Oper Leipzig). Future seasons include appearances at the Met, Santa Fe Opera, Los Angeles Opera, English National Opera, Houston Grand Opera, and Deutsche Oper Berlin.



FRANZ-JOSEF SELIG

King Marke German bass Franz-Josef Selig is making his COC debut. Mr. Selig has performed at the world's great opera houses

including the Met, Royal Opera House Covent Garden, La Scala, Wiener Staatsoper, Staatsoper Hamburg, Opéra de la Bastille, Théâtre du Châtelet (Paris), Lyric Opera of Chicago, Théâtre de la Monnaie (Brussels), Deutsche Oper Berlin and Bayerische Staatsoper (Munich). Recent appearances include Fasolt in the Met's new Ring Cycle; Bartolo in Le nozze di Figaro (Salzburg Festival); Die Entführung aus dem Serail (Liceu Barcelona): and, Parsifal, Die Zauberflöte and Tristan and Isolde (Wiener Staatsoper). Other credits include Rocco in Fidelio and Die Zauberflöte (Munich), Die Zauberflöte (London) and Commendatore in Don Giovanni (Salzburg). Later this season Mr. Selig reprises his role in the Met's Ring Cycle.



MARGARET JANE **WRAY**

Isolde American soprano Margaret Jane Wray is making her COC debut.

Ms Wray has performed

in major houses including the Met, La Scala, Bavarian State Opera, Berlin State Opera, and Opéra national de Paris and with orchestras such as the New York Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony, Boston Symphony and National Symphony. Her Met appearances include Amneris in Aida, Santuzza in Cavalleria rusticana, Sieglinde in Die Walküre, Brangäne in Tristan und Isolde, Gutrune in Götterdämmerung and Ortrud in *Lohengrin*. Other roles include Sister Helen in Dead Man Walking (Cincinnati Opera); Sieglinde and Brangäne (Seattle Opera); Amneris (Welsh National Opera, Seattle Opera); Elisabeth in



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Tannhäuser and Sieglinde (Toulouse's Théâtre du Capitole); Senta in Der fliegende Holländer (Pittsburgh Opera); and, Madame Lidoine in Dialogues des Carmélites (La Scala). Future engagements include the Ring Cycle with Seattle Opera.



JEFF MILLS Tristan (Earthly Bodies - video) Jeff Mills has been working as a professional theatre artist and musician

received his acting training at UC Santa Barbara, the National Theater Conservatory in Denver and the Guildford School of Acting and Dance in Guildford, England. Along with various film, commercial and voice-over engagements, Mr. Mills has worked extensively at theatres across the country including the Theatre de la Jeune Lune in Minneapolis, the Denver Center Theater Company, Colorado Shakespeare Festival, the American Folklore Theater in Door County, Wisconsin and Shakespeare Santa Barbara. He is currently working with the critically acclaimed BOXTALES Theatre Company.



LISA RHODEN Isolde (Earthly Bodies - video) Lisa Rhoden received her MFA from the University of Southern California. Following a summer

session at The Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts in London, she began performing with the Shakespeare Theatre at the Folger in Washington D.C. working with directors Michael Kahn, Paul Giovanni and Toby Robertson in Hamlet, Richard II, Anthony and Cleopatra, As You Like It and The Beggar's Opera. Regional theater credits include: Nora, Two Rooms, Uncle Vanya, Tartuffe, The Fantastics, Female Transport,

Children of a Lesser God. The Heiress. Charley's Aunt, Macbeth, and All's Well That Ends Well. Film and television credits include: Big Apple, Without a Trace, The Handler, American Family, and Pinero.



JOHN HAY

Tristan (Heavenly Bodies - video) John Hay is an aerial artist who trained much of his life as a gymnast. For two years he was

a member of the Canadian National Gymnastics Team (1995 - 1997) winning medals in both national and international competitions, and was Province of Manitoba Athlete of the Year in 1997. Hav joined Cirque du Soleil's production of O in 1997 and for three years was one of their lead high aerial acrobats, as well as designing routines. Hay's credits with Bill Viola include Going Forth By Day and Emergence.



SARAH STEBEN

Isolde (Heavenly Bodies - video) Sarah Steben is a trapeze artist, acrobat, dancer. and stunt actor. She has received many

international awards for her circus talents and skills from international festivals in Stockholm, Geneva, Paris and Monte Carlo. Steben has performed with Cirque du Soleil in Saltimbanco and O. and has created many roles as a trapeze artist, appearing with such performers as Madonna and Aerosmith. This is the second work of Bill Viola's she has participated in, the first being *Emergence*.



JOHANNES DEBUS

Conductor COC Music Director Johannes Debus recently conducted the company's Die Fledermaus. Other COC credits include

The Tales of Hoffmann, Love from Afar, Rigoletto and, at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, The Nightingale and Other Short Fables. This year he made his Cleveland Orchestra debut with A Night at the Opera at the Blossom Festival. Mr. Debus also made his Tanglewood Festival debut in 2010 conducting The Abduction from the Seraglio and subsequently appeared at Symphony Hall with the Boston Symphony Orchestra. He recently conducted *Elektra* and The Rake's Progress at Staatsoper unter den Linden in Berlin, and appeared at the Spoleto Festival, Bayerische Staatsoper, Opéra Festival de Québec and the Merola Opera Program at San Francisco Opera. This season at the COC he also conducts Salome and Dialogues des Carmélites.



PETER SELLARS

Director

American opera, theater, and festival director Peter Sellars is making his COC debut. He has staged productions at the

Glyndebourne Festival, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Netherlands Opera, Opéra national de Paris, Salzburg Festival, Santa Fe Opera, and San Francisco Opera, among others. Inspired by the compositions of Kaija Saariaho, Osvaldo Golijov and Tan Dun, he has guided the creation of productions of their work, expanding the repertoire of modern opera. Collaborations with composer John Adams include Nixon in China, The Death of Klinghoffer, El Niño, Doctor Atomic, and A Flowering Tree. Their latest work, The Gospel According to the Other Mary, will appear in the U.S. and Europe in 2013. Recent projects include an acclaimed

concert staging of Bach's Saint Matthew Passion (Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra), stagings of Nixon in China (Metropolitan Opera), George Crumb's The Winds of Destiny (Ojai Music Festival) and new productions of Handel's Hercules (Chicago) and Vivaldi's Griselda (Santa Fe).



BILL VIOLA

Visual Artist American Bill Viola is making his COC debut. A pioneer in the medium of video art, he is internationally recog-

nized as one of today's leading artists. His work, spanning the last 40 years, has roots in Eastern and Western art and spiritual traditions. Mr. Viola's latest exhibition. Bill Viola: Liber Insularum, is currently at the Museum of Contemporary Art (North Miami). Other exhibitions include Bill Viola: Installations and Videotapes (MoMA, New York); Unseen Images (Düsseldorf); Buried Secrets (U.S. Pavilion, 46th Venice Biennale); Bill Viola: A 25-Year Survey (Whitney Museum of American Art); Bill Viola: The Passions (J. Paul Getty Museum); Bill Viola: Hatsu-Yume (Mori Art Museum, Tokyo) and Bill Viola: Visioni Interiori (Palazzo delle Esposizioni, Rome). Awards and honours include the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Fellowship; American Academy of Arts and Sciences; Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (France): XXI Catalonia International Prize: and, Praemium Imperiale International Arts Award (Japan).



CLARE WHISTLER

Associate Director British director Clare Whistler is making her COC debut. She has worked with Peter Sellars on several productions

including Tristan und Isolde in Paris; Kaija Saariaho's La Passion de Simone in Vienna.

ARTISTS' BIOGRAPHIES ARTISTS' BIOGRAPHIES

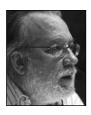
London and Los Angeles; Idomeneo and Theodora at Glyndebourne; and, Theodora in Strasbourg. She has directed *The Merry* Widow for Scottish Opera and Jonathan Dove's Swanhunter for Opera North in the U.K. Ms Whistler worked for Glyndebourne Education for 15 years, creating community operas and education and community projects for people of all ages, abilities and situations. She has choreographed 10 operas for director Olivia Fuchs in the U.K., Denmark and Argentina. Ms Whistler is a site-specific collaborative artist and has been artist-in-residence at Bunces Barn, East Sussex for the last three years.



MARTIN PAKLEDINAZ (1953 - 2012)

Costume Designer The late American Martin Pakledinaz was costume designer for such COC productions

as Xerxes, Rigoletto (1992), Jenůfa and Werther. During his career he won Tony Awards for Thoroughly Modern Millie and Kiss Me, Kate (2000 revival), which also earned him the Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Costume Design. Recent Broadway designs include Nice Work If You Can Get It (2012), Man and Boy (Revival, 2011), Master Class (Revival 2011) and The Normal Heart. Opera credits include productions with the Met, New York City Opera, Seattle, Los Angeles, St. Louis, Santa Fe, Houston, Salzburg, Paris, Amsterdam, Brussels, Helsinki and Gothenburg, among others. Mr. Pakledinaz also designed for both modern and classical dance companies, working with Mark Morris for many years.



JAMES F. INGALLS Lighting Designer American James F. Ingalls is making his COC debut. Mr. Ingalls works in theatre, ballet and opera. He has designed the

lighting for many Peter Sellars productions, including Griselda, Adriana Mater, Ainadamar, L'amour de loin and The Persians. Other credits include El Niño and Kafka Fragments (Los Angeles Philharmonic); Pelléas et Mélisande and Nixon in China (Los Angeles Opera); Romance and The Cider House Rules (Mark Taper Forum); and, Isn't it Romantic (L.A. Stage Company). Regional theatre credits include Lincoln Center, Steppenwolf Theatre, Playwrights Horizon, Goodman Theatre, and the La Jolla Playhouse. Recent designs include the acclaimed Glengarry Glen Ross (Broadway) and My Name is Asher Lev (Off-Broadway). Mr. Ingalls is the recipient of several Drama-Loque Awards and an Obie for sustained excellence in lighting design.



KIRA PEROV Executive Producer. video

Kira Perov is executive director of Bill Viola Studio. Since 1978 she has worked closely with

Bill Viola, her partner and husband, managing and assisting with the production of his videotapes and installations, editing all publications, as well as co-ordinating and curating his exhibitions worldwide. As its executive producer, she has guided the production of the video for *Tristan und* Isolde in many of its details and creative decisions. Before meeting Viola, she was Director of Cultural Activities at La Trobe University in Melbourne, Australia. producing exhibitions and concerts, and later, at the Long Beach Museum of Art in California, compiled a ten-year history of video art exhibitions and video collection at the museum. Her latest book, Bill Viola: Visioni Interiori, was published in 2008 on the occasion of the exhibition of the same name in Rome.



Director of Photography, video

HARRY DAWSON

For 20 years Harry Dawson has collaborated with Bill Viola, expanding Viola's palette with his

introduction of 35 mm film and contributing his extensive knowledge of lighting to Viola's video art installations. He draws on his 40 years of experience filming commercials, and documentaries that air on PBS, the Discovery Channel and TNT, and can be seen daily in art and other Los Angeles museums such as the Museum of Contemporary Art; the Natural History Museum; the Plains Indian Museum in Cody, Wyoming: and, the National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame in Fort Worth, Texas.



ALEX MACINNIS Technical Director, Video

Alex MacInnis has worked as an editor and videographer for two decades, exploring subjects

such as tornados, mountain lions, religious apparitions, the invasion of Iraq, commuting in Los Angeles, and his love of ducks.



SANDRA HORST

Chorus Master Sandra Horst's recent COC credits include Il Trovatore and Die Fledermaus. She also conducted Rossini's

Il viaggio a Reims for the COC. She is the Director of Musical Studies at the University of Toronto's Opera Division where she most recently conducted L'elisir d'amore. Ms Horst formerly served as chorus master for Opera Theatre of St. Louis and Edmonton Opera; a judge for the Metropolitan Opera National Council auditions; and, music staff of the Juilliard

Opera Center, Chautaugua Institution, Boston Lyric Opera, and Banff Centre for the Arts. She was one of the 100 Alumni of Achievement honoured by Wilfrid Laurier University. This season she is also chorus master for La clemenza di Tito. Lucia di Lammermoor and Dialogues des Carmélites.



ELSA GRIMA

Production Supervisor Born in Marseille, France, Elsa Grima is making her COC debut. Ms Grima studied at the Sorbonne and the National Theatre

School in Paris before becoming production manager at the Chorégies d'Orange Festival (France) in 1988. She subsequently worked as stage manager and assistant director in various opera houses in France, Switzerland, Germany and the U.S. In 1993 Ms Grima joined the stage management team at Opéra national de Paris. It was here in 2005 that she first became involved with the production of Tristan und Isolde, collaborating at that time with Esa-Pekka Salonen, Peter Sellars and Bill Viola.



CYNTHIA TOUSHAN

Stage Manager Cynthia Toushan has been a member of the COC for over 20 years as a stage manager and choreographer. Past

COC productions include Love from Afar, Nixon in China, From the House of the Dead, Faust, Turandot, Jenufa, Xerxes, and Hänsel und Gretel. Ms Toushan was the production stage manager, as well as resident director for Jersey Boys Toronto. She has worked for 16 seasons with the Stratford Shakespeare Festival, stage managing numerous productions including 42nd Street, Kiss Me Kate, West Side Story. Fiddler on the Roof and Camelot. In addition, she was the senior stage manager for Pope John Paul II's visit to Toronto in 2002.



MAREK ŠEDIVÝ

Assistant Conductor Czech conductor and pianist Marek Šedivý is making his COC debut. Mr. Šedivý made his conducting debut at the

2009 Chopin Festival in Mariánské Lázně (Czech Republic). He was selected as one of 10 conductors in the prestigious international conducting competition in Besançon, France. Mr. Šedivý has conducted the Prague Philharmonia, as well as other orchestras in the Czech Republic, and at festivals including Young Prague and Dvo ak Prague with Prague Philharmonia. As a pianist, he has played numerous solo recitals and chamber music concerts, and has performed with the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra Collegium, Prague Chamber Orchestra and the Prague Philharmonia. In 2010 Mr. Šedivý completed his studies at the Prague Conservatoire and, recently, at the Music Academy in Prague.



MARILYN GRONSDAL

Assistant Director
Marilyn Gronsdal was
recently the assistant
director for *Il Trovatore*, *Rigoletto*, *Love from Afar* and *A Florentine*

Tragedy/Gianni Schicchi. Other credits with the COC include director of La Bohème, associate director of Eugene Onegin and assistant director on several productions that have been presented elsewhere, including Oedipus Rex with Symphony of Psalms (Edinburgh), La Traviata (New Zealand), Siegfried (Opéra national de Lyon) and The Nightingale and Other Short Fables (New York). Ms Gronsdal was the production assistant director for the COC's Ring Cycle. She recently directed Don Pasquale for Saskatoon Opera and remounted the COC production of *Der fliegende Holländer* in Montreal.

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CD *La clemenza di Tito* Gardiner's powerful conducting, combined with spectacular singing, reveals the intense drama behind Mozart's *opera seria*. Rolfe-Johnson offers his lyrical voice to the main role of Tito, displaying absolute control in his virtuoso arias. Widely reviewed as the outstanding rendition among modern *La clemenza di Tito* recordings. **\$34 including tax**



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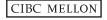
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This exceptional new production features a collage of vivid and atmospheric images that capture the romance and artistic brilliance of France's Belle Époque, seamlessly transitioning the opera from one breathtaking scene to the next. A brilliant young cast will bring the Bohemians to life and take us on an unforgettable coming-of-age journey from youthful flirtation and passionate love to heartbreaking tragedy.

Our new La Bohème promises to become a sparkling jewel in the COC crown.

NEW COC PRODUCTION October 3 - 30, 2013

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Top: Dimitri Pittas as Rodolfo, Katie Van Kooten as Mimì and Joshua Hopkins as Marcello; Bottom: (I - r) Vuyani Mlinde as Colline, Michael Sumuel as Schaunard, Dimitri Pittas as Rodolfo and Joshua Hopkins as Marcello. Photos from the COC/Houston Grand Opera (HGO)/San Francisco Opera co-production of La Bohème, 2012, HGO. Photos: Felix Sanchez

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THE SEA GIVES **AND THE SEA TAKES AWAY**

After the moral catastrophe of World War II, Benjamin Britten held up a mirror to English life as no other composer had done before, or since. Channelling his own experience at the margins of the social fold. Britten crafted a sensitive piece about an alienated fisherman and the seaside village he struggles to inhabit.

Since its debut, audiences have been enthralled by its unique human drama and insistence on empathy in the face of cruelty. Peter Grimes is an opera whose substance seems animated by the ocean itself; music capable of making the water's lonely depths, or a slant of coastal light, into tangible sonic entities charged with emotion and human experience.

The COC presents this gripping psychological work in a production by Neil Armfield (Billy Budd, Ariadne auf Naxos). Canadian legend Ben Heppner sings Peter Grimes, bringing a transcendent ferocity to his portrait of the ultimate outsider.

October 5 - 26, 2013

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Top: (I - r) Taryn Fiebig and Lorina Gore as Auntie's Nieces and Stuart Skelton as Peter Grimes in the Opera Australia (OA)/Houston Grand Opera co-production of Peter Grimes, 2009, OA. Photo: Branco Gaica; Bottom: A scene from the Houston Grand Opera (HGO)/Opera Australia co-production of Peter Grimes, 2010, HGO. Photo: Felix Sanchez EXPERIENCE RUSSIA'S MOST EXCITING MODERN BALLET COMPANY

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Renowned director Atom Egoyan returns to the COC with a new production of Mozart's opera about the frailties of the human condition. Egoyan brings his signature directorial style and oft-explored themes of love, temptation and deceit to this wry comedy about two couples gambling with one another's faith and desire.

Così celebrates the common human experience of joyful, innocent love while also exploring its deeper, more private complexities. Full of farce and folly, Mozart's score plumbs the depths of human emotion in its depiction of the intimate pleasures and struggles of fidelity and love. It is simply one of the greatest pieces about relationships ever written.

Led by COC Music Director Johannes Debus with the COC Orchestra and Chorus, this new production features a cast of up-and-coming opera stars in the roles of the young lovers, teamed with distinguished veterans, Sir Thomas Allen and Tracy Dahl.

NEW COC PRODUCTION January 18 - February 21, 2014

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Top: "Las Dos Fridas" painting by Frida Kahlo © 2011 Banco de México Diego Rivera & Frida Kahlo Museums Trust.

Av. Cinco de Mayo No. 2, Col. Centro, Del. Cuauhtémoc 06059, México, D. F; Bottom: Preliminary costume sketches
for Così fan tutte by set and costume designer Debra Hanson, 2012.

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Verdi's tale of forbidden passion amidst political intrigue is perhaps his most vocally demanding work, requiring artists of great musical power and sensitivity in equal measure; and we have them in a cast led by Canada's great diva Adrianne Pieczonka.

Not unlike the opera's plot itself, political machinations have played a huge role in Ballo's history from the beginning. Originally forced to change the opera's setting to Boston from Sweden to quell censors' fears of real life assassination plots, Verdi and his opera are proof that his theme of "love in a dangerous time" is both a universal truth and historically fluid. In this same spirit, the acclaimed directorial duo of Jossi Wieler and Sergio Morabito have revealed a layer of political and historical relevance to the plot by placing this production in the American south of the 1960s, with its undertones of Kennedy-era tensions, assassinations and power plays.

February 2-22, 2014

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Top: Catherine Naglestad as Amelia and Piotr Beczala as Riccardo; Bottom: A scene from Un ballo in maschera. Photos from the Berlin Staatsoper production, 2008. Photos: Ruth Walz



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This new COC co-production earned unequivocal praise last season at Lyric Opera of Chicago, and we are proud to feature the same staggeringly talented cast.

NEW COC PRODUCTION COC PREMIERE April 5-30, 2014

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Top: Eric Owens as Hercules; Bottom: Alice Coote as Dejanira and Eric Owens as Hercules. Photos from the COC/Lyric Opera of Chicago (LOC) co-production of Hercules, 2011, LOC. Photo: Dan Rest



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David Pomeroy, tenor Sandra Horst, piano Sun Feb 24, 2013 2pm GGS

Wallis Giunta, mezzo-soprano Ken Noda, piano Sun Mar 24, 2013 2pm GGS

Allyson McHardy, mezzo-soprano Stephen Ralls, piano Sun Apr 14, 2013 2pm GGS



















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The tumultuous, final days of the reign of Elizabeth I find powerful expression in Donizetti's Tudor drama. A dark cloud of suspected treason hangs over Devereux who has further betrayed his Queen's affections by falling in love with the wife of one of her courtiers. In the harrowing final scene, a life hangs in the balance and Elizabeth faces the ultimate choice: to fulfill her role as supreme monarch, or give in to her own, all-too-human emotions.

As in 2010's hugely popular *Maria Stuarda*, Donizetti's showstopping melodies, and sumptuous period costumes bring the intrigue of the Elizabethan court to life within a Shakespearean Globe Theatre-inspired setting.

COC PREMIERE April 25 - May 21, 2014

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Top: Scott Quinn (upper left) as Lord Cecil, Hasmik Papian (centre) as Elisabetta and Andrew Oakden (upper right) as Sir Gualtiero Raleigh; Bottom: Stephen Costello as Roberto Devereux and Hasmik Papian as Elisabetta.

Photos from the Dallas Opera production of Roberto Devereux, 2009. Photos: Karen Almond

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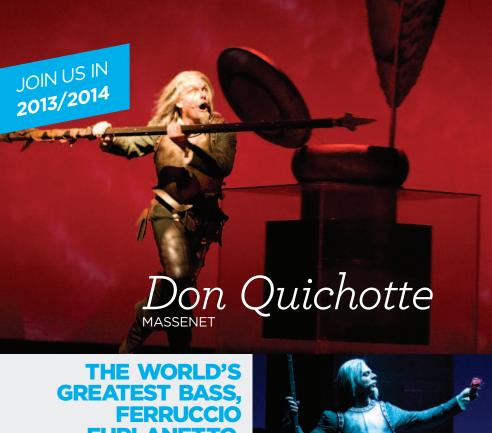
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Lush melodies and Spanish dance rhythms conjure up medieval Spain at the end of the age of chivalry. In our production of this enchanting fin-de-siècle gem, characters spring out of giant leather-bound storybooks as windmills are fashioned from oversized quill pens.

COC PREMIERE May 9 - 24, 2014

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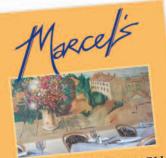


Top: Nicolas Cavallier as Don Quichotte. Bottom: John Relyea as Don Quichotte. Photos from the Seattle Opera production of Don Quichotte, 2011. Photos: Rozarii Lynch

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PATRON INFORMATION AND POLICIES

Patrons are reminded that R. Fraser Elliott Hall is an extremely lively auditorium and that all audience noise will be accentuated and audible to other patrons. Turn off all electronic devices, avoid talking, coughing, humming, moving loose seats, kicking the backs of seats. rustling programs, and unwrapping candies or cough drops. In consideration of patrons with allergies please avoid wearing strongly perfumed beauty products and fragrances. Please remain in your seat until the performance has completely ended and the house lights have been turned on.

Electronic Devices

The use of mobile and smartphones and all other electronic devices is extremely disruptive and is strictly prohibited during performances. If a patron has an emergency and needs to be contacted during a performance, he or she should contact Patron Services for assistance before the performance.

Cameras/Recording Devices

The use of cameras, video cameras or sound-recording devices of any kind is prohibited in R. Fraser Elliott Hall during performances. Any person using an unauthorized recording device while the performance is in progress will be required to surrender or erase any recordings, photographic or digital images and may be asked to leave. No refunds will be issued.

Latecomers

In the interest of safety and for the comfort of all patrons and performers, latecomers may not enter the auditorium or be seated unless there is a suitable break in the performance (usually intermission). Patrons leaving the auditorium during the performance or returning late after intermission may not be readmitted or will be accommodated in an alternate viewing location.

Children and Babes-in-Arms

All patrons, including children, must have a ticket for the performance. All children must be seated next to an accompanying adult. Young children should be able to sit quietly throughout the performance. If unable to do so, children and their accompanying adult will be asked to leave the auditorium. Babes-in-arms will not be admitted.

Patron Services

Located in the Lower Lobby, the following services are available: coat and parcel check, booster seats, back supports, infrared hearing-assistive devices and rental of binoculars, on a first-come, first-served basis.

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A house doctor is present at all performances. Please contact an usher if medical services are required.

During performances please speak with an usher or visit Patron Services at the Coat Check in the Lower Lobby. Following performances, all lost and found items will be stored at the security desk at Stage Door. Please call 416-363-6671 for information.

Ticket Services

Canadian Opera Company subscriptions and individual tickets are available through COC Ticket Services

BY PHONE: 416-363-8231

or long distance 1-800-250-4653

Monday to Friday - 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturday - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

IN PERSON: Four Seasons Centre Box Office

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11 a.m. to 3 p.m. or through first

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The Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts Box Office also services ticketing needs for The National Ballet of Canada and all other Four Seasons Centre events.

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Tours of the Four Seasons Centre now include backstage access! For more information, visit fourseasonscentre.ca.

BMO Financial Group Pre-Performance Opera Chats

The Canadian Opera Company Volunteer Speakers Bureau offers free, insightful chats about the stories. music and background of all COC performances, 45 minutes prior to each performance in the Richard Bradshaw Amphitheatre.

Food and Beverage Service

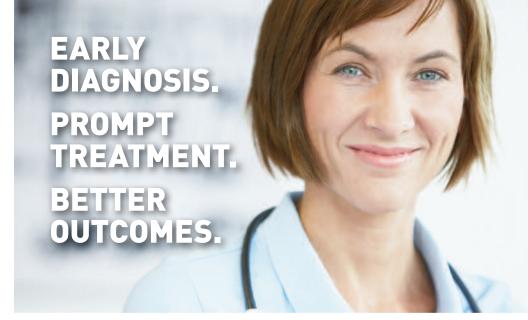
A pre-order system for intermission refreshments is available at all bars throughout the Isadore and Rosalie Sharp City Room. Food and beverages are not permitted in R. Fraser Elliott Hall.

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The Four Seasons Centre is available for rental for all of your presentation, meeting or special events needs, with spaces accommodating from 20 to 2,000 people and full catering services. For further details visit fourseasonscentre.ca or call 416-363-6671.

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