

COC ENSEMBLE STUDIO

AUDITIONS 2011/2012 SEASON

The Canadian Opera Company Ensemble Studio is an opera training program for Canadian opera singers, opera coaches, conductors and stage directors. Up to 12 artists participate in the program at any one time.

Many of Canada's finest young opera singers, coaches and directors have participated in the program. Past members include Theodore Baerg, Isabel Bayrakdarian, Michael Colvin, Tom Diamond, John Fanning, Robert Gleadow, Ben Heppner, Joni Henson, Gaétan Laperrière, Wendy Nielsen, David Pomeroy, Frédérique Vézina and James Westman.

The Ensemble Studio program auditions new artists each season. The program can be one to three years in length, depending on the artist. Most applicants are between the ages of 24 and 34 and have recently finished their academic training.

This is a professional training program that is tailored to the artist. Remuneration is based on the performer's entry level into the program.

SINGERS

Singers will receive daily vocal coachings with the COC's resident music staff, as well as diction and acting classes. Masterclasses and individual sessions are held regularly with such international specialists as Rachel Andrist, Eric Weimer, Marlina Malas, Margaret Singer and Timothy Noble. Singers will also participate in seminars on a range of topics from audition techniques to securing an agent.

The program is very performance-oriented and there are numerous performance and understudy opportunities throughout the season.

Applicants must have solid vocal training in opera, an extensive musical background and give evidence of a high level of artistic aptitude. Knowledge of operatic languages is an advantage.

COACHES

Opera coaches, under the guidance of the COC's music staff, work with the Ensemble Studio singers in regular coachings and take part in masterclasses, sessions with international guest coaches and special concerts. Opera coaches may also act as rehearsal pianists/coaches for mainstage productions.

Applicants must have a strong knowledge of various operatic styles and languages, as well as operatic coaching experience. Each applicant will be required to prepare three contrasting selections:

- ~ a solo piano piece that demonstrates technique
- ~ an aria in French, German or Italian that will be both played and sung by the applicant with dramatic understanding
- ~ one excerpt from the list below, to demonstrate the coach applicant's ability to play, while singing the vocal lines and following a conductor:

Così fan tutte – Act I Finale

La Bohème – Act I

Carmen – Acts I and IV

Sight reading is required.

CONDUCTORS

The Ensemble Studio occasionally accepts conductors of exceptional ability. For more information please contact the Music Administrator.

STAGE DIRECTORS

Stage directors participate in mainstage productions and work closely with COC production staff. In addition, the stage directors work with the Ensemble Studio singers in dramatic coachings.

Applicants for this position should have some knowledge of opera and stage directing or assistant stage directing experience. Formal training at a university, college or drama school is an asset. Ability to read music, and proficiency in several operatic languages, is required.

Stage directors should submit a one-page letter outlining their goals with the COC.

2010 AUDITION DATES

VOCAL AUDITIONS

October 25, 27, 29 – Toronto

November 8 – Vancouver

November 10 – Montreal

November 12 – New York

FINAL VOCAL AUDITIONS, OPERA COACH AUDITIONS, DIRECTOR INTERVIEWS

November 23 and 24 – Toronto

APPLICATION DEADLINE

September 30, 2010

AUDITION REGULATIONS

(Applicable to all categories)

1. The accompanying application form must be completed and signed by the applicant. Incomplete applications will not be processed.
2. **Applicants must be Canadian Citizens or have Landed Immigrant status at the time of application.** Proof of citizenship (e.g. photocopy of birth certificate, passport, or other legal documentation) must accompany the application.
3. A resumé and photograph must accompany each application. The resumé should include the following information: academic background, recent operatic experience (year, role and company), operatic repertoire studied (excerpts or complete work), dramatic and theatrical experience, awards and scholarships, and languages sung and/or spoken.
4. Applicants must submit three (3) letters of recommendation from qualified references (coaches, voice teachers, conductors, directors, professors, etc.). We prefer to receive letters of recommendation with applications. If this is not possible, please ensure that we receive the letters at least one week prior to the audition date. Letters of recommendation may be sent separately via e-mail, but in this case they must be sent directly from the reference and not via the applicant.
5. The Canadian Opera Company will screen all applications, and applicants will be informed by telephone if they have been granted an audition/interview. For those singers who audition, the COC will provide an accompanist at no charge to the applicant. The applicant may choose to provide their own accompanist at their own expense.

APPLICATION FORM

Please consider my application for:

- Singer
Voice Type _____
- Coach
- Conductor
- Stage Director

Audition City: Toronto
 Vancouver
 Montreal
 New York

Name

Address

City

Postal Code

Telephone

E-mail

Date of Birth/Place of Birth

Applicant's Signature

Please send all applications to:
Ensemble Studio Auditions Co-ordinator
Canadian Opera Company
227 Front St. E.
Toronto, ON M5A 1E8

Tel: 416-363-6671 Fax: 416-363-5584
E-mail: ensemble@coc.ca coc.ca

Successful applicants will be notified by telephone of audition/interview location and time. All materials submitted become the property of the Canadian Opera Company and will not be returned.

SINGERS

For the audition, the singer must prepare five arias of contrasting style, to be performed in the original languages. The arias should be representative of the individual's present technical development and level of ability and should **not** be more than five minutes in length.

1. _____
Aria

Opera

Composer

2. _____
Aria

Opera

Composer

3. _____
Aria

Opera

Composer

4. _____
Aria

Opera

Composer

5. _____
Aria

Opera

Composer



canadian **OPERA** company
ALEXANDER NEEF, GENERAL DIRECTOR

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THE COC ENSEMBLE STUDIO IS SUPPORTED BY



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The COC Ensemble Studio 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 generously supported by the Government of Canada through the Department of Canadian Heritage, ARIAS (formerly The Canadian Opera Volunteer Committee), The John A. Cook Young Artist Development Fund, Michael & Lora Gibbens, Ethel Harris, The Audrey S. Hellyer Charitable Foundation, Patrick & Barbara Keenan, The Hal Jackman Fund at the Ontario Arts Foundation, Jo Lander, Ruby Mercer Fund, George Cedric Metcalf Charitable Foundation, Roger D. Moore Ensemble Studio Endowment Fund, RBC Foundation, The Slight Family, The Stratton Trust, William and Phyllis Waters, and an anonymous donor.

Cover: Erin Fisher as Idamante and Laura Albino as Ilia
in the Ensemble Studio performance of Idomeneo, 2010.
Photo: Michael Cooper



canadian **OPERA** company
ALEXANDER NEEF, GENERAL DIRECTOR

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