



canadian **OPERA** company

ALEXANDER NEEF, GENERAL DIRECTOR

**Xstrata Ensemble Studio**  
**School Tour**



# Meet the Cast of *Cinderella*



## **Laura Albino** – *Clorinda*

Born in Mississauga, Ontario, Ensemble Studio soprano Laura Albino last appeared with the COC as The Cook in *The Nightingale and Other Short Fables* and Kate Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly*. Last season she appeared with the COC as Fiordiligi in the Ensemble Studio production of *Così fan tutte* and the Second French Actress in *War and Peace*. Ms Albino completed a master's degree in operatic performance at the University of Toronto Opera School and was named the Canadian Opera Volunteer Committee's Distinguished Graduate of 2006 and the Ottawa Choral Society's 2008 New Discoveries Audition Grand Prize winner. Operatic credits include Donna Anna with the Britten-Pears Young Artist Program, Mary Warren (*The Crucible*) with International Vocal Arts Institute in Tel Aviv, and Bridey in The Queen of Puddings Music Theatre's production of *The Midnight Court* with Royal Opera House. Recordings include *Saul* with the Bach Collegium and the world premiere of Samuel Arnold's opera *Polly* with Toronto's Aradia Ensemble. With the COC this season, she will sing Cretan Woman 1 in both the mainstage and Ensemble Studio production of *Idomeneo*.



## **Michael Barrett** – *The Prince*

Canadian tenor and COC Ensemble Studio member Michael Barrett recently sang with the COC as Lieutenant Bonnet and Aide de Camp to General Compans in *War and Peace*, First Prisoner in *Fidelio*, the Gamekeeper in *Rusalka*, Captain of Archers in *Simon Boccanegra*, Parpignol in *La Bohème*, Snout in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Ferrando in the Ensemble Studio production of *Così fan tutte*. He also understudied Tenor 2 and Japanese Envoy 1 in *The Nightingale and Other Short Fables*. At the University of Toronto Opera School he performed Eisenstein in *Die Fledermaus*, and regularly appears with the Aldeburgh Connection, where he performed in *Our Story* for the 25th anniversary celebrations. With the COC this season he will perform the roles of Andres in *Carmen*, the High Priest of Neptune in the Ensemble Studio's presentation of *Idomeneo*, and Trojan Man 1 in both the mainstage and Ensemble production of *Idomeneo*. He will also understudy Le Remendado in *Carmen*, Roderigo in *Otello*, The Steersman in *The Flying Dutchman* and the High Priest of Neptune in *Idomeneo*.



## **Erin Fisher** – *Tisbe*

Mezzo-soprano and COC Ensemble Studio member Erin Fisher last appeared with the COC as the Chorus Solo Alto in *The Nightingale and Other Short Fables*. Last season she performed the Third Wood Nymph in *Rusalka*, Amelia's Maidservant in *Simon Boccanegra* and Dorabella in the Ensemble Studio production of *Così fan tutte*. Ms Fisher is a graduate of the University of British Columbia (UBC) with a bachelor of music degree. Operatic credits include Cherubino with the UBC Ensemble in the Czech Republic, the title role in Timothy Sullivan's *Florence: The Lady with the Lamp*, Zo-Zo in *The Merry Widow* with the Vancouver Symphony, Tessa in Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Gondoliers*, and Rosina in *Il barbiere di Siviglia* in Prague. She has performed the title role in Burnaby Lyric's *The Italian Girl in Algiers* and made her solo debut with the Vancouver Symphony singing Vivaldi's *Gloria*. With the COC this season, she will perform the role of Idamante in the Ensemble Studio production of *Idomeneo*.



**Wallis Giunta** – *Cinderella*

A native of Ottawa, mezzo-soprano Wallis Giunta is a new member of the COC Ensemble Studio. She is a graduate of The Glenn Gould School with an artist diploma in voice. Other operatic credits include the title role in *Pandora's Locker*, the King's Mistress in *The Children's Crusade*, Zerlina in *Don Giovanni*, Dorabella in *Così fan tutte*, Cherubino in *Le nozze di Figaro*, Hermia in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Ernesto in *Il Mondo della Luna*. She has sung with Opera Atelier, Opera Lyra Ottawa, the Regina Symphony, the Ottawa International Chamber Music Festival and the Orpheus Choir. In 2009, Ms Giunta was the winner of the Lilly Kertes Rolin International Prize in vocal studies, the Royal Conservatory Orchestra Concerto Competition and received awards from the George London Foundation and The Canada Council for the Arts. Upcoming engagements include recitals for Mooredale Concerts and Off Centre Music, Ravel's *Shéhérazade*, *Messiah* with the Regina Symphony and Cherubino with Opera Atelier. This season with the COC she will understudy Mercedes in *Carmen*, Idamante in *Idomeneo* and perform Cretan Woman 2 in the Ensemble Studio production of *Idomeneo*.



**Michael Uloth** – *The King/Narrator*

Born in Kitchener, Ensemble Studio bass Michael Uloth, continues with the COC after performing the Bonze in *The Nightingale and Other Short Fables* and the Imperial Commissioner in *Madama Butterfly*. Last season with the COC he performed Don Alfonso in the Ensemble Studio production of *Così fan tutte*, Snug in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Gavrila in *War and Peace*. An alumnus of Glimmerglass Opera's 2007 Young American Artists Program, he recently made debuts with Opera in Concert as Enrico VIII in *Anna Bolena*, Opera York as Masetto in *Don Giovanni*, Toronto Masque Theatre as the High Priest and Hymen in *The Indian Queen*, and Brampton Lyric Opera and Saskatoon Opera as Sparafucile in *Rigoletto*. Mr. Uloth is a graduate of the University of Toronto with a master of music in opera, as well as a bachelor of music and opera diploma from Wilfrid Laurier University. With the COC this season, he will perform the role of the Oracle in both the mainstage and Ensemble Studio productions of *Idomeneo*.

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**Anne Larlee** – *Music Director*

Born in Campbellton, New Brunswick, Anne Larlee joins the COC Ensemble Studio program as an intern coach. She recently participated in the Opera Course at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London as a répétiteur. Upon completion of the course Ms Larlee was made an Artist Fellow, and as such she took on assistant conducting and coaching duties, along with accompanying recitals and chamber music. Ms Larlee holds an honours bachelor of music from the University of Windsor and a master of music in piano performance from Boston University. She has held accompanying positions at the Conservatoire National de Région de Nice, Boston University and the McGill Conservatory of Music, and has appeared on stages across Canada, the United States, France, Italy and the United Kingdom including London's Wigmore Hall. Operatic credits include work with the Centre for Opera Studies in Sulmona Italy, where she was the vocal coach for *Così fan tutte*; the British Youth Opera where she was the vocal coach and celeste player for *La rondine*; and, the Glyndebourne Festival.



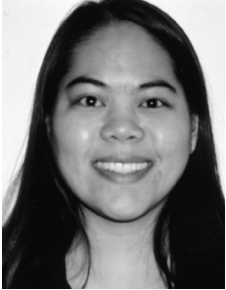
**Ashlie Corcoran** – *Director*

A former Canadian Opera Company Ensemble Studio intern director, Ashlie Corcoran directed the COC's production of William Walton's *The Bear*, and apprentice directed the *Ring Cycle*, *Faust* and *La Traviata*. She has been the assistant director for *Tosca*, *Don Giovanni* and *Fidelio* at the COC, as well as assistant director for Opera North's production of *Roméo et Juliette*. Ms Corcoran is Artistic Producer of Theatre Smash for which she has directed *Tiny Dynamite*, *The Bus*, *Tijuana Cure* and produced *Norway.Today*. She was one of the Shaw Festival intern directors for the 2009 season, directing Sean O'Casey's *Bedtime Story*. Other directing credits include productions for Resurgence Theatre, Summerworks Festival, Luminato Festival, *The Wrecking Ball* and Alumnae Theatre. Ms Corcoran received an undergraduate degree from Queen's University and a master's in directing, awarded with distinction, from the University of London. She is a member of the Lincoln Center Theater Directors Lab and participated in a directing residency at Berlin's Maxim Gorki Theater. Upcoming engagements include directing the world premiere of *A Boy Called Newfoundland* for Theatre Smash.



**Robin Fisher – Designer**

Robin Fisher makes her COC debut with this production. Ms Fisher graduated from the costume studies program at Dalhousie University and the scenography program at the National Theatre School of Canada. She has worked for many Canadian theatre companies including the Canadian Stage Company, the Great Canadian Theatre Company, the Lorraine Kimsa Theatre for Young People and The Belfry Theatre, among others. Theatre credits include set and costume design for *The Syringa Tree*, *The Tempest*, *I, Claudia*, *The Ends of the Earth*, *You're a Good Man*, *Charlie Brown*, *My Fellow Creatures* and *The Danish Play*. Ms Fisher received a Dora Mavor Moore award in 2007 for Best Costume Design for *36 Views* with the Actors Repertory Company.



**Lesley Abarquez – Stage Manager**

Lesley Abarquez returns to the COC after serving as stage manager for *La Bohème*, *Die Walküre* as part of the complete *Ring Cycle*, and the Ensemble Studio productions of *Don Giovanni/Renard*, *The Bear/Swoon*, *The Magic Flute* and *Dido & Aeneas/The Coffee Cantata*. With the COC she also stage managed several Ensemble Studio School Tour productions including *The Barber of Seville*, *Isis and the Seven Scorpions*, *The Brothers Grimm*, *The Magic Flute*, and *Hansel and Gretel*. As assistant stage manager, Ms Abarquez has worked on numerous company productions including *Madama Butterfly*, *Fidelio*, *The Barber of Seville*, *Tosca*, *Don Carlos*, *Wozzeck*, *Rodelinda*, *Die Walküre*, *Bluebeard's Castle/Erwartung*, *Billy Budd*, *Venus and Adonis*, *Otello*, *Pelléas et Mélisande*, *Der fliegende Holländer* and *The Rape of Lucretia*. She has also stage managed various productions with the University of Toronto Opera School, the Canadian Children's Opera Company, Opera Mississauga, the Banff Centre for the Arts and Queen of Puddings Music Theatre Company. Ms Abarquez is a graduate of the University of Toronto.