



***Idomeneo*: Background and Characters**

Mozart's *Idomeneo* was based on a libretto written by Antoine Danchet for André Campara's 1712 Paris opera *Idoménée*. Mozart's opera received its premiere in Munich on January 29, 1781, two days after his 25th birthday. The premiere was considered a success but the opera only had one other performance in Mozart's lifetime, a private concert version using amateur singers in Vienna in 1786. Though *Idomeneo* was frequently performed in Germany and Austria after Mozart's death, its formal 18th-century style made it largely unpopular throughout the 19th century and well into the 20th century. In fact it was rarely performed and never in its original version again until 1951 in Glyndebourne, England.

This production is a co-production with Opéra national du Rhin.

The opera is sung in Italian with English SURTITLES™.

The performances this season will take place on May 9, 12, 15, 18, 19, 21, 25, 27, 29, 2010 at the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts.

Book your school group tickets now! Call COC Group Sales at 416-306-2356 or e-mail groupsales@coc.ca.

MAIN CHARACTERS

In order of vocal appearance

Name	Description	Voice Type	Pronunciation
Idomeneo	King of the Greek island of Crete	tenor	ee-doh-meh-NEH-yoh
Idamante	Idomeneo's son, who is in love with Ilia	mezzo-soprano	ee-dah-MAHN-teh
Ilia	A Trojan princess held captive on Crete	soprano	EEL-yah
Elettra	A Greek princess exiled on Crete	soprano	eh-LEH-trah
Arbace	Idomeneo's advisor	tenor	ar-BAH-cheh
High Priest of Neptune		tenor	
Neptune	God of the Sea	bass	

COC chorus members will play many different roles in this opera including: the people of Crete, Trojan Prisoners, Sailors, Soldiers, and Priests of Neptune.