



# SOMETHING MAGICAL

That's what opera is – an awe-inspiring blend of voice, music, story, and spectacle that lifts you from your seat, puts an aria in your heart, and leaves you a little breathless. It is shocking, gripping, exhilarating, and moving. From the opening measure to the final curtain, opera sparkles.

We've put a little magic into our 2010/11 season, starting with our **Divas and Divos Gala Concert** in October. Tad Biernacki leads the ever-stylish Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra and a galaxy of opera stars through a spectacular evening of popular opera hits – all to raise funds to benefit Manitoba Opera.

In November, Puccini's political thriller, *Tosca*, will star some of Canada's finest singers. I'm delighted to have Wendy Nielsen make her Manitoba Opera debut in the title role of the jealous opera singer who has dedicated her life to art. Metropolitan Opera veteran, Richard Margison returns to sing the role of Cavaradossi, the artist and *Tosca*'s lover. And to portray Scarpia, in the darkly manipulative role of Chief of Police, is the magnificent Gaétan Laperrière. Peter Strummer returns to us as the Sacristan, after last season's huge success as Bartolo in *The Barber of Seville*.



I was filled with childlike wonder and awe. I never imagined Opera could be so much fun ... am now pleased to add Opera to my list of passions.

– Fan Reviews  
(*The Barber of Seville*)



*La Traviata*, 2008. Photo: R. Tinker



Move over reality shows and soap operas. When it comes to fantastical plots rife with passion, vengeance, tragedy and drama, it's opera that takes the prize.

– Gwenda Nemecrofsky, *Winnipeg Free Press*

Valerie Kuinka makes her Manitoba Opera debut directing and Tyrone Paterson, our Music Advisor and Principal Conductor, will conduct.

Our season closes where earthly delights meet heavenly ideals, in Mozart's comical masterpiece, *The Magic Flute*. Manitoba has a rich history of producing some of the best vocal talent in the country, and I'm thrilled that many of them will be appearing in our production of *Flute*. Phillip Ens returns to Manitoba Opera to sing the role of Sarastro, after 13 years of appearances in opera houses around the globe. Andriana Chuchman will sing her first Pamina. Baritone Hugh Russell makes his Manitoba Opera debut as the overly chatty bird catcher looking for love. And Lara Ciekiewicz returns to us as Papagena, the soulmate he finds. American tenor, Bruce Sledge, comes to us directly from the Metropolitan Opera to sing Tamino, the young prince searching for truth. Julia Kogan makes her Manitoba Opera debut as The Queen of the Night. I'm happy to have Michael Cavanagh back with us to direct, and Tad Biernacki will lead the WSO through Mozart's sublime score.



Tim Magas (Ambrogio), Peter Strummer (Bartolo), and Donnalynn Grills (Berta), *The Barber of Seville*, 2009. Photo: R. Tinker

Starting with this season, we will be operating our own box office. This will allow you to speak to our staff about productions and purchase your subscription and casual tickets directly from Manitoba Opera. Please look through the brochure for further details.

A fantastic benefit gala, a Puccini shocker, and a Mozart gem – all set to exquisite music sung by wonderful singers. It sounds magical to me. I hope you can join us.

**Larry Desrochers,**  
General Director & CEO