

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE March 23, 2010  
CONTACT Selina Rajani, 604-331-4824  
[srajani@vancouveropera.ca](mailto:srajani@vancouveropera.ca)

All-Canadian cast sparkles in Vancouver Opera's delightful traditional production of W. A. Mozart's

## THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO

**Vancouver, BC** ~ Sparkling comedy, heart-breaking tenderness and a deliciously twisty plot come together in Vancouver Opera's *The Marriage of Figaro*, on stage for five effervescent performances only, April 24 to May 1, 2010 at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre.

Bursting with charm, wit and unforgettable melodies, this gorgeous traditional production features an all-Canadian cast, including bass-baritone **Daniel Okulitch** in the title role and soprano **Nikki Einfeld** as his bride-to-be, Susanna. "Always beguiling" raves *Opera Canada* about Mr. Okulitch, while *The New York Times* praises Ms. Einfeld's "... seductive passion...melting beauty and purity of tone." Beloved for its music, plot and comedy, Mozart's work of timeless genius is placed firmly among the top ten operas ever created, and remains a perfect introduction to opera as well as eternally rewarding for experienced opera-goers.

Opening night is **Saturday, April 24, 2010**, with subsequent performances **Tuesday, April 27, Thursday, April 29, Saturday, May 1, and Tuesday, May 4**. All performances take place at the **Queen Elizabeth Theatre**, Georgia and Hamilton Streets, Vancouver, B.C. and begin at **7:30pm**. Tickets starting at \$29 are available exclusively at the **Vancouver Opera Ticket Centre**, online at [www.vancouveropera.ca](http://www.vancouveropera.ca) or by telephone (**604-683-0222**). See complete ticket information below.

Joining Daniel Okulitch and Nikki Einfeld is Abbotsford-born soprano **Rhoslyn Jones** in the role of Countess Almaviva. Ms. Jones captivated audiences last year with her emotional and heartfelt Tatyana in VO's *Eugene Onegin*. Baritone **Aaron St.Clair Nicholson**, also from Abbotsford, sings alongside her as Count Almaviva, making full use of his "beautiful comic timing and rich voice" (*The Miami Herald*). Montreal mezzo-soprano **Julie Boulianne**, singing Cherubino, is "one to watch," raves the *Globe and*

*Mail*, "Her voice has both sweetness and bite, with hints of darker and deeper notes to come."

Abbotsford-raised mezzo-soprano **Megan Latham** sings a "warm and earthy" (*New York Times*) Marcellina, with Vancouver native (and lawyer-turned-singer) **Andrew Stewart** singing the bass role of Antonio. Bass **Thomas Goerz**, originally from Kitchener, Ontario and noted for his wide repertoire, sings Dr. Bartolo. Montreal tenor **Michel Corbeil** does double duty as both Don Basilio and Don Curzio, and Comox-raised **Melody Mercredi** sings Barbarina.

Also appearing are Cloverdale, BC-based soprano **Karen Ydenberg** and Thunder Bay, Ontario-native mezzo-soprano **Barbara Towell**.

VO Music Director **Jonathan Darlington** conducts the Vancouver Opera Orchestra and the Vancouver Opera Chorus (**Leslie Dala**, Associate Conductor and Chorus Director). The stage director is **Chris Alexander**.

### The Story, in brief

Valet Figaro and lady's maid Susanna are to be married. But their master, the Count, is enamored of the bride, and Figaro is being eyed by a much older woman. Also, a reckless young man in love with the Countess, who longs for the Count's embrace. And that's not the half of it!

Read a full synopsis at [www.vancouveropera.ca](http://www.vancouveropera.ca).

### Background

*The Marriage of Figaro* is based on a stage comedy by Pierre Beaumarchais, *La folle journée, ou le Mariage de Figaro*, written in 1784. The play was banned in Vienna for its satire of the aristocracy, considered especially serious in the years leading up to the French Revolution. Despite this, the opera became one of Mozart's most successful and beloved works, with its instantly recognizable overture and unforgettable melodies.

*Figaro* premiered in 1786 and ran for a total of nine performances, the first two conducted by Mozart himself, seated at the keyboard. The warm reception from the audience on the first night resulted in five numbers being encored. Concerned about the length of the performance, Joseph II (then in charge of the Burgtheater), directed that future performances would allow "no piece for more than a single voice" to be repeated.

Critical reception was warm, too. "One would be subscribing either to the *cabal* or to *tastelessness* if one were to maintain that Herr Mozart's music is anything but a masterpiece of art," praised the *Wiener Realzeitung* newspaper. "It contains so many beauties, and such a wealth of ideas, as can be drawn only from the source of innate

genius." The Hungarian poet Ferenc Kazinsky was enchanted: "The joy which this music causes is so far removed from all sensuality that one cannot speak of it. Where could words be found that are worthy to describe such joy?". And after attending, even Joseph Haydn wrote to a friend that heard it in his dreams.

### **Full Ticket Information**

Single tickets starting at \$29 (plus handling fee) are available from the Vancouver Opera Ticket Centre, online at [www.vancouveropera.ca](http://www.vancouveropera.ca), or by phone at 604-683-0222. Visa, MasterCard and American Express are accepted.

**Groups:** For special pricing for groups of ten or more, call 604-683-0222.

### **Learn More**

#### **Opera Speaks @ VPL – a free public forum: "What's so great about Mozart?"**

Thursday, April 15, 7:00 – 9:00pm

Alice MacKay Room, Vancouver Public Library, Central Branch

VO's music director Jonathan Darlington investigates the magic and mystery behind the genius of W.A. Mozart. Explore his life and his music. This will be an engrossing fun-filled evening of music and stories.

#### **Film screening: In Search of Mozart**

Thursday, April 8, 2010

Doors: 6:30pm. Guest Speaker: 7:10pm

Vancity Film Centre, 1181 Seymour Street, Vancouver

Regular admission: \$10/\$8 senior or student (includes \$2 Vancity Film Centre membership).

With membership: \$8/\$6 senior or student

The Vancity Theatre and VO present a special screening of *In Search of Mozart*, the first-ever major feature-length documentary on Mozart's life. Directed by Phil Grabsky, *In Search of Mozart* was made to celebrate the 250th anniversary of Mozart's birth in January 2006.

Seating is limited. This special event continues a series of co-presentations between Vancouver Opera and the Vancity Theatre.

– 30 –

Vancouver Opera's Golden Anniversary Season is generously sponsored by  
Goldcorp, Inc.