

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE February 12, 2013  
CONTACT Selina Rajani, 604-331-4824  
srajani@vancouveropera.ca

SIMONE OSBORNE AND RACHEL FENLON TO SHARE ROLE IN  
VANCOUVER OPERA'S ACCLAIMED MAGIC FLUTE

Vancouver, BC ~ Vancouver Opera announces the addition of two stellar sopranos to the cast of the acclaimed First Nations-inspired production of *The Magic Flute*.

The role of Pamina will be shared by two exciting and acclaimed singers: **Simone Osborne** and **Rachel Fenlon**. Ms. Osborne will sing in the March 9, 12, 14, 16 and 17 (matinée) performances. Ms. Fenlon will sing in the March 10 (matinée) performance.

Together they replace soprano Layla Claire, who has withdrawn from the production due to illness.

Metropolitan Opera audition-winner **Simone Osborne** last appeared with VO as Juliette in 2011's *Roméo et Juliette*. Ms. Osborne has been praised by the *Georgia Straight* for her "elegant and expressive style, her openness of sound, and her unaffectedly natural acting," continues the *Straight*, "She sang no less than exquisitely, hitting every high note...This girl's going places. Watch her."

The *Vancouver Sun* concurs. "The best single reason for this [*Roméo et Juliette*] is as a showcase for Canadian soprano Simone Osborne, making her Vancouver Opera debut in the role of Juliette."

Soprano **Rachel Fenlon** earned high praise for her performance as Mabel in this season's hit *The Pirates of Penzance*. "Mabel, soprano Rachel Fenlon is a classic ingenue, trilling into the vocal stratosphere on demand, demure and ruthless by turns," declared the *Vancouver Sun*. "Fenlon trills like a bird, virtuosically yet hilariously, through her first-act coloratura sendup," reported the *Georgia Straight*.

Ms. Fenlon earned a Masters degree in opera performances from UBC and has trained at the Centre for Opera Studies in Italy (COSI), the Vancouver International Song Institute, and the European Music Academy in the Czech Republic. She is a member of VO's Yulanda M. Faris Young Artists Program.

VO's breathtaking First Nations-inspired production of *The Magic Flute* will be onstage at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre for six performances only, March 9 - 17, 2013. Opening night is **Saturday, March 9, 2013** with subsequent performances **Sunday, March 10 (matinée); Tuesday, March 12; Thursday, March 14; Saturday, March 16** and **Sunday, March 17 (matinée)**. Evening performances are at 7:30pm. Matinee performances begin at 1:30pm.

*The Magic Flute* is sung in English, with English SURTITLES™ projected above the stage. Spoken dialogue is in English and in hən̓qəmin̓əm̓, a dialect of the Musqueam language. VO's Chorus Director and Associate Conductor **Leslie Dala** will lead the VO Orchestra. Mr. Dala conducted *La Bohème* earlier in the season. **Robert McQueen** returns to VO to direct this production. As the director of the original 2007 production, Mr. McQueen was instrumental in the creation process of this unique *Magic Flute*.

### Full Ticket Information

Tickets to *The Magic Flute* are available now 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.

-30-

VO's 2012-2013 Season is generously sponsored by Goldcorp.

This production of *The Magic Flute* is sponsored by YVR.