



DAREarts partners with Vancouver Opera for an innovative arts program that has helped thousands of children across Canada

For Immediate Release

November 29, 2012

Toronto, ON - Vancouver Opera's production of Mozart's ***The Magic Flute*** is supporting the successful return of DAREarts' innovative arts program. Over 50 Grade 6 & 7 students from Queen Alexandra Public School, Lord Strathcona Public School, Britannia Community School and Grandview Elementary School will highlight their creativity through the inspiration of VO's First Nations-inspired version of Mozart's "The Magic Flute".

The two-week long program, that began on **Monday November 26** and runs until **Saturday December 8, 2012**, is designed around ***The Magic Flute***, is the foundation for visual arts, sewing, writing, music, dance and dramatic arts disciplines.

"Through these mediums, the children will examine the idea that; individual leaders must be persistent, that a united collective is stronger than an individual and that the values of Discipline, Action, Reflection, Respect and Responsibility can guide one through challenging times," says Geneviève Anthony, DAREarts Head Teacher and Director of Urban Programs. "The children will create art work and their own performance piece that will be a direct product of their self-exploration and artistic interpretation of the DAREarts values."

"VO is pleased to open the doors of our new home, the O'Brian Centre for Vancouver Opera to the schools in our community," stated Tom Wright, Vancouver Opera's Acting General Director and Director of Artistic Planning, on this artistic partnership. "DAREarts is an innovator in using the arts to ignite change, and we're excited to be the theatre partner for this year's program and proud that it is designed around our First Nations-inspired ***Magic Flute***."

The performance piece and artwork will be showcased in the Martha Lou Henley Rehearsal Hall, at the Michael and Inna O'Brian Centre for Vancouver Opera, 1945 McLean Drive, on Saturday, December 8, 2012 at 1:30 p.m. The media are invited to share in this incredible experience before the show at 1:15pm.



DAREarts is a Canadian, not-for-profit charity whose arts education programs empower children in high priority communities to become leaders. Drugs, violence and hopelessness are realities for many of today's youth. DAREarts builds courage and confidence in children, empowering them to become leaders by harnessing the core power of the arts – Discipline, Accountability, Responsibility and Excellence.

DAREarts' unique programs work with 9-14 year olds in both urban and rural areas, including multiple Toronto Mega City areas, and aboriginal northern Ontario communities. The children explore world cultures while they themselves paint, sculpt, sing, dance, compose, design, write, act and create, guided by arts professionals. DAREarts also provides much-needed opportunities for children to discover how to express themselves in positive ways and to experience a broader range of activities beyond what is available to them. The children gain leadership skills by returning to their schools and teaching their classmates what they have learned. In its 16th year, DAREarts has influenced more than 130,000 Canadian children.

Vancouver Opera is the second largest opera company in Canada. It is regarded worldwide for its fine mainstage productions; for its country-leading education programs, which have reached more than 1.6 million children and their families; for its innovative and award-winning community programs; and for forging ground-breaking cross-cultural creative partnerships that have brought opera to new generations of Canadians.

This project has been generously sponsored by Lead Sponsor **Northbridge Insurance, HUB International Canada West Co., Philippe Dandurand Wines Ltd., and Sandman Suites on Davie.**

For more information on DAREarts log on to www.darearts.com.

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