



news release
vancouveropera.ca

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE February 14, 2013
CONTACT Selina Rajani, 604-331-4824
srajani@vancouveropera.ca

VANCOUVER OPERA ANNOUNCES 2013-2014 SEASON

Highlights include a company premiere, two new co-productions, spectacular stage tech and design, and regular matinée performances

Vancouver, BC ~ A spellbinding Puccini, a Vancouver Opera premiere, a stunning new co-production of a Mozart masterpiece, and the return of an opera not seen on the VO stage for more than 40 years are just some of the highlights of Vancouver Opera's 2013-2014 season.

In order of presentation, VO's 54th season will include Giacomo Puccini's **Tosca** (October 26 - November 3, 2013), the Vancouver Opera premiere (and a new co-production) of Benjamin Britten's **Albert Herring** (November 30 - December 8, 2013), a spectacular new co-production of W. A. Mozart's **Don Giovanni** (March 1 - 9, 2014) and the long-awaited return, after four decades, of Giuseppe Verdi's **Don Carlo** (May 3 - 11, 2014).

Beginning with the 2013-2014 season, all Vancouver Opera productions will include matinée performances, replacing Tuesday performances, which will be discontinued

In announcing the season, VO's General Director, **James W. Wright** said, "This will be a season of diverse and exciting productions that will appeal to a variety of tastes. From an intimate and charming *Albert Herring* to a visually innovative *Don Giovanni*, and Verdi and Puccini on a grand scale, I think this season will amply demonstrate VO's versatility and will offer something for all members of our community."

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

TOSCA

A glorious, gritty drama of love, corruption and evil

VO's 2013-2014 season will open with the spellbinding tension of Giacomo Puccini's masterful drama..

Canadian soprano **Michele Capalbo** will sing the title role for the October 26, 31 and November 2 performances. "...a rich and polished lyric voice full of color and fluidity....She should be heard," declared the *New York Sun*. Soprano **Julie Makerov** will sing Tosca for the November 1 and 3 performances. "Her *Tosca* was

every inch the imperious diva, moving from flashing-eyed jealous lover to abused woman to penitent murderer, all etched with subtle vocalism and remarkably compelling acting and facial expression." raved the *Florida Sun Sentinel*.

Scarpia will be sung by baritone **Gordon Hawkins**. Mr. Hawkins was honoured in 2006 as the Washington National Opera "Artist of the Year" and is a winner of the Luciano Pavarotti Competition. This will be Mr. Hawkins's VO début.

VO's Music Director **Jonathan Darlington** will conduct this passionate production. **Joseph McClain**, whose last appearance with VO was 2009's *Salome*, will direct.

ALBERT HERRING

A charming comic depiction of English village life

2013 marks Benjamin Britten's 100th birthday as well as the Vancouver Opera premiere of his brilliant satirical comedy *Albert Herring*. This new co-production with Pacific Opera Victoria places the action in the 1950s.

Albert will be sung by American-born Canadian tenor **Lawrence Wiliford**. Mr Wiliford recently released his solo recording début of late works for tenor and harp by Benjamin Britten, and recently sang the role of Albert to great acclaim at Pacific Opera Victoria.

Soprano **Sally Dibblee** will sing Lady Billows; mezzo-soprano **Rebecca Hass** will sing Mrs Herring. Both Ms. Dibblee and Ms. Hass last appeared on the VO stage in the 2010 Canadian premiere of *Nixon in China*. Superintendent Budd will be sung by **Giles Tomkins**, who last appeared with VO in 2012's *Pirates of Penzance*.

VO's Chorus Director and Associate Conductor **Leslie Dala** will lead the VO Orchestra; **Glynis Leyshon** will direct.

DON GIOVANNI

Mozart's brilliant portrait of the world's most infamous lover

Last produced by Vancouver Opera in 2006, Mozart's terrifying and dramatic *Don Giovanni* takes the stage in a spectacular new co-production. Created with The Banff Centre, the production features video designs by **Bob Bonniol**, who is known internationally for his work on high-profile concert tours, broadcast events, operas, musicals and permanent installations. Mr. Bonniol has designed for the TED conference, Blue Man Group, Microsoft, Electric Zoo and others.

Don Giovanni will be sung by Canadian bass-baritone **Daniel Okulitch**, last seen on the VO stage in the title role of 2010's *The Marriage of Figaro*. The mezzo-soprano role of Donna Elvira will be sung by **Krisztina Szabó** (March 1, 6, 8) and by **Leslie Ann Bradley** (March 7, 9). Ms. Szabó appeared on the VO stage as Musetta in 2012's *La bohème*; this will be Ms. Bradley's VO début.

Sopranos Erin Wall and Katherine Whyte will sing Donna Anna (March 1, 6, 8 and March 7, 9, respectively). Leporello and Commendatore will be sung by bass-baritones **Stephen Hegedus** and **Giles Tomkins**.

Steuart Bedford will conduct the VO Orchestra; **Kelly Robinson** will direct.

DON CARLO

A magnificent drama of a king's brutal power and a son's brash rebellion

Verdi's brilliant and powerful work returns to the VO stage after 41 years. This production in the grand opera tradition features Italian tenor **Andrea Carè**, a former student of Pavarotti, in the title role. Elizabeth will be sung by soprano **Joni Henson**. Bass **Peter Volpe** (King Philip) and baritone **Brett Polegato** (Rodrigo) return to VO for this production. Bass **Gregory Frank** will sing the Grand Inquisitor.

VO's Music Director **Jonathan Darlington** will conduct; **Michael Cavanagh**, director of VO's 2010 Canadian premiere of *Nixon in China*, will direct.

DATES, STORIES, CASTING DETAILS

TOSCA

by Giacomo Puccini

Production sponsored by Mission Hill Family Estate

In Italian with English SURTITLES™

October 26, 31, November 1, 2, 3 (matinée), 2013

All evening performances 7:30pm • Matinee performance 2:00pm.

All performances at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre.

In Rome in 1800, the cruel chief of police, Baron Scarpia, is consumed with desire for Floria Tosca, the city's most celebrated singer. Using terror, extortion, and fraud, Scarpia threatens Tosca and imprisons her revolutionary lover, Mario Cavaradossi. Before Scarpia can have his way with Tosca, she plunges a knife into his heart. In the opera's harrowing climax, the lovers are reunited, only to be betrayed, from the grave, by the evil Scarpia.

Set in a time of political and religious upheaval, Puccini's masterful drama paints three unforgettable portraits: the fiery, pure-hearted Tosca; the passionate political idealist Cavaradossi; and the deeply depraved Scarpia. Puccini's score is filled with soaring melody, authentic Roman atmosphere, and thrilling tension.

Principal Cast

Tosca: **Michele Capalbo* & Julie Makerov†**

Scarpia: **Gordon Hawkins**
Sacristan: **Thomas Goerz**

* October 26, 31, November 2 performances
† November 1, 3 (matinée) performances

ALBERT HERRING

by Benjamin Britten

Production Sponsored by YVR

In English with English SURTITLES™

November 30, December 5, 7, 8 (matinée), 2013

All evening performances 7:30pm • Matinee performance 2:00pm.

All performances at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre.

The busybodies of the May Day committee in Loxford, East Suffolk cannot find a virtuous female to be May Queen, so they name as May King the over-protected grocer's son, Albert Herring. Following an extravagant crowning ceremony, at which Albert gets tipsy on rum-spiked lemonade, he decides to cut his mother's apron strings and venture into the sensual world he sees others enjoying. After a frantic search by the entire town, Albert reappears, having enjoyed a night of debauchery. Depending on your point of view, he has been either ruined or saved.

This brilliant comedy by England's greatest opera composer is a fast-paced, witty, and devastatingly satirical portrayal of the quaint characters of a closed-in (and now vanished) community. Employing a cleverly constituted chamber orchestra, Britten uses his prodigious powers of melodic invention and parody to explore society's attitudes toward an odd but innocent individual. VO's new co-production is set in East Suffolk in the early 1950s, just after the opera's 1947 premiere.

Principal Cast

Albert Herring:	Lawrence Wiliford
Lady Billows:	Sally Dibblee
Mrs. Herring:	Rebecca Hass
Superintendent Budd:	Giles Tomkins

DON GIOVANNI

by W. A. Mozart

Production sponsored by Blakes

In Italian with English SURTITLES™

March 1, 6, 7, 8, 9 (matinée), 2014

All evening performances 7:30pm • Matinee performance 2:00pm.

All performances at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre.

Don Giovanni is a dangerously attractive aristocrat and serial seducer who leaves death and destruction in his wake. Defying both society and God in his reckless pursuit of gratification, he manages to evade the vengeful retribution of his most outraged victims, only to self-destruct in a surreal encounter with a curse-hurling stone statue.

Mozart's musical and dramatic portrait of this complex character, and of those whose lives he stains, is Shakespearean in its understanding of human nature. Filled with wisdom and beauty, and by turns funny and terrifying, *Don Giovanni* is a towering creation, which we honour with a spectacular new co-production featuring state-of-the-art stage technology and design.

Principal Cast

Don Giovanni:	Daniel Okulitch
Donna Elvira:	Krisztina Szabó* & Leslie Ann Bradley†
Donna Anna:	Erin Wall* & Katherine Whyte†
Leporello:	Stephen Hegedus* & Giles Tomkins†
Commendatore:	Giles Tomkins* & Stephen Hegedus†

* March 1, 6, 8 performances

† March 7, 9 (matinée) performances

DON CARLO

by Giuseppe Verdi

Sponsored by BMO

In Italian with English SURTITLES™

May 3, 8, 10, 11 (matinée), 2014

All evening performances 7:30pm • Matinee performance 2:00pm.

All performances at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre.

In the war-torn 16th century, peace between France and Spain is secured when a French princess, Elisabeth de Valois, is given in marriage to Spain's King Philip. The King's son, Carlo, is shattered, for he is in love with her. When Carlo dares to defend the Flemish people from Philip's persecution, he incites both his father's fury and the awesome authority of the Grand Inquisitor. Believing that he has been doubly betrayed, Philip arrests Carlo and Elisabeth. In the dramatic final scene at the tomb of Charles V, a ghostly friar rescues Carlo from the wrath of Church and State.

Spectacular on a grand scale and also extraordinarily intimate, *Don Carlo* is one of Verdi's most impressive works. His orchestral colours are brilliant, his choruses are powerful, and his music for the monstrous yet very human king, the terrifying Inquisitor, and the heroic lovers is magnificent.



news release
vancouveropera.ca

Principal Cast

Don Carlo:

Andrea Carè

Elisabeth:

Joni Henson

King Philip:

Peter Volpe

Rodrigo:

Brett Polegato

Grand Inquisitor:

Gregory Frank

SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW ON SALE

Subscriptions for Vancouver Opera's 2013-2014 Season are on sale at the VO Ticket Centre, 604-683-0222. Renewing subscribers can renew online at www.vancouveropera.ca, by mail, fax, telephone or in person.

-30-

VO's 2013-2014 Season is generously sponsored by Goldcorp