



news release
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Nearly 400 opera professionals to convene in Vancouver for OPERA America's

OPERA CONFERENCE 2013: OPERA OUT OF BOUNDS

Hosted by Vancouver Opera

Vancouver, BC ~ Vancouver Opera will be the host opera company May 6 to 11, 2013 for nearly 400 opera professionals from throughout North America for *Opera Conference 2013: Opera Out of Bounds*, in Vancouver, British Columbia. Convened by OPERA America, the national non-profit service organization for opera in North America, and held in association with the Canadian service organization Opera.ca and with Opera Volunteers International, *Opera Conference 2013* is the annual gathering of opera professionals in North America. This will be the second time the conference has been held in Vancouver; the city previously hosted in 1999.

Conference attendees will convene in various locations throughout downtown Vancouver as well as at the O'Brian Centre for Vancouver Opera. The annual conference presents a unique opportunity for industry leaders to examine issues affecting the opera community from a variety of perspectives. With "Opera Out of Bounds" as the central theme, conference attendees will delve into the impact of opera and opera companies in today's society, as the art form's definition continues to expand beyond traditional forms and opera companies extend their reach outside the opera house to the entire city. With Vancouver, one of North America's most dynamic and diverse cultural capitals, as a backdrop, *Opera Conference 2013* will explore strategies for connecting with new communities, ideas for richer audience engagement and advances in technology to increase opera's impact.

Conference activities will include sessions on marketing for culture and connection, and a general session on nurturing community relationships through new works and creative productions, with special focus on Vancouver Opera's recent First Nations-inspired production of *The Magic Flute*. A special performance of *Naomi's Road*, Vancouver Opera In Schools' touring production based on Joy Kogawa's novel, will also be

presented. This 45-minute opera explores a young Japanese-Canadian girl's experience as her family is interned during World War II.

Opera.ca, the service organization for opera in Canada, will be holding its annual colloquium on May 6 and 7, during *Opera Conference 2013*. This year's colloquium will be an opportunity for companies to address challenges and opportunities in co-producing opera with a goal of stimulating new co-productions and co-producing relationships. Kevin H. Smith, former President and CEO of Minnesota Opera, will be facilitating conversations during the colloquium.

Other highlights of *Opera Conference 2013* include keynote addresses by **Don M. Randel**, former president of The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and **David Gockley**, general director of San Francisco Opera. Her Honour, **The Honourable Judith Guichon**, OBC, Lieutenant Governor of British Columbia, will open the conference. Performances of **Tan Dun's** *Tea: A Mirror of Soul* will be on-stage during the conference; this will be the Canadian premiere of this extraordinary opera by the Academy Award®-winning composer of *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*.

"We are proud to be hosting our colleagues and I am pleased that it will be taking place during our Canadian premiere of Tan Dun's *Tea: A Mirror of Soul*," comments **James Wright**, General Director of Vancouver Opera. "There will be an incredible wealth of experience and intelligence gathered here in Vancouver next week, all working towards connecting to our communities and nurturing this unique art form."

For more information about *Opera Conference 2013*, visit www.operaamerica.org/conference. On Twitter: #OperaConf and @OPERAAmerica.

Tea: A Mirror of Soul Ticket Information

Single tickets to *Tea: A Mirror of Soul* are available from the Vancouver Opera Ticket Centre, online at 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.

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VO's 2012-2013 Season is generously sponsored by Goldcorp
This production of *Tea: A Mirror of Soul* is generously sponsored by BMO Financial Group