

TOSCA ALBERT HERRING DON GIOVANNI DON CARLO

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VO ANNOUNCES 2013 YULANDA M. FARIS YOUNG ARTISTS PROGRAM  
PARTICIPANTS

Five opera performers and one stage director chosen through national auditions  
to participate in VO's intensive training program

**Vancouver, BC** ~ Five talented opera performers and one up-and-coming stage director, chosen through national auditions, will be the latest group to receive specialized industry training, one-on-one coachings and exclusive performance opportunities when the second year of Vancouver Opera's **Yulanda M. Faris Young Artists Program** commences in September 2013.

The Yulanda M. Faris Young Artists Program (YAP) serves as a bridge between university training and a professional career. The program is made possible through a monumental gift from the family of Yulanda Faris, and is named in honour of her outstanding service to opera in Vancouver. Participants in the 2012 season of YAP - the inaugural year of the program - performed in mainstage productions, community events and private fundraising events in support of Vancouver Opera.

"One cannot underestimate the importance of mentorship in nurturing the talents of our young artists," comments **Yulanda Faris**. "It has been such a delight to observe these young artists blossom under the very comprehensive and effective training program that Vancouver Opera has devised. We are all winners when we lend a hand to support and encourage our artists as they face the long and difficult journey in pursuing careers."

In the 2013-14 season, soprano **Sheila Christie**, mezzo-soprano **Kristin Hoff**, tenor **Rocco Rupolo**, pianist **Kimberley-Ann Bartczak** and stage director **Fanny Gilbert-Collet** will participate in the comprehensive 26-week residency. Baritone **Aaron Durand** will return for his second year in the program.

The participants will receive coaching in vocal and audition techniques, along with training in movement, acting and stage combat. In addition, they will receive career counseling, stress management and health and wellness support, and insight into industry business practices and public relations.

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"We are very happy with the results of the first year of the program. It was rewarding to watch the professional and personal growth of our five artists as they progressed to new levels in their careers," comments **Tom Wright**, Vancouver Opera's Director of Artistic Planning. "We're looking forward to working with this year's talented group, and to having an assistant stage director as part of the program."

A series of master classes will also be held with visiting artists throughout the residency, allowing participants to work directly with established vocalists such as **Judith Forst**.

The singers will be cast in mainstage and understudy roles in VO's upcoming productions of *Tosca*, *Albert Herring*, *Don Giovanni* and *Don Carlo*. The YAP participants will also take part in VO's community engagement activities during the 2013-14 season.

### The Coaches

#### Music Director – Jonathan Darlington

Internationally sought-after conductor Jonathan Darlington has been the Music Director of Vancouver Opera since 2002 and was the Music Director of the Duisburg Philharmonic Orchestra.

#### Program Director – Leslie Dala

Leslie Dala is the Associate Conductor and Chorus Director of Vancouver Opera, Music Director of the Vancouver Bach Choir and Music Director of the Vancouver Academy of Music Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Dala recently conducted VO's productions of *La bohème* and *The Magic Flute*. Next season, he will conduct *Albert Herring*.

#### Principal Coach – Kinza Tyrrell

Dr. Kinza Tyrrell is Principal Répétiteur at Vancouver Opera, past Music Director of the Vancouver Opera In Schools touring program, and on the faculties of the Canadian Opera Company and the Centre for Opera Studies in Sulmona (COSI), Italy.

**Vocal Coach – Carol Isaac** Carol Isaac has been a coach and répétiteur for Vancouver Opera, San Francisco Opera and Santa Fe Opera and is currently on the music staff of The Metropolitan Opera. She has been affiliated with Canadian Opera, Washington Opera, Arizona Opera, Pittsburgh Opera, Teatro Municipal (Santiago, Chile) and Narodni Divadlo (Prague).

### The Participants

Soprano **Sheila Christie** holds a Master of Music degree in Opera Performance from the University of British Columbia and has appeared with Vancouver Opera, Burnaby Lyric Opera, Usti and Labem City Opera, the UBC Opera Ensemble, the Vancouver Philharmonic Orchestra and the Lethbridge Symphony Orchestra. She

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was semi-finalist in The Third Annual China (Ningbo) International Vocal Competition and has received an Encouragement Award at the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, a Vancouver Opera Guild grant for a promising BC singer, and the Joe Boxer Memorial Fund award from Vancouver Opera.

Mezzo-soprano **Kristin Hoff** recently made her Carnegie Hall début. She has been a soloist with the Boston Pops Symphony Orchestra, the Mark Morris Dance Company, l'Orchestre Symphoniques des Jeunes de Montréal, Chants Libres, Le Nouvel Ensemble Moderne, Ensemble Sinfonia, l'Orchestre de la francophonie, Talisker Players, Tapestry New Opera and the Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra. Ms. Hoff was chosen as a Caramoor Vocal Rising Star in 2012 and is a recent first prize winner in the NYCO Mozart Vocal Competition. Her recent roles include Anna Murrant, Ottavia, Marcellina, Prinz Orlofsky, Donna Elvira, Mrs. Anderssen, Carmen, the Mezzo-Soprano in Claude Vivier's *Kopernikus*, and Dryade in *Ariadne auf Naxos*. This season, Ms. Hoff will perform the role of Tebaldo in Vancouver Opera's production of *Don Carlo*.

Tenor **Rocco Rupolo** is in his second year of the Opera Diploma Program at the University of Toronto. During his studies, he has sung the roles of Ferrando in *Così fan tutte*, Monsieur Lacouff in *Les Mamelles de Tirésias*, L'Amante in *Amelia al Ballo*, Cecco in *Il mondo della luna*, and the Governor/Ensemble in *Candide*. His recent performances include Nemorino in Donizetti's *L'Elisir d'amore* and Pâris in Offenbach's *La Belle Hélène* at the University of Toronto, as well as Anthony in *Sweeney Todd* with the Aspen Summer Music Festival.

Baritone **Aaron Durand** began his opera studies at the Victoria Conservatory of Music. He transferred to UBC in 2007 and has since performed lead roles in *Così fan tutte*, *Louis Riel*, *Die Zauberflöte*, *Cendrillon*, *Albert Herring*, and *The Merry Widow*. He recently participated in Vancouver Opera's Young Artist Coaching Intensive and completed his Masters in Music at UBC. Mr. Durand returns to the Young Artists Program after participating in last season's inaugural year, during which he appeared as Schaunard in *La bohème*, Samuel in *The Pirates of Penzance*, and The Speaker in *The Magic Flute*.

Pianist **Kimberley-Ann Bartczak** holds a Bachelor's Degree and an Advanced Performance Studies Diploma in Solo Piano from Concordia University, with additional training at the Centre for Opera Studies in Italy (COSI). She is currently in the final year of her Master's Degree in Collaborative Piano at the University of Toronto. Ms. Bartczak is the répétiteur for the University of Toronto's opera program and accompanist for the Women's Chorus at the University of Toronto and the Mississauga Festival Choir and was recently music director for Opera 5's production of Milton Granger's *Talk Opera*. Ms. Bartczak has received the Garth and Marjorie Beckett scholarship twice during her studies. This summer, she will be a pianist and coach at Opera on the Avalon and St. Andrews Opera Workshop.

Stage Director **Fanny Gilbert-Collet** completed her Masters in Fine Arts in Theatre Directing at the University

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of Ottawa in 2011, where she directed *Pelléas et Mélisande*, *Judith* (Barker) and *Medea-Material* (Müller). Ms. Gilbert-Collet has taught classes at the University of Ottawa as well as workshops with Théâtre la Catapulte, Théâtre Action and Le Festival intercollégial and has appeared as an assistant stage director for Opera NUOVA in Edmonton and for a remounting of *Die Zauberflöte* (directed by Mariame Clément) in Nice. This summer, Ms. Gilbert-Collet will return to NUOVA Edmonton to direct *Les Dialogues des Carmélites* through the Vocal Arts Festival.

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