

# OPERA ATELIER *timeless*

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## **Two thrilling stories of the Trojan War inspire Opera Atelier's 2007/08 season**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Toronto, ON (April 16, 2007)...For hundreds of years, great artists have turned to the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* for inspiration. Opera Atelier's 2007/08 season focuses on two thrilling stories from the Trojan War that have been the catalyst for two operatic masterpieces by Monteverdi and Mozart.

The season begins in October with Canada's first fully staged period production of Monteverdi's *The Return of Ulysses*. This deeply moving opera recounts the story of the Greek king Ulysses and his return to his homeland after a twenty-year absence fighting in the Trojan War.

*The Return of Ulysses* stars **Alain Coulombe** (Neptune), **Carla Huhtanen** (Minerva/Love), **Olivier Laquerre** (Ulysses/Human Frailty), **Stephanie Novacek** (Penelope), **Laura Pudwell** (Pisandro), **Vicki St. Pierre** (Ericlea), **Michiel Schrey** (Eurimaco), **Kevin Skelton** (Anfinomo/Jove), **Jennie Such** (Fortune/Melanto), **Curtis Sullivan** (Antinoos/Time), **Lawrence Wiliford** (Eumete), and **Artists of Atelier Ballet** accompanied by Canada's finest Renaissance ensemble, the **Toronto Consort**, conducted by **David Fallis**. *The Return of Ulysses* will be sung in Italian with English and French SURTITLES™ and will run **October 27, 28, 30, November 1, 2, and 3, 2007**.

The season continues in the spring of 2008 with a new production of Mozart's *Idomeneo*. Described as "one of those works that even a genius of the highest rank, like Mozart, could write only once in his life," *Idomeneo* tells the story of *another* Greek hero of the Trojan War who is forced to choose between the life of his son and a terrible promise he has made to Poseidon, the god of the sea.

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This production will feature the extraordinary American male soprano **Michael Maniaci** in the role of Idamante, **Peggy Kriha Dye** as Ilia, **Curtis Sullivan** as La Voce, with **Artists of Atelier Ballet** and **Tafelmusik Orchestra** conducted by **David Fallis**. *Idomeneo* will be sung in Italian with English and French SURTITLES™ and runs **April 26, 27, 29, May 1, 2 and 3, 2008**. The production of *Idomeneo* is generously sponsored by **BMO Financial Group**.

Both productions in the 2007/08 season will be directed by **Marshall Pynkoski** and choreographed by **Jeannette Zingg**, Opera Atelier's co-artistic directors, with set designs by **Gerard Gauci** and lighting by **Kevin Fraser**.

Performances for Opera Atelier's 2007/08 season will take place at the Elgin Theatre (189 Yonge Street) in Toronto with evening performances beginning at **7:30 p.m.**, and Sunday matinee performances beginning at **3:00 p.m.**

Subscriptions for Opera Atelier's 2007/08 season are on sale now and may be purchased by calling **416-703-3767 ext. 24**.

We are delighted to announce an expansion of Opera Atelier's partnership with **Sun Life Financial**. New this year, **Sun Life Financial** is Opera Atelier's Season Title Sponsor.

"Over the past twenty years, Sun Life Financial has consistently supported Opera Atelier. This year, we are proud to enhance our partnership as we take on a new role as Season Title Sponsor. This two year commitment will allow Sun Life Financial to have an increased presence in Toronto's dynamic arts community while assisting Opera Atelier in realizing their artistic goals," said Donald A. Stewart, Chief Executive Officer, Sun Life Financial.

Opera Atelier also gratefully acknowledges the ongoing support of the Canada Council, Ontario Arts Council, and City of Toronto through the Toronto Arts Council.

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