



presented by



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Opera Atelier's 2009/10 Season delivers a one-two knock-out punch!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Toronto, ON (February 9, 2009)... Today, Opera Atelier announced the details of its 2009/10 season featuring the two most revolutionary operas of the 18th century.

The season begins in October with a revival of Christoph Willibald Gluck's great reform opera, *Iphigénie en Tauride*, which tells the story of Iphigénie, the Greek princess who is abandoned on the island of Tauride for the duration of the Trojan War. Miraculously reunited with her brother Oreste following the murder of their mother (Clytemnestra), Iphigénie's courage and self-sacrifice ensures their safe return to Greece.

The opera attacked the very core of French operatic tradition and caused a sensation when it premiered at the Paris Opera in 1779, and again when Opera Atelier first staged it in 2003. Hailed as a work of genius by ecstatic critics, *Iphigénie en Tauride* is considered the greatest triumph of Gluck's career.

American soprano **Peggy Kriha Dye**, a favourite with OA audiences, returns next season as Iphigénie. Croatian tenor **Kresimir Spicer**, who sang the title role in last season's *Idomeneo*, returns as her brother Oreste. Canadian tenor **Thomas Macleay** makes his company debut as Pylade, lifelong friend of Oreste. Thoas, King of Tauride, is sung by bass-baritone **Olivier Laquerre**, and bass-baritone **Curtis Sullivan** returns in the role of Le Ministre. Esteemed British conductor **Andrew Parrott** returns to lead the **Tafelmusik Orchestra and Chamber Choir** and the full corps of **Artists of Atelier Ballet**. This production is directed by **Marshall Pynkoski** and choreographed by **Jeannette Lajeunesse-Zingg** with set designs by **Gerard Gauci**, costumes by **Dora Rust D'Eye**, and lighting by **Kevin Fraser**. *Iphigénie en Tauride* runs **October 31, November 1, 3, 4, 6 and 7, 2009** and is sung in French with English SURTITLES™.

The season continues in the spring with a new production of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's popular *The Marriage of Figaro*. Based on the shocking Beaumarchais play, Mozart's racy tale of love, betrayal and forgiveness is a hilarious and subversive social commentary about a world on the brink of revolution.

This marks the third new Mozart production of Opera Atelier's ambitious "Mozart Six" plan which to date includes *Idomeneo* (2007) and *The Abduction from the Seraglio* (2008). Costume designer **Martha Mann**, winner of six Gemini awards, makes her company debut. Ms. Mann's credits include *Anne of Green Gables*, *Road to Avonlea*, *Glory Enough for All*, *Aida* (Boston Lyric Opera), *Intermezzo* (New York City Opera), and *The Mikado* (Glimmerglass Opera).

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The creative team also includes director **Marshall Pynkoski**, choreographer **Jeannette Lajeunesse-Zingg**, set designer **Gerard Gauci**, and lighting designer **Bonnie Beecher**. **David Fallis** conducts the **Tafelmusik Orchestra**.

Bass-baritone **Olivier Laquerre** brings his comedic talents to his debut performance as Figaro, wily manservant to Count Almaviva. Soprano **Carla Huhtanen** is his fiancée Susanna. Acclaimed Canadian baritone **Philip Addis** makes his OA debut as Count Almaviva, and soprano **Peggy Kriha Dye** appears as Countess Almaviva. Bass-baritone **Curtis Sullivan** sings the role of Dr. Bartolo and mezzo-soprano **Laura Pudwell** is his housekeeper, Marcellina. Mezzo-soprano **Wallis Giunta** makes her main stage debut with Opera Atelier as the young love-struck page Cherubino. *The Marriage of Figaro* will be sung in English with English SURTITLES™ and runs **April 24, 25, 27, 28, 30, and May 1, 2010**.

Performances for Opera Atelier's 2009/10 season will take place at the Elgin Theatre (189 Yonge Street) in Toronto. Evening performances begin at **7:30 p.m.**, and Sunday matinee performances begin at **3:00 p.m.**

Subscriptions for Opera Atelier's 2009/10 season are on sale now and may be purchased by calling **416-703-3767 ext. 22**. Single tickets for *Iphigénie en Tauride* go on sale August 17, 2009. For more information visit www.operaatelier.com.

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

2009/10 Season Sponsor: Sun Life Financial

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Opera Atelier is Canada's premier baroque theatre company, producing opera, ballet and drama from the 17th and 18th centuries. While drawing upon the aesthetics and ideals of the period, Opera Atelier goes beyond "reconstruction" and infuses each production with an inventive theatricality that resonates with modern audiences. Over the past two decades, lead by founding director Marshall Pynkoski and founding choreographer Jeannette Lajeunesse-Zingg, Opera Atelier has garnered acclaim for its performances at home as well as in the United States, Europe and Asia.

Iphigénie – pronounced ee-FEE-zhen-nee