



**Media Contact:**  
Bronwen Bradley  
416-703-3767 x224  
Bronwen.Bradley@operaatelier.com

**2013-2014 season features the return of two jewels in Opera Atelier's crown**  
**- Plus an engagement at the Palace of Versailles, France -**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 5, 2013 (Toronto, ON) – Opera Atelier's founding co-artistic directors Marshall Pynkoski and Jeannette Lajeunesse Zingg today announced the company's **2013-2014 season**, which will include a return engagement at the Royal Opera House in the Palace of Versailles. The spring 2014 production of Lully's *Persée* will travel to Versailles for three performances, following its run at the Elgin Theatre in Toronto (**Apr. 26 – May 3, 2014**). The 13-14 season will kick off in October with the return of Mozart's *Abduction from the Seraglio* (**Oct. 26 – Nov. 2, 2013**), the runaway hit from Opera Atelier's 2008 season.

*Persée* is a landmark production for Opera Atelier. The company's 2000 production was the first fully staged incarnation of the opera since it inaugurated the Royal Opera House at Versailles in 1770 during the wedding celebrations of the future King Louis XVI to Marie Antoinette. Opera Atelier's 2004 remount of *Persée* was the subject of a documentary which has subsequently become an international calling card for Opera Atelier, both for the public and for presenters around the world. Following the astounding success of *Armide* in 2012, The Royal Opera House has invited Opera Atelier back to Versailles with *Persée*, which will mark the first time the opera has appeared on that stage since 1770. *Persée* will be performed three times **at The Royal Opera House, Versailles on May 23, 24, and 25, 2014**. This prestigious engagement has allowed Opera Atelier to enhance *Persée*'s visual elements, making it the company's most lavish production to date. The moving story of a man's ascension from his questionable beginnings to his rightful place as a god, *Persée* is a retelling of the classical Greek Perseus myth.

"*Persée* was recognized in its day as the crowning achievement of French lyric theatre," say Pynkoski and Zingg. "We are honoured that Opera Atelier has been chosen as the company to bring *Persée* back to the Royal Opera House, which it officially opened almost 250 years ago."

The role of *Persée* will be performed by **Chris Enns** making his Opera Atelier debut with his first haute-contre role. **Mireille Asselin** will take on the role of **Andromède**, whose rival **Mérope** will be played by **Peggy Kriha Dye**, who returns to Versailles after her star turn as *Armide*. They are joined by **Olivier Laquerre** (Céphée/Méduse) **Carla Huhtanen** (Cassiope), **João Fernandes** (Phinée), **Lawrence Wiliford**, **Curtis Sullivan**, **Aaron Ferguson**, **Meghan Lindsay** and **Vasil Garvanliev**. *Persée* runs **April 26, 27, 29, 30 and May 2 and 3, 2014** and is sung in French with English surtitles.

Opera Atelier's 2013-2014 season begins with Mozart's ***Abduction from the Seraglio***, a colourful comedy that tells of the charming antics of Belmonte and Pedrillo, a master and servant who must rescue their beloveds from the harem of the Pasha Selim. A revival of Opera Atelier's highly successful production, this opera features some of Mozart's most demanding arias and is grounded in the commedia dell'arte tradition, making it the perfect showcase for our artists' vocal prowess and comedic acting chops. Appealing to children, youth and families, *Abduction from the Seraglio* is part of Opera Atelier's ongoing commitment to cultivate the opera-lovers of tomorrow.

*Abduction from the Seraglio* will feature **Lawrence Wiliford** as Belmonte, **Ambur Braid** as Konstanze, **Carla Huhtanen** as Blondie, and **Adam Fischer** as Pedrillo. They will be joined by **Gustav Andreassen** (Osmin) and **Curtis Sullivan** (Pasha Selim), reprising their roles. *Abduction from the Seraglio* runs **October 26, 27, 29, 30, November 1 and 2** and is sung in German with English dialogue and English surtitles.

*Abduction from the Seraglio* and *Persée* will be directed by **Marshall Pynkoski** and choreographed by **Jeannette Lajeunesse Zingg**, with set design by **Gerard Gauci** and lighting design by **Bonnie Beecher**. Both productions will feature the **Artists of Atelier Ballet** and **Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra and Chamber Choir** under the baton of **David Fallis**.

Performances for Opera Atelier's 2013-2014 Season will take place at the **Elgin Theatre** (189 Yonge Street) in Toronto with evening performances at **7:30 p.m.**, and Sunday matinee performances at **3:00 p.m.** Subscriptions start at \$95 and are on sale now by calling **416-703-3767 x222**. Single tickets go on sale on August 6, 2013. For more information visit Opera Atelier's newly re-launched website: [www.operaatelier.com](http://www.operaatelier.com).

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

#### 2013-2014 Major Sponsors

Season Sponsor: BMO Financial Group

*Abduction from the Seraglio* Production Sponsor: Scotiabank

**Opera Atelier** is Canada's premier period opera/ballet company, specializing in 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. Since 1985, led by founding artistic directors Marshall Pynkoski and Jeannette Lajeunesse Zingg, Opera Atelier has garnered acclaim for its performances at home as well as in the United States, Europe and Asia.

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