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CONCERTS

2016-2017
OUR 60TH SEASON

LA BOHÈME

UBC OPERA ENSEMBLE
NANCY HERMISTON, DIRECTOR

with the

UBC OPERA ENSEMBLE ORCHESTRA
LESLIE DALA, CONDUCTOR

.....

FRIDAY MARCH 31, 2017



AETERNA

Pergolesi Stabat Mater & Duruflé Requiem

8pm Friday, April 14, 2017 | Orpheum Theatre

Vancouver Chamber Choir and Orchestra | Pacifica Singers | Jon Washburn, Conductor

The Vancouver Chamber Choir brings you the finest repertoire for chorus and orchestra every Good Friday in hopes that you will make it part of your family's musical tradition. Enjoy Pergolesi's magnificent *Stabat Mater*, a pinnacle of Italian Baroque music, and the sublimely beautiful *Requiem* based on Gregorian chant by French master Maurice Duruflé.

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A TRIBUTE TO

GEORGE ZUKERMAN

O.C., O.B.C.

MUSICAL VIRTUOSO, IMPRESARIO AND VISIONARY

THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2017

8:00 PM TICKETS: \$30

BELL CENTRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

IN HONOUR OF GEORGE'S RETIREMENT AFTER 60 YEARS OF STEERING WHITE ROCK CONCERTS TO BECOMING A WORLD-CLASS SERIES -- AND TO MARK HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY THIS SEASON - WE ARE PRESENTING AN EXCITING EVENT WITH SOME OF CANADA'S FINEST ENSEMBLES AND MUSICIANS.

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White Rock Concerts P.O. Box 45089, RPO Ocean Park, Surrey, BC V4A 9L1
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About the Artists

The UBC Opera Ensemble

The University of British Columbia Opera Ensemble was founded by Canadian lyric coloratura, Nancy Hermiston, in 1995. Beginning with a core of seven performers, Ms. Hermiston has built the program to a 90-member company. They perform three main productions at UBC every season, several Opera Tea Concerts, and several engagements with local community partners. The Ensemble's mission is to educate young, gifted opera singers, preparing them for international careers. Past mainstage productions have included 30 productions of a broad range - from the world's best known opera favourites to the western Canadian premiere of Harry Somer's *Louis Riel*. The 2016/2017 Season includes *The Consul*, *Eugene Onegin* and *Ariadne auf Naxos*.



Nancy Hermiston, Director

Nancy Hermiston's operatic career has taken her throughout Canada, the United States and Europe. Her New York debut took place in Carnegie Hall with Marilyn Horne and Mario Bernardi. Her European debut led to a permanent engagement with the prestigious Nürnberg Opera. She has held numerous appointments as voice teacher, and as stage director at the Meistersinger Konservatorium, Nürnberg, and the University of Toronto Opera and Performance Divisions. She was appointed to the UBC faculty in 1995 as Coordinator of the Voice and Opera Division and also serves as University Marshall. In 2014, she was appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada for her achievements as an opera singer, stage director and educator.



Leslie Dala, Conductor

Conductor Leslie Dala enjoys a multi-faceted career spanning the genres of opera, symphonic music, choral and contemporary works. On the podium, he is known for his passionate, dynamic and charismatic approach to music making. Named one of the "Top Ten Artistic Leaders" by the Vancouver Sun, Dala's national profile has grown steadily with guest conducting appearances with Pacific Opera Victoria, Edmonton Opera, COSI Festival in Sulmona, Italy, Vancouver's Goh Ballet and

the University of Toronto Opera. In his position as Music Director of the Vancouver Bach Choir and the Vancouver Academy of Music Symphony Orchestra, Dala has led performances in a wide range of orchestral and choral repertoire. He is a frequent guest conductor with the UBC Opera Ensemble and conducts their annual performance at the Bard on the Beach Festival.

UBC Opera Ensemble Members of the Orchestra

Violin 1

Mark Ferris
Ellen Farrugia
Karina Slupski

Violin 2

Domagoj Ivanovic
Ken Lin

Viola

Manti Poon
Marie-Claude Brunet

Cello

Rebecca Wenham
Sue Round

Bass

Les Kasprzak

Flute

Brenda Fedoruk

Oboe

David Owen

Clarinet

Mary Backun

Bassoon

Ingrid Chiang

French Horn

Laurel Spencer

Trumpet

Tom Shorthouse

Keyboard

David Boothroyd

LA BOHEME - PUCCINI

Mimi - Kallie Clayton
Rodolfo - Scott Rumble
Musetta - Tamar Simon
Marcello - Geoffrey Schellenberg
Schaunard - Alireza Mojibian
Colline - Matthew McLellen
Benoit/Alcindoro - Luka Kawabata

.....

Act I - An attic in Paris, December 24, evening

In their shabby attic, the painter Marcello and the poet Rodolfo complain of the cold. In order to light the stove Rodolfo decides to sacrifice one of his manuscripts, and the two enjoy a moment of warmth before the fire fades away. Colline, their philosopher roommate, arrives having failed to sell some books. However at the moment of total despair, the fourth Bohemian, the musician Schaunard arrives triumphantly with wood, food, wine and money. He tries to tell his friends how he succeeded in obtaining this surprising fortune, but the other three are not interested in his tales and set the table for the meal they have craved for so many days. But Schaunard will have nothing of this. On Christmas Eve they will eat out he decrees. As the four are about to leave, Benoit, their landlord, appears and pronounces just a single word: "rent". He is invited inside, offered some wine and begins to tell the four young Bohemians about his amorous adventures. And then in the name of virtue they throw the married landlord out and escape paying the rent one more time.

La Boheme - Story

Rodolfo decides to stay behind in order to finish a newspaper article while his friends promise to wait downstairs. A weak knock is heard and the neighbor Mimi enters asking Rodolfo to light her candle which has blown out on the staircase. She is very weak and faints. Rodolfo assists her and as she revives he lights her candle and she hurries out, immediately returning as the wind has blown out the candle once again. This time Rodolfo quickly blows out his own candle too and in the darkness Mimi drops her key. She asks Rodolfo to help her find it and when he does he conceals it in his pocket and continues searching until his hand touches Mimi's hand. "Your tiny hand is frozen," says Rodolfo and in a beautiful aria tells her that he is a poet who loves life. In her own aria which follows, Mimi says that her real name is Lucia and that she does not know why everybody calls her Mimi. She tells him that she embroiders flowers for a living. The three Bohemians downstairs wonder what has happened to Rodolfo and call him to hurry. He sends them off, intending to spend the evening with Mimi inside. But she begs him to go and join his friends promising, in a very suggestive manner, a surprise for later in the evening. Rodolfo offers his arm to Mimi and they leave together singing of their love to each other.

Act II - Outside the Cafe Momus in the Latin Quarter, later that evening

It is Christmas Eve and the Latin Quarter is crowded. Children rush after the toy seller Parpignol. The Bohemians discover that there is no free table inside the Cafe Momus and so they decide to dine outside on the pavement. Colline has had his beard trimmed, Schaunard has picked up a girl and only Marcello is alone. Rodolfo buys Mimi a bonnet and introduces her to his friends. Suddenly Marcello notices his old flame Musetta walk by expensively dressed on the arm of the old yet wealthy Alcindoro and followed by footmen loaded with parcels. Musetta also notices her former lover and sits close to him trying to attract his attention. She breaks plates, makes a fuss about her meal, yet Marcello remains indifferent and begins flirting with some other girls. Musetta does not give up, climbs on one of the tables and sings her beautiful waltz-like aria in which she describes how everybody stares at her as she walks in the streets. But in between the lines she is speaking directly to Marcello

La Boheme - Story

asking him to stop his games and come and embrace her. Pretending that one of her shoes is pinching her feet she sends Alcindoro to get a new one and throws herself into Marcello's arms. As the six merry makers are about to depart a waiter brings their bill, but they have no money left. Musetta adds their bill to hers and they all leave the stage happily.

INTERMISSION

ACT III - Outside a tavern by the Barriere d'enfer, one of the Paris toll gates. A cold, wet February dawn

Customs men are searching the peasants, milkmaids and the workers from the suburbs who are coming into the city to work. Musetta's voice is heard from the nearby tavern. Mimi approaches looking for Marcello. She begs him to intervene on her behalf with Rodolfo as his jealousy has made their life together impossible. She hides when Rodolfo comes out of the tavern. He tells Marcello that he has had enough of Mimi and that he cannot stand her flirtations. But then he reveals the real truth: Mimi is very ill and his life of poverty will kill her, which is why they must part. Mimi, overhears their conversation and for the first time actually realizes that her illness is indeed fatal. She faints and when she comes to her senses she accepts Rodolfo's decision to part, but since they cannot bear to part immediately they agree to stay together until spring. Marcello and Musetta quarrel outside the tavern, Musetta arguing that she cannot stand his jealousy and she hates lovers who behave like husbands. The bickering of the two lovers serves a perfect contrast to the peaceful and tranquil acceptance of love of Rodolfo and Mimi who leave hand in hand.

ACT IV - The attic, early summer

Just as in the opening act, Marcello and Rodolfo are trying to work, but without any success. Then it was the cold air that prevented them from concentrating. Now it is the cold feeling from inside. Both are alone and while pretending to be happy neither can forget the memory

of his love. Colline and Schaunard come in with some food, but this time only bread and herring. They improvise a meal, pretend to be at a ball and even fight a mock duel, when Musetta bursts in telling them that Mimi is very ill but does not dare to come in. Rodolfo rushes outside and brings Mimi in, and Musetta says that as she heard Mimi was ill she searched for her all over Paris. When she finally found her, Mimi expressed one wish only, to come to and die near Rodolfo. To make her last moments easier everyone tries to satisfy Mimi's last desires. Musetta gives her earrings to Marcello and asks him to buy Mimi a warm muff. Colline goes to pawn his coat and bring a doctor. Alone with Rodolfo, Mimi recalls their first meeting, their short spell of happiness, their dreams and their love. She thanks her friends as they return and closes her eyes. As Musetta prays for Mimi's health Schaunard discovers that Mimi is dead and Marcello tries in vein to comfort Rodolfo.

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George's Blog



Well, friends! Here we are at the end of another great season, the first all-Bergmann series and every bit as polished and exciting as we anticipated. It has been a truly remarkable experience for me - weaning myself away from the profound involvement with which I have become so accustomed over the years!

I actually prepared a list of all the wonderful things that I *haven't* done since the 2016-17 season was launched last September with the *Lafayette String Quartet*.

I have not worried myself silly over whether the church has enough music stands on hand for the John Avison Chamber Orchestra.

I have not been woken at 2 a.m. with telephone calls from Beijing International Airport, telling me that our scheduled artists would not be arriving at YVR until 4 p.m. on concert day!

I have not tried desperately to reach Marguerite Sawatzky (who arranges back-stage snacks for our artists) to make sure she knows that the visiting cellist is a 100% vegan!

I have not initiated a Federal non-resident tax deduction waiver for our visiting artists from the USA, only to discover that the artist is in fact a Canadian resident and tax-payer!

I have not realized (two days before a concert) that we don't need the 9-foot Fazioli, but should have arranged for a 2 manual Italian harpsichord.

I have not thought of critical information for our pre-concert screen announcements and arrived at the hall to discover that the item has been conspicuously displayed - entirely without me!

I have not suffered nightmares, dreaming that I had inadvertently forgotten to rent the church for the concert on the scheduled night!

And the same nightmare in reverse: I have not suddenly realized that the artists have been contracted for March 31, 2018 instead of for this current season!

Those are a few of the wonderful things I *didn't* do! By converse reasoning, you have probably

now figured out that the *Bergmanns* dealt with all of them! (and many more, too!) Yes...it's quite a job and I am proud to have handled it for so many seasons, but equally happy to see it passed along to such capable hands for many future seasons to come.

Enjoy tonight's *La Bohème*!

George Zukerman, O.C., O.B.C.



White Rock Concerts
Annual General Meeting
Monday, June 5 2017
The Club House, 15550 - 26th Ave., Surrey, B.C.
At 7.30 p.m.



"Music & Magic"

with
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Alison Kim & Melody Ye Yuan

presented by CFUW
The Canadian Federation of University Women White Rock/Surrey

Saturday June 3, 2017 Social 6:30 pm Performance 7:15 pm
Meet and mingle with Mr. Zukerman afterwards - 8:30 to 9:30

at The Wheelhouse Theatre 15751 - 61th Avenue (Earl Marriott Secondary School)

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