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French Baroque Masterpiece *Medea* Continues Opera Atelier's 16-17 Season

- Charpentier's opera stars soprano Peggy Kriha Dye and tenor Colin Ainsworth -

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Toronto, ON (Jan. 17, 2017) – Opera Atelier's 16-17 season continues with Marc-Antoine Charpentier's *Medea* at the **Elgin Theatre, Apr. 22-29, 2017**. Following its Toronto run, *Medea* will tour to the Royal Opera House at the **Palace of Versailles**, marking the first time that Charpentier's masterpiece has played in the Royal Opera House. The production stars soprano Peggy Kriha Dye and Canadian tenor Colin Ainsworth, the powerhouse partnership that gained international acclaim in Opera Atelier's *Armide*.

DATES & TIMES: Saturday Apr. 22, 7:30 pm (media night)
Sunday Apr. 23, 3:00 pm
Tuesday Apr. 25, 7:30 pm
Wednesday, Apr. 26, 7:30 pm
Friday Apr. 28, 7:30 pm
Saturday Apr. 29, 4:30 pm

TICKET PRICES: \$39 - \$194

BOX OFFICE: Ticketmaster at **1-855-622-ARTS(2787)** or www.ticketmaster.ca

VENUE: The Elgin Theatre, 189 Yonge Street, Toronto

WEB PAGE: www.operaatelier.com

A refugee from the Kingdom of Colchis (present-day Georgia) the powerful princess Medea forsakes her family and country to assist her lover Jason in his quest for the Golden Fleece. When he betrays her, she exacts a dizzying vengeance of which only a sorceress could be capable. Based on the ancient Greek myth popularized by Euripides' play of the same name, with a libretto by French dramatist Thomas Corneille, Charpentier's *Medea* premiered at the Théâtre du Palais-Royale in Paris in 1693.

Medea features soprano **Peggy Kriha Dye** and Canadian tenor **Colin Ainsworth** singing the lead roles of Medea and Jason. They are joined by **Mireille Asselin** (Créuse), **Meghan Lindsay** (Nérine), **Jesse Blumberg** (Oronte), **Karine White** (Cléone), **Stephen Hegedus**, **Christopher Enns**, **Kevin Skelton**, and **Olivier Laquerre**. *Medea* will be directed by **Marshall Pynkoski** and choreographed by **Jeannette Lajeunesse Zingg**, with set design by **Gerard Gauci** and lighting design by **Michelle Ramsay**. The production will feature the full corps of **Artists of Atelier Ballet**, and **Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra and Chamber Choir** under the baton of **David Fallis**. *Medea* is sung in French with English surtitles.

The tour of *Medea* to the **Palace of Versailles** (May 19, 20 and 21, 2017) is Opera Atelier's special project in honour of **Canada's sesquicentennial**, and is part of the company's engagement to perform at the Royal Opera House every two years. Opera Atelier has also been invited to perform a concert in the Royal Chapel – the first North American company ever to receive this honour. Mireille Asselin and Stephen Hegedus will sing Purcell excerpts in English, with dances performed by Jeannette Lajeunesse Zingg, Juri Hiraoka and Tyler Gledhill, choreographed by Zingg. In addition, Opera Atelier has commissioned a new Canadian composition for period instruments by Tafelmusik violinist **Edwin Huizinga**, which will feature Canada's acclaimed modern dancer **Tyler Gledhill** performing original choreography.

Tickets for *Medea* in Toronto start at \$39 and can be purchased through Ticketmaster at **1-855-622-ARTS(2787)** or www.ticketmaster.ca, or at the Elgin Theatre Box Office (189 Yonge Street). Group discounts (10+ people) are available by calling 416-703-3767 x222. For more information, visit www.operaatelier.com.

\$15 Operatix tickets may be purchased by patrons aged 15-30 in person at the Elgin Theatre Box Office or online with the code OPERATIX. (Subject to availability. Valid I.D. required at pick-up.) **NEW!** Special Operatix Evening on Friday April 28, featuring a post-performance party with Opera Atelier artists for ticket-holders age 30 and under. The Operatix program is proudly sponsored by **TD**.

2016-2017 Major Sponsors

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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

Opera Atelier is North America's premier period opera/ballet company, producing the opera, ballet and drama of the 17th, 18th, and 19th 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. Led by founding artistic directors Marshall Pynkoski and Jeannette Lajeunesse Zingg since 1985, Opera Atelier has garnered acclaim for its performances at home as well as in the United States, Europe and Asia.

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Images are available for download at operaatelier.com