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Opera Atelier Celebrates 25 extraordinary years as Canada's Baroque Opera Company

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Toronto, ON (February 1, 2010)... Opera Atelier celebrates its 25th Anniversary Season with two new productions: one pays tribute to the company's roots, the second points to its ambitious plans for the future.

The season opens with OA's first fully-staged production of Handel's pastorella *Acis and Galatea*. Based on Ovid's tale of the water nymph Galatea and her doomed love for the Arcadian shepherd Acis, it is one of Handel's most popular creations. Tenor **Thomas Macleay**, who thrilled Toronto audiences with his performance in last season's *Iphigénie en Tauride*, will sing the title role of Acis partnered with Canadian soprano **Mireille Asselin**, in her company debut as Galatea. They are joined by bass **João Fernandes** who appears as the giant Polyphemus and tenor **Lawrence Wiliford** as the spirit Damon. *Acis* will also feature **Artists of Atelier Ballet**, and **Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra and Chamber Choir** under the baton of **David Fallis**.

This production is directed by **Marshall Pynkoski** and choreographed by **Jeannette Lajeunesse Zingg**. Both sets and costumes will be designed by **Gerard Gauci** – a first for OA! The production will be lit by **Kevin Fraser**. *Acis and Galatea* runs **October 30, November 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7, 2010** and is sung in English with English SURTITLES™.

The spring production will be North America's first period production of Mozart's *La Clemenza di Tito*. In Mozart's lifetime, *La Clemenza di Tito* was considered "his most perfect work", enjoying enormous success in Vienna, Prague, Berlin, Naples, St. Petersburg, Paris and London. Desperate intrigues, unrequited love and heart stopping reversals of fortune punctuate this thrilling story taken directly from Roman history. This is the fourth new Mozart production of Opera Atelier's ambitious "Mozart Six" plan which to date includes *Idomeneo* (2007), *The Abduction from the Seraglio* (2008) and *The Marriage of Figaro* (which opens April 2010). Opera Atelier has re-assembled the most famous cast in the company's history for this exciting production. Full casting will be announced at a later date. *La Clemenza di Tito* will be sung in Italian with English SURTITLES™ and runs **April 22, 23, 26, 27, 30, and May 1, 2011**.

The creative team for *La Clemenza di Tito* includes director **Marshall Pynkoski**, choreographer **Jeannette Lajeunesse Zingg**, designer **Gerard Gauci**, and lighting designer **Bonnie Beecher**. **David Fallis** conducts the **Tafelmusik Orchestra**.

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Performances for Opera Atelier's 25th Anniversary 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 2010/11 season start at \$55 and are on sale now by calling **416-703-3767 ext. 22**. Subscriptions purchased before April 30th will save the HST. Single tickets for *Acis and Galatea* go on sale August 16, 2010. 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.

2010/11 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.