



presented by



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Opera Atelier unveils a new production of Mozart's popular comedy
***The Marriage of Figaro* on April 24th**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Toronto, ON (March 9, 2010) ...Opera Atelier unveils a new production of Mozart's popular comedy *The Marriage of Figaro* at Toronto's Elgin Theatre (189 Yonge Street). Sung in English with English SURTITLES™, performances run **April 24, 25, 27, 28, 30 and May 1, 2010** beginning at 7:30 p.m. with the exception of the April 25th Sunday matinee at 3 p.m.

The Marriage of Figaro, Mozart's racy tale of love, betrayal and forgiveness is a hilarious and subversive social commentary about a world on the brink of revolution, based on the Beaumarchais play of the same name.

As the opera opens, Figaro is preparing for his wedding that day to Countess Rosina's maid, Susanna. Much to her dismay, Susanna finds herself the latest object of the Count's advances, and to make matters worse, he keeps manufacturing excuses to delay the civil ceremony. Susanna, Figaro and the Countess conspire to embarrass the Count and expose his scheming once and for all. Through their clever intrigues, the Count's love for the Countess is finally restored.

Opera Atelier welcomes Gemini award-winning costume designer **Martha Mann** as she makes her company debut designing the third new Mozart production of OA's ambitious "Mozart Six" plan. Ms. Mann's television credits include *Anne of Green Gables*, *Road to Avonlea*, *Glory Enough for All* and she has designed costumes for Boston Lyric Opera, New York City Opera, Glimmerglass Opera, Washington Opera, The Stratford Festival, The National Arts Centre and The Kennedy Center. Martha Mann is partnered with OA's resident scenic designer **Gerard Gauci**, who creates his first *Figaro* for the company. Opera Atelier's co-artistic directors **Marshall Pynkoski** and **Jeannette Lajeunesse Zingg** are thrilled that Mr. Gauci has agreed to take on the design of a new *Figaro* even while he is in the throes of designing the Art Gallery of Ontario's upcoming theatre-themed exhibition *Drama and Desire*.

The Marriage of Figaro will be directed by **Marshall Pynkoski**, and choreographed by **Jeannette Lajeunesse Zingg**, with lighting design by **Bonnie Beecher**. Conductor **David Fallis** leads the incomparable **Tafelmusik Orchestra**.

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Baritone **Olivier Laquerre** makes his role debut as the incorrigible Figaro, as does soprano **Carla Huhtanen** as his fiancée, Susanna. Acclaimed Canadian baritone **Phillip Addis** makes his OA debut as Count Almaviva and American soprano **Peggy Kriha Dye**, a favourite with OA audiences, sings the role of Countess Rosina. Mezzo-soprano **Wallis Giunta**, who has been associated with Opera Atelier since she was a student at the Glenn Gould School, makes her much anticipated professional debut in a lead role as Cherubino. Bass-baritone **Curtis Sullivan** sings the role of Dr. Bartolo and mezzo-soprano **Laura Pudwell** brings her comic talent to the role of Marcellina along with soprano **Cavell Wood** as Barbarina, baritone **Vasil Garvanliev** as the gardener Antonio, and tenor **Patrick Jang** doubling as the music master Basilio and the lawyer Don Curzio. The production features the full corps of **Artists of Atelier Ballet**.

Tickets for *The Marriage of Figaro* are \$35 to \$150 and can be purchased by calling TicketMaster at **416-872-5555**, on-line at www.ticketmaster.ca or at the Elgin Theatre box office. Operatix are **\$20** and may be purchased by people under the age of 30 with valid I.D. in person at the Elgin Theatre Box Office (subject to availability). Group discounts (15 people +) are available by calling 416.703.3767 ext. 22. For more information visit www.operaatelier.com or check out our Vox Populi blog at www.operaatelier.com/blog/.

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Opera Atelier is Canada's premier baroque theatre company, dedicated to 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. For more than two decades, under the direction of founders 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.