

Vivaldi

Chamber Choir

presents

What's OPERA Doc?

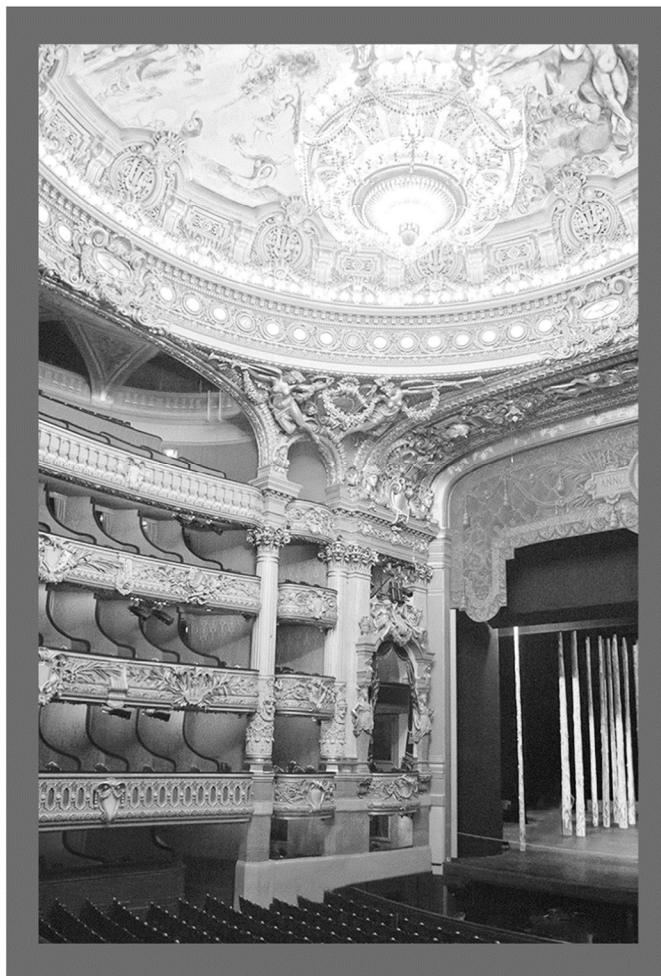
Edette Gagné, Artistic Director

Karen Lee-Morlang, Piano

Guest Soloists:

Robin Hahn, Moriah Wax,

Jonathan Gagné and Andy Greenwood



JUNE 10, 2023 @ 7:30PM
PACIFIC SPIRIT UNITED CHURCH

A musical collage of famous solos, duets and choruses from much-loved operas. Sung in their original language, featuring four local, rising opera stars!

VIVALDI CHAMBER CHOIR

Edette Gagné Artistic Director and Conductor

What's OPERA Doc?

Pacific Spirit United Church, Vancouver British Columbia; June 10, 2023

A Message from Edette Gagné

Bringing this show to life truly marks Vivaldi Chamber Choir's vibrant "*renaissance*" since the world stood still three years ago. It was the first time in my career that I had to cancel performances within hours of the final dress rehearsal, and we are thrilled to finally bring you "What's OPERA Doc?" This show combines some of the best loved choruses with solos and duets chosen by our guest artists. The net result is a whirlwind of gorgeous music from eleven different operas.

I am deeply grateful to have Karen Lee-Morlang as our "10-fingered orchestra" for this show. The piano reductions of full orchestral scores are not for the faint of heart, and she plays with spectacular flair and musicality. Our lead quartet is joined by four operatic soloists whose collective credits are overwhelming. This show is the perfect finale to our season!

Join us next year as we travel the globe in December, celebrate queer composers and arrangers in March and revel in Argentinian music in June. Season Subscriptions are available now.

PROGRAMME

Aida ~ Triumphal Scene (abridgement of Act II *Gran Finale*) Giuseppe Verdi (1813–1901)

Words of Welcome

Don Carlo ~ Dio, che nell'alma in fondera Giuseppe Verdi
~ Jonathan Gagné and Andy Greenwood ~

Cavalleria Rusticana ~ Regina Coeli (scene and prayer) Pietro Mascagni (1863–1945)
~ Moriah Wax, Andy Greenwood and Robin Hahn ~

La Grande-Duchesse de Gérolstein ~ Ah, que j'aime les militaires Jacques Offenbach (1819–1880)
~ Moriah Wax ~

Nabucco ~ Va, pensiero Giuseppe Verdi, edited by Pawel Jura

The Power of Music

Carmen Georges Bizet (1838–1875)
La fleur que tu m'avais jetée ~ Jonathan Gagné
Dans l'air nous suivons des yeux ~ Vivaldi Chamber Choir
Habanera ~ Moriah Wax
Votre Toast ~ Andy Greenwood

INTERMISSION

La Traviata Giuseppe Verdi
Noi siamo zingarelle (*chorus of gypsies*)
Libiamo ne'lieti calici (*Brindisi*)
~ Robin Hahn, Andy Greenwood and Jonathan Gagné ~

The Merry Widow ~ Vilja Franz Lehár (1870-1948)
~ Robin Hahn ~

La Sonnambula ~ Vi ravviso Vincenzo Bellini (1801-1835)
~ Andy Greenwood ~

Turandot ~ Nessun dorma Giacomo Puccini (1858-1924), arranged by Richard Gowers

Words of gratitude – Drawing the 50-50 winner

Le Nozze di Figaro

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756-1791)

Cast for the Finale

Count Almaviva: Andy Greenwood

Countess Rosina Almaviva: Robin Hahn

Susanna: Catherine Crouch

Figaro: Kevin Burke

Marcellina: Moriah Wax

Basilio: Jonathan Gagné

Antonio: Martin Wilson

Barbarina: Dolores Scott

Coro: Vivaldi Chamber Choir

Deh vieni, non tardar ~ *Robin Hahn*

Giovanni Liete ~ *coro*

Via resti servita ~ *Moriah Wax and Robin Hahn*

Ricevete, oh padroncina ~ *coro*

In quegli anni ~ *Jonathan Gagné*

Final Scene ~ *tutti*

The Choir

Sopranos

Catherine Crouch^{*}; Yasmine Bia;

Susie Britnell; Arianna Cheveldave

Winnie Gibson; Denise Gilbert;

Mary Leigh-Warden^{§†}; Sarah Little[†];

Samantha Merz[†]; Freda Miller;

Andrea Teigelhoefer, Jessica Wright

Tenors

Steve Froese^{*}; David Kaplan[†];

Curtis Umpherville; Jorge Vega;

Martin Wilson^{*}

Altos

Dolores Scott^{*‡}; Margaret Archibald;

Aria Appleton[†]; Sarah Ebert[†];

Bev Ferguson; Joan Fitzpatrick;

Allison Kvern; Karen Millard;

Eve Munns; Lisa Peers[†]

Basses

Kevin Burke^{*}; Tyler Enns;

Aaron Lau; Michael Loo;

David Millard[†]; Mike Millard;

Peter Munns; Jim Peers

§Administrative Assistant; *Section Lead; †On Leave; ‡Guest

GUEST ARTISTS:

Robin Hahn



Hailed as “sublime, with a beautiful resonant soprano full of colour” (Opera Canada), lyric soprano Robin Hahn has accrued credits all over the world, from Europe to New York to Disneyland. Previous performances include a toured production of *Così fan tutte* in the Netherlands; concerts across Germany singing excerpts as Violetta in *La traviata* and Antonia in *Les contes d'Hoffmann* with the Thüringer Symphoniker; and a Canadian national tour as a soloist with the Chinese Radio Broadcasting Orchestra. Her wide variety of past roles include Mother (Amahl and the Night Visitors); Tebaldo (Don Carlo); Lauretta, Nella and Ciesca (Gianni Schicchi); Musetta (La bohème); Frasquita (Carmen); and Norina (Don Pasquale). In the musical theatre arena, Robin's previous roles include Laurey in *Oklahoma!*; Mrs. Nordstrom in

Sondheim's *A Little Night Music*; Meg in the *Little Women* musical (CTC Award winner, Best Supporting Actress in a Musical, 2015) and the soprano cover for the *Music of the Night* concert tours across BC and Ontario, performing favourites by Andrew Lloyd Webber. She is a winner of the Metropolitan Opera competition's Encouragement Award 2015, and was a monetary award winner again in 2021.

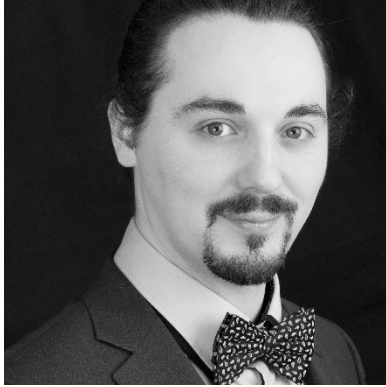
Hahn is also an acclaimed stage director, with productions including Gilbert and Sullivan's *Iolanthe*, *Patience*, *Così fan tutte*, *Hansel and Gretel*, *Don Pasquale*, *Dido and Aeneas*, and *La serva padrona*, which was hailed as “a masterpiece of controlled mayhem” (Review Vancouver). She will next direct *The Magic Flute* with Crescendo Operatic Society. In 2011, she co-founded Opera Mariposa, Canada's only 100% openly disability-led and run opera company, and has since become a respected disability advocate within the operatic community. She is also a fast-growing YouTuber and content creator, and has been awarded the Industry Catalyst Grant from CreativeBC and the City of Vancouver supporting her work creating fun, educational videos about opera and disability.

Moriah Wax

Moriah Wax is originally from Los Angeles, CA. She holds an MMUS in Opera Performance from The University of British Columbia and a BMUS in Vocal Arts from The University of Southern California. She has performed with groups such as Vancouver Opera, USC Thornton Opera, UBC Opera, The Lee Strasberg Theater in Hollywood, Musiktheater Bavaria, Operafestival di Roma, G&S Society of UBC, North Shore Light Opera Society, Heroic Opera, and Westben Arts Festival Theatre. Previous roles include Chancellor (*Iolanthe*), Knusperhexe (*Hänsel und Gretel*), Jack's Mother (*Into The Woods*), Waltraute (*Die Walküre*) Fillipyevna (*Eugene Onegin*), Mother (*The Consul*), Hippolyta (*A Midsummer Night's Dream*), Cornelia (*Giulio Cesare*), Agricola (*Eine Nacht in Venedig*), Lady Toodle (*The English Cat*), Florence Pike (*Albert Herring*), and Mad Margaret (*Ruddigore*).



Jonathan Gagné



Jonathan Gagné is a young lyric tenor who completed a master's degree at McGill's Schulich School of Music. He was a finalist at the CMC and recipient of a second prize at the "Relève musicale de Québec" competition.

At the Opéra de Québec, he sang the roles of "André Nault" (Louis Riel), "Borsa" (Rigoletto), and "Abdallo" (Nabucco). With other houses, he has been "The Philistine messenger" (Samson et Dalila) at the Opéra de Rimouski, as well as the "First priest" (Die Zauberflöte) and "Ruggiero" (La liberazione di Ruggiero) at Opera McGill. As for sacred music, Jonathan sang as a soloist in both Bach's Magnificat and first Christmas Cantata in Saint-Hyacinthe, and in Mozart's Requiem with Anima Musica, in Montreal. The young tenor also had the honour to be one of

the soloists of the "Brigade lyrique" during the 2019 Festival d'Opéra de Québec.

Most recently, Jonathan made his debut as "Rinuccio" in a critically acclaimed Gianni Schicchi by Puccini, in Vancouver, and sang "Lippo Fiorentino" in Opera McGill's production of Street Scene by Kurt Weill. In April 2022, he was the featured opera singer in a wildly successful variety show named "Les Carnivals du Monde" in his hometown of Québec City.

This year, the young tenor will be "Strephon" in Iolanthe with the North Shore Light Opera Society, "Tamino" in The Magic Flute with the Crescendo Opera Society, and a soloist with the Vivaldi Chamber Choir.

Andrew Greenwood

Andy Greenwood, baritone, has created roles for Vancouver Opera, Pacific Opera Victoria, Opera Pro Cantanti, Heroic Opera, City Opera Vancouver, Opera Kelowna, UBC Opera, Vancouver Island Opera, Burnaby Lyric Opera, Opera Breve, Western Concert Opera and Modern Baroque Opera.

Recent engagements include: the role of **Amonasro** in *Aida* for the Stadttheater Hildesheim, and the Stadttheater Wolfsburg, Germany; **Frank** in *Die Fledermaus* for Vancouver Opera; **Zuniga** in *Carmen* and **The Doctor** in Samuel Barber's *Vanessa* for Pacific Opera Victoria; and the title role in *Rigoletto* for the Stadttheater Hildesheim. In 2001 Andy performed the role of **John Proctor** in the Czech Republic premiere of *The Crucible*, by Robert Ward. He then went on to debut the roles of **Escamillo** in *Carmen* and **Germont** in *La Traviata* at the Prague State Opera. Additional European credits include: the roles of **Marcello** in *La bohème* for Opera Studio de Genève, Switzerland, and **The Ferryman** in Benjamin Britten's *Curlew River* in Lausanne, Switzerland and Cuenca, Spain.



Also in demand as a concert and oratorio singer, Mr. Greenwood frequents such works as Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*, Handel's *Messiah*, Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Mahler's *Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen*, Beethoven's *Choral Fantasy* and *Symphony No. Nine*, Dvořák's *Stabat Mater*, Saint-Saëns' *Christmas Oratorio*, the Bach Passions, as well as the Requiems of Verdi, Mozart, Brahms, Fauré and Duruflé. Some of the organizations he has sung with include: Virginia's Opera Roanoke Orchestra, the Vancouver Symphony, the Victoria Symphony, Vancouver Cantata Singers, the Prince George Symphony, the Vancouver Bach Choir, Festival Vancouver, the West Coast Symphony, the Kamloops Symphony, Sinfonia of the North Shore, the Chilliwack Symphony, the Okanagan Festival Singers, the Fraser Valley Symphony, the Vancouver Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Vancouver Island Symphony.

Karen Lee-Morlang



An award-winning performer, educator and producer, Karen Lee-Morlang has been lauded as "funny, brainy and creative." After specializing in art song and chamber music for her post-graduate degree from the University of British Columbia, she then taught as a Sessional Lecturer at UBC while continuing her own education and performing in different parts of North America, Europe and Asia. Karen has been featured at the Vancouver International Jazz Festival, MusicFest Vancouver, the World Peace Forum, Women's Worlds Conference, the Vancouver Folk Festival and has been broadcast on CBC Radio.

In addition to tonight's exciting performance with the Vivaldi Chamber Choir, Karen enjoys collaborating with local choirs such as the Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir, BC Girls Choir, Chor Leoni Men's Choir, Enchor, Vancouver Thunderbirds and Summerchor. With her passion for reaching new audiences for classical music, Karen has also directed recital and lecture series for the Vancouver Art Gallery, the Vancouver Public Library, the UBC Main Library, and completed a three-year project with the UBC Learning Exchange in the Downtown Eastside producing and teaching the Music Appreciation 101 course. As part of her work in the DTES, Karen co-coordinated the "Night Before the Opera" events at the Carnegie Center with the Vancouver Opera.

Previously Karen also created and hosted a mini-series called "Nuts & Notes" on CBC Radio One as well as guest hosting on Westcoast Performance for CBC Radio Two. In exploring her own voice while playing piano with other singers, Karen was a founding member of the vocal groups The Lady Larks, The K Sisters and The No Sh!t Shirleys. In September 2022, Karen assumed the role of Music Director at St. Francis-in-the-Wood Church in West Vancouver, where she leads the enthusiastic Church Choir and the Coast Mountain Men's Chorus.

Karen is also committed to her role as the Artistic Director of Health Arts Society of BC, which curates and delivers several hundred professional performances annually for elders living in long-term health care and retirement communities. When not at the piano or computer, Karen takes great pleasure in pursuing other passions such as riding her motorcycle, boating, fishing, hiking, swimming, reading, sewing, fussing over her potted plants and now learning to coordinate her lower limbs in the form of tap dancing.

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