

For immediate release: March 6, 2018

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ROBERT LEPAGE’S LANDMARK PRODUCTION OF *THE NIGHTINGALE AND OTHER SHORT FABLES* RETURNS TO COC

“Theatrical and operatic bliss.” – *Time Out New York*

“The most enchanting work for the musical stage to hit Toronto in years.” – *Toronto Star*

Toronto – Hailed as a masterpiece at its sold-out 2009 world premiere in Toronto and subsequent 2011 tour to the Brooklyn Academy of Music, the **Canadian Opera Company** presents the revival of **Robert Lepage’s** theatrically transcendent production of Stravinsky’s *The Nightingale and Other Short Fables*. Nine performances take place on **April 13, 14, 22, May 1, 2, 10, 12, 13, 19, 2018**.

A co-production between the COC, Festival d’Aix-en-Provence, Dutch National Opera and Opéra de Lyon, in collaboration with **Lepage’s** own Ex Machina, *The Nightingale and Other Short Fables* bears the unmistakable signature of Canada’s theatrical visionary. It’s a visual feast that turns the operatic experience on its head, placing the orchestra on stage while singers perform and manipulate puppets in an orchestra pit flooded with water.

COC Music Director **Johannes Debus** conducts a program featuring the best of Stravinsky’s music. The production opens with the short vocal and instrumental pieces of the jazz-tinged *Ragtime*, *Pribaoutki*, *Two Poems of Konstantin Balmont*, *Berceuses du chat*, *Four Russian Peasant Songs*, and *Three Pieces for Solo Clarinet*; followed by the satirical one-act opera-ballet *The Fox*; and concluding with *The Nightingale*, a Russian *conte lyrique* based on the tale by Hans Christian Andersen.

Internationally acclaimed Canadian soprano **Jane Archibald**, the COC’s Artist-in-Residence, leads a cast of established and rising stars, and makes her role debut as the Nightingale. Also making role debuts are COC Ensemble Studio graduate tenor **Owen McCausland** as the Fisherman, who discovers the Nightingale; Moldovan bass **Oleg Tsibulko** as the Emperor, whose life is saved by the Nightingale; and **Lindsay Ammann** as Death, who threatens the Emperor.

The Nightingale and Other Short Fables is an international cultural showcase that draws costume and set inspiration from the Vietnamese water puppetry and *bunraku* (traditional Japanese puppet theatre) featured in the production. Puppets were designed by Tony and Emmy award-winning American puppet designer **Michael Curry**, whose work has appeared in *The Lion King* on Broadway, Cirque du Soleil, the Olympics, and the Super Bowl, among other credits.

All performances of the COC’s production of *The Nightingale and Other Short Fables* feature the COC Orchestra and Chorus. The opera is sung in Russian and presented by the COC with English SURTITLES™.

CAST (in order of appearance)

Pribaoutki

Allyson McHardy

Berceuses du chat

Lindsay Ammann

Two Poems of Konstantin Balmont

Danika Lorèn

The Fox

Tenor 1

Miles Mykkanen

Tenor 2

Owen McCausland

Baritone 1

Bruno Roy

Baritone 2

Oleg Tsibulko

The Nightingale

The Fisherman
The Nightingale
The Cook
The Chamberlain
The Emperor
Japanese Envoy 1
Japanese Envoy 2
Japanese Envoy 3
Death

Owen McCausland
Jane Archibald
Lauren Eberwein
Anatoli Sivko
Oleg Tsibulko
Miles Mykkanen
Samuel Chan
Bruno Roy
Lindsay Ammann

CREATIVE TEAM

Conductor
Director
Revival Director
Set Designer
Costume Designer
Lighting Designer
Puppet Designer
Puppet Choreographer
Revival Choreographer

Johannes Debus
Robert Lepage
Marilyn Gronsdal
Carl Fillion
Mara Gottler
Étienne Boucher
Michael Curry
Martin Genest
Caroline Tanguay

TICKET INFORMATION

Single tickets for *The Nightingale and Other Short Fables* range from **\$35 – \$225** and box seats, when available, are **\$350**. Tickets are now on sale, available online at coc.ca, by calling **416-363-8231**, or in person at the **Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts Box Office** (145 Queen St. W.). For more information on **specialty priced tickets** available to **young people under the age of 15, standing room, Opera Under 30** presented by **TD Bank Group, student groups** and **rush seating**, visit coc.ca.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

KPMG: Production Sponsor

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BMO Financial Group: Season Sponsor

TD Bank Group: Presenting Sponsor Opera Under 30

ABOUT THE CANADIAN OPERA COMPANY

Based in Toronto, the Canadian Opera Company is the largest producer of opera in Canada and one of the largest in North America. The COC enjoys a loyal audience support-base and one of the highest attendance and subscription rates in North America. Under its leadership team of General Director Alexander Neef and Music Director Johannes Debus, the COC is increasingly capturing the opera world's attention. The COC maintains its international reputation for artistic excellence and creative innovation by creating new productions within its diverse repertoire, collaborating with leading opera companies and festivals, and attracting the world's foremost Canadian and international artists. The COC performs in its own opera house, the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts, hailed internationally as one of the finest in the world. Designed by Diamond Schmitt Architects, the Four Seasons Centre opened in 2006. For more information on the COC, visit coc.ca.

- 30 -

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