

As a director, I have always loved working with music! I was therefore excited to dig into the world of *Porgy and Bess* with its iconic songs such as ‘Summertime’ and ‘I Loves You Porgy’. I have thoroughly enjoyed learning more about the time that the musical was written and the Gullah community that inspired Gershwin to write this classic opera. I was fascinated to learn about how this musical, written more than 80 years ago, has acted as a lightning rod for conversations around race and representation in the arts, questions that are very much alive in our artistic community in Canada today. What was occurring at the same time of Gershwin’s writing and how did it influence the music we now have? How does *Porgy and Bess* provide a window into the Harlem Renaissance and the cultural shifts around the perception of artists of colour occurring by the 1930s? It has been a joy working with this group of amazing artists on a concert which dives into such iconic music and period favourites, within a space where we’re able to examine its lesser-known influences. I am so grateful to be exploring the world of the Gershwin’s 1930s, and the music of *Porgy and Bess*, with you. I hope you enjoy!



Mumbi Tindyebwa Otu

PERFORMERS & PRODUCTION

FEATURED PERFORMERS

Walter Borden
Narrator

Troy Adams
Thom Allison
Neema Bickersteth
Alana Bridgewater
Jackie Richardson
Featured Performers

MUSICIANS

Colleen Allen
Reeds & Horns

Attila Fias
Piano

George Koller
Bass

Lowell Whitty
Drums

CREATIVE

Richard Ouzounian
Writer

Mumbi Tindyebwa Otu
Director

George Koller
Music Director

Andres Castillo-Smith
Sound Designer

Raha Javanfar
Lighting Designer

Laura Warren
Video Designer

PRODUCTION

Evan Bonnah-Hawkes
Technical Director

Ashton Vetter
Lighting Operator

Emily Langridge
Video Operator

Jason Lane
Deck Audio

Colton Stang
Audio Operator

Robert Harding
Production Stage Manager

Neha Ross
Stage Manager

Lisa Li
Producer

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