



Opera.ca Awards \$185,000 for New Canadian Operas

(16 January 2009) Opera.ca, through its Canadian Opera Creation Fund, has awarded a total of \$185,000 for the development and production of seven new Canadian operas:

- Chants Libres for *Opéra Féerie* and *Alexandra*
- Pacific Opera Victoria for *Mary's Wedding*
- Queen of Puddings Music Theatre for *Svadba*
- Soundstreams Canada for *The Children's Crusade*
- Tapestry New Opera Works for *The Shadow*
- Vancouver Opera for *Lillian Alling*

“Supporting our members in the development and production of new operas is a priority for us” says Opera.ca’s Christina Loewen. “Through the Canadian Opera Creation Fund, we enhance the quality, quantity and creativity of new opera works, ensuring our artform remains vibrant, engaging and on the leading edge of creativity.”

The Canadian Opera Creation Fund (COCF) was established by Opera.ca in 2001, for the purpose of supporting new opera and music-theatre works in Canada. Generously supported by the Canada Council for the Arts, The George Cedric Metcalf Family Foundation and, increasingly, private donors, the COCF has awarded almost \$2 million to Canadian opera companies and composers since its inception in 2001.

The COCF Awards are presented annually by Opera.ca, in conjunction with OPERA America and its Opera Fund. Funding decisions are made annually for the COCF by an independent panel of Canadians; the most recent panel met in Toronto 11 and 12 November to allocate awards for the 2008-09 year. This year’s panel consisted of Mel Braun, baritone and educator, University of Manitoba; Sophie Galaise, General Director of Orchestre symphonique de Quebec; Morris Panych, playwright and dramaturge; and Canadian composers Abigail Richardson, and James Rolfe.

Since 2001, Opera.ca has awarded COCF funds in support of more than 60 Canadian opera projects and productions. Among the many productions supported by the COCF have been *Filumena* and *Frobisher*, both by John Estacio and John Murrell, produced by Calgary Opera and the Banff Centre;

Naomi's Road by Ramona Luengen, produced by Vancouver Opera; *Midnight Court* by Ana Sokolovic, presented by Toronto's Queen of Puddings Theatre; and *Alternate Visions* by John Oliver, produced by Montreal's Chants libres.

Opera.ca is the national association for opera companies and professionals in Canada. It seeks to create and sustain an environment that makes opera central to Canadian life. It works with members across the country to advance the interests of Canada's opera community and create greater opportunity for opera audiences and professionals alike.

For more information about Opera.ca and the COCF contact:

Christina Loewen (c loewen@opera.ca) T. 416-591-7222

For more information on OPERA America and its Opera Fund contact:

Megan Young T. 212-796-8631 ext. 203

For a complete list of Canadian awards, see Appendix.

Appendix:

List of Recipients 2008/2009

Development Awards

1. Toronto's **Queen of Puddings Music Theatre** received \$10,000 for *Svadba* to be composed by Ana Sokolovic with a libretto by Antoine Laprise.
2. **Vancouver Opera** received \$15,000 for *Lilliam Alling*, by composer John Estacio, and a libretto by John Murrell.
3. **Chants libres** received \$10,000 towards *Alexandra*, to be composed by Zack Settel with a libretto by Yan Muckle.
4. **Pacific Opera Victoria** received \$15,000 for the development of *Mary's Wedding*, by composer Andrew P. Macdonald, with a libretto by Stephen Massicotte.

Productions Awards

1. **Soundstreams Canada** of Toronto received \$30,000 towards the June 2009 production of *The Children's Crusade* by R. Murray Schafer in partnership with Luminato and The Toronto Consort.
2. Toronto's **Tapestry New Opera Works** received \$30,000 for its May 2009 production of *The Shadow*, by Omar Daniel and librettist Alex Poch-Goldin.
3. Montreal's **Chants libres** received \$75,000 for their November 2009 production of *Opéra Féerie, L'oiseau qui dit la vérité*, by Gilles Tremblay, in partnership with Nouvel Ensemble Moderne (NEM).