



# OPERA NUOVA

FALL ISSUE  
SEPTEMBER 11, 2011



## WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE

### VOCAL ARTS FESTIVAL

MAY 21 – JULY 1, 2012

- Participant Applications for the 2012 Summer Intensive Program are now available.
- Internships

### SCHOOL TOUR

OCTOBER 17 – NOVEMBER 11, 2011

- Opera NUOVA commissions a new, Canadian opera for young audiences.
- Artist in Residence Initiative

### DINNER CABARET SERIES

SUNDAY OCTOBER 17<sup>th</sup> Opening

- 2011/12 Cabaret Series has been set.

### CELEBRATING NUOVA ALUMNI

## A MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC & MANAGING DIRECTOR...

Dear Patrons, Friends, and Alumni of Opera NUOVA:

Welcome to this first issue of our *bi-annual newsletter* for the 2011-2012 season!

An exciting time of exploration and learning lies ahead for all of our patrons, emerging, and established artists! We have a wonderful array of concerts planned for our longstanding *Dinner Cabaret Series* that features both distinguished professionals and alumni from our prestigious Vocal Arts Festival. We are particularly pleased this year to feature **Andrew Love** who has recently finished his training with the Canadian Opera Company Ensemble and will be performing in Calgary Opera's Production of **Gianni Schicchi**. We were also lucky to secure venues on both Mother's Day and Father's Day in 2012 and we are confident that the cabarets that we've created for these momentous days will be perfect gifts to celebrate these special relationships. In particular we are thrilled to have **Theodore Baerg** and **Irena Welhasch-Baerg** performing at the Edmonton Petroleum Club on May 13 in a Cabaret entitled *Enchanted Evenings*. We hope you will visit the Opera NUOVA website to learn more about the entire Cabaret Series.

**CALLING ALL OPERA LOVERS:** Opera NUOVA extends an invitation to attend six nights of opera at the best summer festival in America - world-famous Santa Fe Opera. Personally escorted by former Edmonton Opera Board member Michael Warmington the trip will include airfare, transfers, orchestra seating for five operas in five nights, accommodation at an all-suites hotel located only 10 minutes from the outdoor opera's 2700 seat auditorium. You'll also be able to attend two noon hour concerts at the Santa Fe Music Festival adjacent to the famous Santa Fe Plaza in the historic old town. If you've always wanted to see the unique, artist's town of Taos, visit a New Mexican Pueblo and tour the art walk in Santa Fe with over 300 art galleries, this will be the perfect tour for you. For more specific details, Email [mikewarm@telus.net](mailto:mikewarm@telus.net). Tentative dates are August 11-18, 2012 and the approximate cost will be circa \$3000 per person. This is a fabulous opportunity to enjoy opera at it's finest, in an outdoor setting under the stars in beautiful Santa Fe, New Mexico. Sign up soon. Seating is limited to 10 couples. ~ Kim Mattice Wanat, Founder of Opera NUOVA

## VOCAL ARTS FESTIVAL NEWS

DATES: May 21 – June 30, 2012

Plans and coordination of next years Vocal Arts Festival are well underway. The application for participation is now live on the Opera NUOVA website.

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For the first time ever Opera NUOVA is offering Professional Internship Positions for aspiring Stage Directors, Stage Managers and Conductors for the 2012 Summer Intensive Vocal Arts Festival. Descriptions, qualifications/requirements and applications are all online for these positions. You can check it out at [www.operanuova.ca](http://www.operanuova.ca)

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Auditions & Internship Interviews will be held on the following dates in the following cities:

Oct. 28/29	VANCOUVER
Oct. 30	VICTORIA
Oct. 31	CALGARY
Nov. 1	EDMONTON
Nov. 2/3	TORONTO
Nov. 4/5	MONTREAL
Nov. 6/7	HALIFAX
Nov. 10	SASKATOON
Nov. 11	WINNIPEG
Nov. 12/13/14	LONDON
Nov. 13	WATERLOO

Applications are now being  
accepted at  
[www.operanuova.ca](http://www.operanuova.ca)



## VOCAL ARTS FESTIVAL 2012

MAY 21 – JUNE 30, 2012

At the end of August postcards were sent out to Vocal Instructors in the National Association of Teachers of Singing and Piano Faculty members of Universities across Canada encouraging their students to apply for our prestigious summer intensive program. Applications are already being submitted for the 2012 summer operatic intensive and we typically see well over 200 applications. Canadian Operatic Soprano, Jackalyn Short alongside Kim Mattice Wanat will travel across Canada and listen to the auditions of the young artists commencing on October 28 in Vancouver. This is always an exciting time for our organization as we reconnect with those young artists who have been a part of the program in the past and meet new artists who are hopeful to share in what Opera NUOVA offers elite emerging artists. The repertoire for the Vocal Arts Festival is chosen based upon the results of the auditions. In early December, singers are contacted and by January agreements are signed and we begin the process of creating an exciting array of concerts and productions to be shared with Edmonton and surrounding areas.

If you are interested in contributing to Opera NUOVA, one great way to support our organization is to act as a billet host. Opera NUOVA is always in search of hosts in Edmonton to take in our students for many of our programs, specifically the Vocal Arts Festival but also the School Tour. Though we do not guarantee placements for all of our students there has not been a year when opera NUOVA could not accommodate all requests. If housing an emerging artist or faculty member is something you are interested in, please contact Simon-Marc de Freitas at 780 994 8778. You can also find Billet Host Application Forms on the Opera NUOVA website, under SUPPORT.

# Opera for Young Audiences Fall School Tour

## Mr. Moreover's Magic

Opera NUOVA is pleased to produce and perform a newly commissioned Canadian Opera for Young Audiences, titled **Mr. Moreover's Magic**, composed by a NUOVA alumnus, tenor Isaiah Bell and directed by Edmonton Opera's former Artistic Director, Brian Deedrick. Centered on the theme of responsibility to one's own self, this opera realizes the importance of having a dream and knowing that with dedication and hard work, one can achieve it, no matter how far-fetched it may seem to those around us.

A completely original and newly composed opera, Mr. Moreover's Magic is written specifically for children and introduces the traditions of the operatic repertoire. Unlike musical theatre productions where there is spoken dialogue, Mr. Moreover's Magic is sung in its entirety and it introduces five different voice types. Accompanied by piano, Mr. Moreover's Magic features solo, duet, trio and full ensemble singing. We also provide schools with an Orff Ensemble Overture and study guide.

Students in grades K to 8 will be able to experience the magic of opera and they can even participate as the orchestra using Orff instruments. Specially adapted for younger audiences and performed in English, this fully-staged and costumed opera lasts approximately 45 minutes and



Visit [www.operanuova.ca](http://www.operanuova.ca) to read a synopsis and to book a performance!!



### Opera in Schools and Artist-in-Residence Opportunity

A new initiative, this is a full school day opportunity for elementary students. The day begins with a performance of Mr. Moreover's Magic. After the set has been taken down and removed from the gymnasium and subsequently after recess, the cast of the opera will offer Singing and Acting/Creative Movement classes for students in grades four, five, and six.

**Would you like to help out with our School Tour?  
-Sponsor a School!**

With school budgets facing severe shortages, you can provide your own magic by sponsoring this production and sharing the world of opera with an entire school population. Please contact Simon-Marc de Freitas for details. 780 994 8778 or [sfreitas@operanuova.ca](mailto:sfreitas@operanuova.ca)

### WE WILL BE VISITING THE FOLLOWING CITIES:

**BARRHEAD  
BRUDERHEIM**

**CALMAR**

**CAMROSE**

**LEDUC**

**DEVON**

**EDMONTON**

**FORT SASKATCHEWAN**

**GIBBONS**

**LEGAL**

**MORINVILLE**

**PONOKA**

**RED WATER**

**SPRUCE GROVE**

**ST. ALBERT**

**THORSBY**

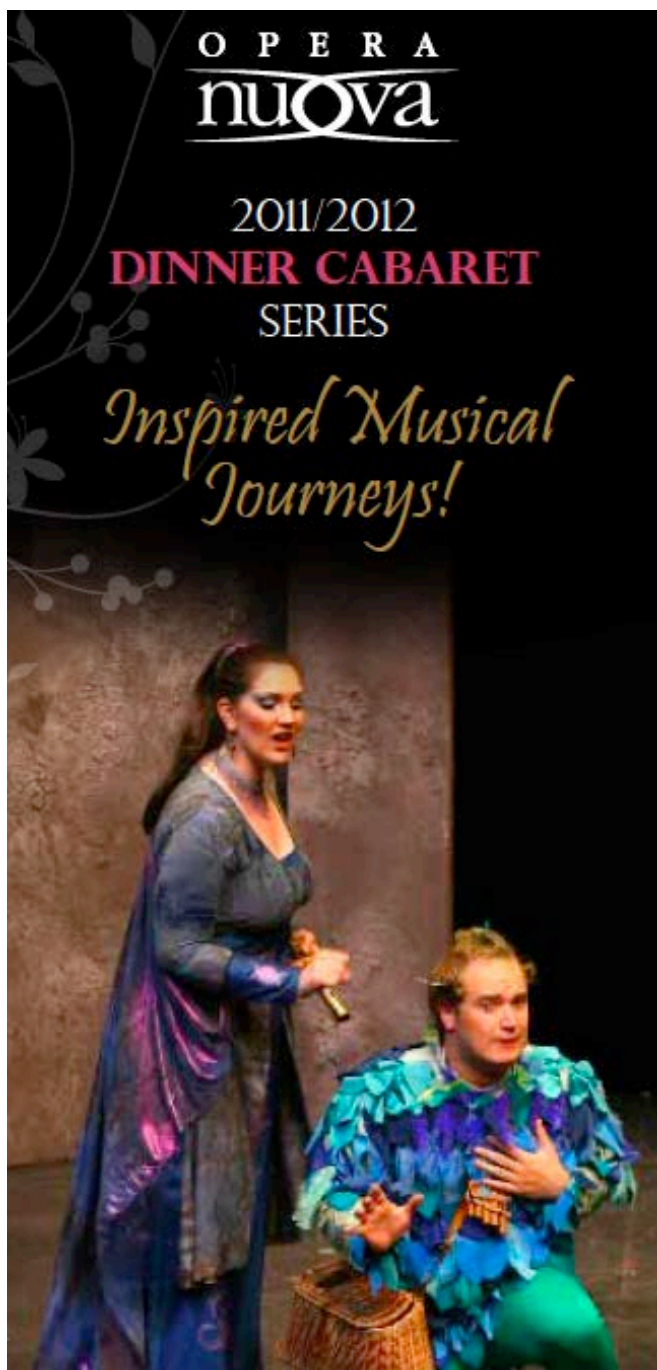
**TOFIELD**

**WESTLOCK**

**WETASKIWIN**







NUOVA'S Dinner Cabarets offer exceptional dining and outstanding performances.

Savor a five course fine dining experience in the European tradition of the intimate dinner cabaret. Each cabaret begins at 5:30p.m. (doors open at 4:45p.m.) and last until approx. 9p.m

**Bountiful Bel Canto**  
**Sunday, October 16th**  
**Oliveto**

Before embarking on a tour of Opera NUOVA's newly commissioned Canadian Opera for children, "Mr Moreover's Magic", five of the 2011 Vocal Arts Festival alumni will share an evening full of 'Bel Canto' repertoire. The Italian term means 'beautiful singing' and our artists: Catherine Bergeron, Aaron Hutton, Giovanni Spanu, Amanda Hillestad and Sara Staples are all exceptional musicians who will bring sublime melodic lyricism to the early Italian repertoire created by Rossini, Donizetti and Bellini. They are sure to impress as they collaborate with the brilliant artistry of Simon Marc de Freitas. Celebrate Autumn's bountiful splendour while basking in an evening of exceptional classical music and enjoying exquisite Italian cuisine at Oliveto.

**Vibrant Verismo**  
**Sunday, November 20th**  
**Normands**

We have lined up three of our outstanding alumni: Andrew Love (Baritone – Papageno in Magic Flute 2008), Michael Marino (Tenor – Romeo in Romeo et Juliette 2010) and Jessica Strong (Soprano – Rosalinda in Die Fledermaus 2008) to return to Edmonton and share their love of the verismo style of the operatic repertoire. Verismo is the term used to define the 19th century compositions written with a desire to create stories and characters based in realism and truth. The evening will be filled with arias and duets composed by Puccini, Verdi, Bizet and Gounod. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to be engulfed by the resounding resonance of these passionate artists as you relish in the exquisite menu created by Normands and share time with friends before we enter the busy Christmas season.

Dinner Cabarets are **\$85.00 per cabaret** or **\$80 each if booking 4 or more** (A total of \$320.00)

**Our 4 pack Mini-Series Packages Include:**

**Theatre & Song Cabaret Package:**  
 February 5, April 15, May 13, June 17

**Opera Lovers Cabaret Package:**  
 October 16, November 20, March 18 and June 17

**Create Your own 4 Pack Mini Series:**  
 Choose any 4 Cabarets and create your own mini-series!\*

\*If you wish to create your own 4 pack series, please call Opera NUOVA's office at **780 487 4844**.

If you would like to receive a brochure outlining all of the cabarets in our 2011/12 Dinner Cabaret Series, please Email your complete mailing address to  
[sfreitas@operanuova.ca](mailto:sfreitas@operanuova.ca)

**SIMONE OSBORNE, SOPRANO**

Simone Osborne, who played the role of The Bartered Bride in 2007 went on that same year to win the New York City Metropolitan Opera Finals singing Marenka's aria. The following year she became a member of the Canadian Opera Company Ensemble. This 2011/12 season Simone will become a debut artist across the country. She will play the role of Gilda in Rigoletto in September/October with the COC and in the November/December, she will join the Vancouver Opera Company to play Juliette in Romeo and Juliette. In January 2012 she will be the soprano soloist performing the Mozart Requiem with Toronto Symphony Orchestra and then in April/May she will return to the COC to perform the role of Lauretta in Gianni Schicchi. We are so proud of Simone's success and will continue to watch with excitement as this young artist shines!

**JUST ANNOUNCED**

Simone is coming home to sing Juliette in Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette* with Vancouver Opera next season!

She is thrilled to make her role and company debut in this stunning French masterpiece with performances in November and December 2011.

**MICHELLE MINKE**

Artistic Director of Cowtown Opera Company.

It has been 10 years since Michelle Minke participated in Opera NUOVA and she has used those ten years wisely! After completing her bachelors of Music at the U of T, she received a post-graduate diploma from the opera school at the Royal Academy of Music in London, England; participated in the inaugural year of Calgary Operas Emerging Artists Program and just recently completed her Masters in Vocal Pedagogy from U of Toronto. She has recently founded the Cowtown Opera Company presenting operas with a real western Calgarian kick while featuring local talent that is both established and up and coming. We congratulate Michelle and her company on their successful recent success in mounting *The Magic Flute*. We hope that some of you had the chance to see it.

**COWTOWN OPERA COMPANY**

*"Inspiring Calgary's Cultural Spirit with a Kick of the West to the World of Opera"*

**NATALIE BURDENY**

Managing and Artistic Director, VanCoCo  
**ED MORAN**  
Production Manager, VanCoCo

*Trouble in  
Tahiti*  
September 8 to 13, 2011  
Firehall Arts Centre  
280 East Cordova



[www.vancouverfringe.com](http://www.vancouverfringe.com) :: [www.vancoco.ca](http://www.vancoco.ca)

After producing and enormously successful *Carmen*, producer Natalie Burdeny, who performed in NUOVA's

*Tales of Hoffman* in 2006, has paired up with another NUOVA alumnus Ed Moran (who has been with NUOVA numerous times performing in the festival and in our school tours. They have just finished producing *Trouble in Tahiti* for the Vancouver Fringe under Natalie's company VANCOCO. This fringe production also included alumnus **Adam Fisher** who will be singing in NUOVA's February 5<sup>th</sup> Cabaret and the production was played by one of our esteemed faculty, **Kathleen Lohrenz Gable**.

**TANYA ROBERTS**

We are happy to highlight Tanya Roberts, one of our alumni who is carving out a career in the U.S.A.

**September 2011****Tanya to make Michigan Opera Theatre solo debut**

Fresh back from a thrilling summer of intensive vocal study and performance in Israel with the **International Vocal Arts Institute**, I'm heading out to Detroit to assume my position as an Apprentice Artist with **Michigan Opera Theatre**. I am positively giddy with excitement about my next contract: I am awaited by my A-house debut, a 4250-seat theater, and epic wine & cheese parties. I look

forward to returning to the Detroit Opera House stage as Mrs. Gobineau in *THE MEDIUM* and Bridesmaid in *LE NOZZE DI FIGARO* after performing as Drunk Wedding Guest #17 in *DON GIOVANNI* and Kvetching Jewish Slave #32 in *NABUCCO* in the 2009-10 season.

Created by:

Simon-Marc de Freitas  
Administrative Assistant  
Opera NUOVA



Four Opera NUOVA alumni have been cast and will be performing in Opera de Montreal's production of **RUSALKA** in **NOVEMBER 2011**

**PIERRE RANCOURT** – Baritone  
Hunter

**AIDAN FERGUSON** – Soprano  
Second Wood Nymph

**CHANTALE NURSE** – Soprano  
First Wood Nymph

**EMMA PARKINSON** – Mezzo  
Third Wood Nymph