



The Cunning Little Vixen **Fact Sheet**

This fact sheet has key information about the show and the theatre that you may find useful and that may help you to fully enjoy your afternoon with us.

Key Information:

Date:	Tuesday, February 13, 2024
Time:	7 p.m.
Location:	Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts
Address:	145 Queen St. W., Toronto ON M5H 4G1
Length of performance:	Two hours in total Acts 1 & 2: 50 minutes Intermission: 25 minutes Act 3: 30 minutes
Intermission:	There will be one 25-minute intermission
Link to program:	click here
Link to Sonic Story:	click here
Link to Venue Guide:	click here

General things to know:

- The performance will be at the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts (Four Seasons Centre).
- The performance begins at 7 p.m.
- There is a parking lot underneath the Four Seasons Centre. It costs \$25, but please come prepared to pay more if necessary.
- The parking machine takes credit and debit cards and ApplePay.
- There are many other places to park within walking distance of the Four Seasons Centre.
- There is a lot of construction in the area, so please be prepared and allow yourself plenty of extra time to get around.
- If you are taking the subway, there is an underground entrance to the Four Seasons Centre at Osgoode station.
- If you need to pick up your tickets, the Box Office will open at 10 a.m.
- The front doors to the Four Seasons Centre will open at 5:30 p.m.
- To enter the Four Seasons Centre you will need your ticket.

- The concession will be open for this performance.
- The auditorium will open half an hour before the performance begins. At this time the ushers will open the doors and let people know they can go in and find their seat(s).
- There may be overhead announcements while you wait in the lobby; please be prepared for these.
- The seating is assigned and you can find the location of your seat printed on your ticket.
- An usher can direct you to your seat(s).
- There are a limited number of booster seats available. Please ask an usher if you need one.
- The Four Seasons Centre has many floors — the street level (main floor) has the lobby, box office and concession; downstairs (lower level) has washrooms and coat check and upstairs (the Grand Ring, Rings 3 & 4) features the boxes and balcony seating areas, the Quiet Room, the Quieter Room, and a gender neutral/accessible washroom (please note the accessible washroom does not have a button, so someone may need to open the door for people using this space) and washrooms stalls.
- There are stairs and elevators to help you get from floor to floor.
- Music for the performance will be played by a live orchestra from the orchestra pit in front of the stage (please stay back from the orchestra pit).
- When you enter the auditorium the orchestra will be warming up, which may sound loud.
- The lights in the auditorium will be left at a low level during the performance.
- A Quiet Room has been set-up on the Grand Ring level; ushers can take you there at any time if needed.
- The back two rows of the Orchestra Level (main floor) auditorium will be left unsold. If at any time you would like to move to a seat at the back, please do so.
- There is a page on the Canadian Opera Company's website for *The Cunning Little Vixen*. This page gives lots of information about the story and can help us to follow what is happening on stage. You can access the page by [clicking here](#).
- There will be a "Meet Your Seat" event on February 6 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Four Seasons Centre. This event is designed to allow people with tickets to the Relaxed Performance to attend the venue one week prior to the performance and gain familiarity with the venue. This means that you can check out where the box office, concession, washrooms, quiet rooms, and your seats are before the day of the show.

About *The Cunning Little Vixen*

Synopsis in a minute - When a forest gamekeeper traps a fox and attempts to domesticate her, their encounter leads to a poignant reflection on the natural cycle of life and death, as well as our relationship with the planet. This inspiring opera

invites audiences to reflect on the advancing toll of climate change and the importance of cultivating a harmonious relationship with the natural world.

Full Story - [click here](#)

Advisory

The Cunning Little Vixen deals with, and presents, content that may be difficult to some, including hunting, talk of sexuality, talk of God, strong language, camera flashes, cap gunshots, rifle gunshots, suicide, and death. The performance also contains scenes with atmospheric effects, bright lights, pyrotechnics, and strobe-like effects. Any violent or aggressive actions in the opera are staged actions to help move the story along. No performers are hurt during the opera. See below for advisories and sensory moments that occur in the performance and please be prepared for this content. **We have attempted to note approximate timings of gunshots and some other content/actions in brackets in the section below.*

About the performance:

Here are some things about the performance you may find interesting or want to watch/listen for:

- Opera tells a story through song and music; this is the story of *The Cunning Little Vixen*.
- When you enter the auditorium to take your seat, the orchestra will be in the Orchestra Pit warming up and the curtains on stage will be closed.
- SURTITLES™ are translations of the opera from the original Czech language into English.
- The SURTITLES™ will be shown above the stage, in the middle.
- You can enjoy the opera with or without reading the SURTITLES™; it is your choice.
- Music and song build and show the story and emotion in the opera—they can help us know how to feel and what is happening. If the music is too loud, you can cover your ears with your hands or put on sound-dampening headphones.
- Please make sure that mobile devices are set to silent for the duration of the opera.
- When the performance is about to begin, a Land Acknowledgement will play and then a host will walk onto stage and welcome you to the performance. If any of this is too loud, you can cover your ears with your hands or put on sound-dampening headphones.
- When the opera begins, the orchestra will begin playing music and the curtains will open.

ACTS 1 & 2 - 55 minutes

- This is the beginning of the first portion of the performance.
- There will not be a break between Act 1 and Act 2.

- The orchestra will do a short warm-up before the opera begins.
- The conductor will enter the orchestra pit and may turn and face the audience before starting to conduct.
- Sometimes audience members clap when the conductor enters. If the clapping is too loud you can cover your ears with your hands or put on sound-dampening headphones.
- The music begins and the curtain begins to rise. The stage behind the curtain is lit, so light will appear when the curtain goes up.
- On stage is the set.
- Timekeepers (dressed in black) are on stage watching as logs rise into the air.
- A large scroll comes down from one of the logs.
- The music here is light and up tempo.
- A Dragonfly and the Young Forester in a long brown jacket play together.
- The first set of performers are replaced by another pair, dressed the same; this shows the passage of time and the pair growing up.
- As time passes the scroll moves (scrolls) down.
- The Dragonfly and the Boy play together. At times this playing includes using their hands as guns.
- Finally older/elderly versions of the Dragonfly and the Boy appear. The boy has grown up to be the Forester.
- The sets move and revolve.
- Trees “grow” out of the logs on tall scrolls.
- Mushrooms enter.
- Singing begins (3:15 minutes into the action).
- The Dragonfly plays with the woodland creatures.
- The music is upbeat as they play.
- A Frog croaks.
- The Vixen (also called Sharp Ears) comes onto stage and chases the Frog.
- The Forester is often seen with his rifle throughout the opera.
- The Forester catches the Vixen, lifts her up, and carries her off stage.
- The Vixen cries repeatedly for her “Mommy”.
- The bugs and mushrooms in the forest watch the scroll.
- The scroll tells a story.
- There is a bright light from the up-stage area that shines down towards the audience (at approximately 10 minutes).
- Now there is a large wooden set on stage.
- The Forester enters with the Vixen.
- The set changes by closing in around them.

- This is the Forester's home.
- The music is ominous.
- The Vixen tries to get out of the house but she cannot.
- She is now in a room with a couch and a TV.
- The Forester grabs the Vixen and throws her down.
- The Vixen bangs on the walls to try and escape.
- The music is anxious.
- The young Vixen is replaced by an older performer to show the passage of time.
- The Forester's Wife enters and removes the Vixen from the couch.
- The Forester's Wife whips at the Vixen with a cloth.
- There is a large, fluffy, grey dog in the house.
- There is singing of beating and violence (14:13 minutes).
- There is singing of making love.
- There is singing of beating up (15 minutes).
- The Forester's children enter the stage.
- One of the children has a camera and uses the flash on the camera several times. The flash faces different directions and is even aimed at the audience at times. If it is too bright, please partially cover your eyes or use light-dampening glasses. (15:40-17:10 and again later)
- The other child repeatedly shoots a cap gun. This will make a loud and somewhat high-pitched popping sound. If it is too loud or too high pitched, please cover your ears with your hands or use sound-dampening headphones. (15:40-17:10 and again later)
- There is singing of killing the Vixen (16:30 minutes).
- The Forester gets a rope and ties up the Vixen.
- The Forester takes off the Vixen's ears: this is to represent stripping her of her dignity, because without her ears she is at her most vulnerable.
- The Vixen is tied up outside.
- She sleeps curled up.
- The music gets lighter.
- Other foxes (younger versions of the Vixen) enter, untie her and give her back her ears.
- The scroll changes to show a sun.
- A cap gun is shot (20 minutes).
- A Rooster sings to the Hens.
- The Vixen enters.
- There is singing of revolution.
- There is ginging of feminism.

- There is singing of suicide from the Vixen.
- The Vixen pretends to die by suicide.
- The Vixen kills the Rooster.
- The Vixen takes the Rooster's coxcomb and plays with it.
- The Forester's Wife is now onstage.
- The Forester's Wife gets tied up.
- The Vixen frees the Hens (23 minutes).
- A cap gun is shot and camera flashes as the Forester's children enter the stage (24 minutes).
- There is a large shot from a confetti gun.
- The audience may clap at the end of this scene (24:30 minutes).
- The characters leave stage.
- Several of the scrolls fall down.
- The Mushrooms come onto stage.
- The Vixen and the Hens arrive at the home of the Badger.
- The Vixen throws water at the Badger.
- The music gets faster.
- The drums are louder (27 minutes).
- The set spins slowly several times.
- The large, central scroll moves the story by scrolling down.
- Louder drums and cymbals (28 minutes).
- Men are on stage. They are in a bar or tavern.
- The Priest smokes a pipe (this is mimed, there will not be smoke or the smell of smoking).
- There is singing of "going to Hell" (30:50 minutes).
- There is singing of God.
- The Forester exits the bar.
- The Vixen comes on stage.
- The Schoolmaster re-enters and sings of drinking. He appears to be drunk.
- The Hens enter.
- A cane is thrown and makes a loud sound when it lands. If it is too loud, please cover your ears with your hands or use sound-dampening headphones (36:30 minutes).
- The set moves.
- The Schoolmaster mistakes a Hen for his love.
- The Priest enters the stage.
- The Priest sings of the woman he loved when he was younger.

- There is a slight crescendo in the music.
- The Priest sings of sin and treachery.
- The Priest sings of dirty thoughts (40 minutes).
- The Priest also mistakes a Hen for his lost love.
- The Priest enters the same space as the Schoolmaster.
- There are two loud gunshots from offstage (41 minutes).
- Cymbals crash at the same time as the gunshots. This may be loud. If it is too loud, please cover your ears with your hands or use sound-dampening headphones (41 minutes).
- The two men scatter.
- The Forester has shot at the Vixen.
- He missed and she is fine.
- The audience may clap at the end of this scene (41:40 minutes).
- The large, central scroll moves the story by scrolling down.
- The music gets a little louder (42:18 minutes).
- The Vixen enters on some logs.
- The Hens sing.
- Leaves fall from the trees to show the change in seasons.
- The Vixen sees a Fox.
- The Fox (also called Gold Stripe) sings of catching birds.
- The Hens scatter.
- The Vixen sings her story to the Fox. This includes the violence and abuse she suffered at the Forester's home.
- There is singing of Vixen's tail getting caught in a trap and of beating. There is also some strong language (42:25 minutes).
- The music gets intense.
- There is singing of "slitting her throat" (45:23 minutes).
- There is singing of "hitting" (46:40 minutes).
- There is singing of being an orphan (47:15 minutes).
- The music gets loud. If it is too loud, please cover your ears with your hands or use sound-dampening headphones (47:30 minutes).
- The music gets lighter (47:40 minutes).
- There is smoke (48:30 minutes).
- Younger versions of the Vixen enter and she sings to them/herself.
- The Fox watches the Vixen.
- The Fox holds the Vixen (50:50 minutes).
- The Fox brings the Vixen a rabbit as a gift.

- The Fox touches the Vixen's ears.
- The Vixen has a strong and negative reaction to having her ears touched.
- The Vixen says she is afraid of the Fox.
- The rabbit escapes (52:30 minutes).
- The Fox takes off his ears.
- The Vixen takes off her ears.
- They hold hands (54:56 minutes).
- A light shines brightly onto the stage from the upstage area.
- The Dragonfly dances.
- The Vixen enters crying.
- The Vixen and Fox look for a priest.
- They get married.
- There is bright light onstage after the wedding.
- Many fox cubs come onto the stage.
- The music comes to a crescendo and there is a blackout on stage (this means all lights on stage go out, but the lights over the audience remain on).
- This is the end of Act 2.
- The audience may clap at the end of Act 2. If it is too loud you can cover your ears with your hands or put on sound-dampening headphones

INTERMISSION - 25 minutes

- An intermission is a break in the opera. The opera is not over.
- During the intermission you can leave your seat to use the washroom, go outside, walk around the lobby, or you can stay in your seat. It is your choice.
- The lights in the auditorium will come up to full so that there is enough light to move around safely.
- The ushers will let you know when it is time to re-enter the auditorium (seating area) for Act 3.

ACT 3 - 30 minutes

- The ushers will let you know when it is time to re-enter the auditorium (seating area) for Act 3.
- The orchestra will do a short warm-up before the act begins.
- The conductor will go back into the orchestra pit and may turn and face the audience before starting to conduct.
- Sometimes audience members clap when the orchestra begins to play and the curtains open. If the clapping is too loud you can cover your ears with your hands or put on sound-dampening headphones.

- The music begins and the curtain begins to rise; the stage behind the curtain is lit, so light will appear when the curtain goes up.
- There is snowing on stage when the curtain goes up.
- The scroll begin to fall: one scroll and then another until only the main, central scroll remains.
- The Dragonfly enters.
- The music is ominous and dramatic.
- The fourth scroll drops.
- A Poacher has a dead rabbit.
- The dead rabbit is clearly a stuffed prop; it does not look very real.
- The Poacher carries a rifle.
- The Forester enters with his rifle.
- There is singing of God.
- The Forester sets a trap for the Vixen by putting the dead rabbit in a cage.
- The Fox Cubs enter.
- The Vixen and the Fox enter.
- There is singing of the smell of tobacco.
- The young Fox Cubs scream.
- The music slows.
- The Fox tries to woo the Vixen again.
- The Vixen hears a human and tells the Cubs and the Fox to leave.
- All of the cubs leave except one.
- The Poacher sees the Vixen and tries to shoot her - he misses (11 minutes).
- The last cub escapes.
- The Vixen realizes that the Poacher has seen her and that perhaps he may actually shoot her.
- There are two loud gunshots on stage with bright, red flashes from the Poacher's gun (13:15 minutes).
- A scroll falls from the ceiling.
- The Poacher has shot the Vixen.
- He takes the scroll, representing the Vixen, off stage.
- All three Vixens, youngest, older and adult, follow the Poacher off stage.
- The music gets loud and intense. If it is too loud you can cover your ears with your hands or put on sound-dampening headphones (14:30 minutes).
- The lights on stage get brighter, as does the music.
- The Forester enters.
- The music slows.

- The Timekeepers surround the Forester.
- The Forester raises his rifle like a club to defend himself.
- The Forester's Wife and other human characters enter the stage and cross to the other side. None of them stop for the Forester.
- The Forester places a beer barrel on stage loudly. If it is too loud you can cover your ears with your hands or put on sound-dampening headphones.
- The Forester drinks with the Schoolmaster.
- The music is lighter.
- There is singing of the Poacher's wife having a new fur muff: it seems this has been made from the Vixen.
- The Schoolmaster cries for his lost love.
- There is singing of the Priest.
- The music slows as the Forester sings of getting old.
- The large, central scroll moves the story by scrolling down.
- The younger versions of the Forester enter the stage and all three play together.
- The music is playful and gets louder as they play.
- It is spring!
- The Forester sings about when he was young.
- There is singing of love and kisses.
- The Forester takes off his jacket and a shirt, but he still has one shirt on.
- The Forester wraps himself in the scroll.
- There are brighter lights at the back of the stage.
- There appears to be music notes on the scrolls.
- As the written music ends, the scroll is blank.
- The scroll drops to the stage floor.
- The Forester rolls in the scroll.
- A door at the back of the stage opens and a bright light shines through it.
- The Forester sees the Vixen as a cub.
- The Forester sings about his life.
- The Frog sings about his grandfather.
- The animals play.
- The Foster pulls the scroll with him as he exits through the door at the back of the stage.
- The music crescendos.
- The animals play.
- The curtain lowers.
- This is the end of the opera.

- The audience may clap at the end. If it is too loud you can cover your ears with your hands or put on sound-dampening headphones.
- The curtain comes back up and the lights get bright on stage: this is the curtain call (bows).
- The curtain call is a chance for the audience to tell the performers and the orchestra how much they enjoyed the opera: you can clap, say “bravo”, and even stand up from your seat as the performers bow. If it is too loud you can cover your ears with your hands or put on sound-dampening headphones.
- There are many performers in the opera and the curtain call may take a few minutes for them to all have a chance to bow for you.
- After the bows are over, the curtain will go down and stay down and the lights will come up in the auditorium.
- Now is the time to leave the auditorium.

We hope you enjoyed *The Cunning Little Vixen* with the Canadian Opera Company!

Masking Protocols:

The Canadian Opera Company no longer requires masking. However, if wearing a mask is more comfortable for you, you are welcome to wear one in and around the venue. Please note that some staff may wear masks, but it is not required for staff to be masked.