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## **GRITTY, NEW *MACBETH* OPENS SPRING AT THE COC** **Sir David McVicar production stars soprano Sondra Radvanovsky**

**Toronto** – Ruthless ambition, supernatural forces, and cold-blooded violence collide in the **Canadian Opera Company’s** thrilling new *Macbeth* featuring epic sets and costumes, and the powerhouse vocals of **Quinn Kelsey** and **Sondra Radvanovsky**. Verdi’s operatic adaptation of the Shakespearean tragedy sets the timeless cautionary tale to a relentlessly paced score that thrills to the very last note. *Macbeth* runs for seven performances at the **Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts** on **April 28, 30, and May 6, 12, 14, 17, and 20, 2023**.

**Quinn Kelsey**, “one of the most compelling sounds to be heard on the opera stage today,” (*Opera News*) stars in the iconic title role. **Kelsey** was last featured in the COC’s 2015 *Rigoletto*, with the American baritone returning to Toronto last spring to step in as Giorgio Germont for a performance of Verdi’s *La Traviata*. Renowned Canadian-American soprano and COC favourite **Sondra Radvanovsky** takes on the role of master manipulator Lady Macbeth; the *Chicago Sun-Times* has hailed her performance in this production as “spell-binding” with *New City Stage* wondering “if Verdi knew [Radvanovsky] would be along eventually and wrote it just for her.”

Turkish bass **Önay Köse** is Banquo, Macbeth’s confidante-turned-victim, and returns to Toronto following the COC’s 2019 production of *Otello* that “exceed[ed] all expectations” (*Aesthetic Magazine*). Macbeth’s eventual nemesis Macduff is performed by Canadian tenor and **Ensemble Studio** graduate **Matthew Cairns**, “one of the most promising dramatic voices of his generation” (*Opera Canada*). Canadian tenor and **Ensemble Studio** graduate **Adam Luther** sings the role of Malcolm, heir to the King of Scotland; **Ensemble Studio** graduate and bass-baritone **Vartan Gabrielian** takes on the role of Doctor, and Canadian soprano **Tracy Cantin** brings her “full gleaming sound” (*Chicago Tribune*) to the much-acclaimed ensemble cast as Lady-in-Waiting.

Visionary Scottish director **Sir David McVicar** returns to the COC following his “must-see” (*Opera Canada*) *Rusalka* in 2019, and is joined by many of the creative team members who brought that acclaimed production to life. Here, set designer **John Macfarlane** sets the action within a crumbling Presbyterian chapel, underscoring good and evil at odds throughout the opera. An austere colour palette of black and maroon from costume designer **Moritz Junge** plays up the broody atmosphere while lighting designer **David Finn** creates a shadowy underworld of betrayal, punctuated by a fiery moment of drama. Choreographer **Andrew George** and award-winning fight director **Nick Sandys** lead the opera’s most action-packed scenes.

The COC welcomes back Italian conductor **Speranza Scappucci**, “one of classical music’s biggest stars,” (*Opera News*) after she dazzled Toronto audiences in 2020 with her work in *The Barber of Seville*. In *Macbeth*, **Scappucci** conducts the **COC Orchestra** through what many consider a watershed moment in Verdi’s composing career: his first Shakespearean opera, but one that shows tremendous maturity and complexity. **Price Family Chorus Master Sandra Horst** leads the **COC Chorus** through some of opera’s most powerful and haunting choral numbers.

*Macbeth* is sung in Italian and presented by the COC with English SURTITLES™.

### **Cast and Creative Team**

<b>Macbeth</b>	Quinn Kelsey
<b>Lady Macbeth</b>	Sondra Radvanovsky
<b>Banquo</b>	Önay Köse

<b>Macduff</b>	Matthew Cairns
<b>Malcolm</b>	Adam Luther
<b>Lady-in-Waiting</b>	Tracy Cantin
<b>A Doctor</b>	Vartan Gabrielian
<b>Murderer</b>	Clarence Frazer
<b>Fleance</b>	Roland Piers
<b>Duncan</b>	Jim Vanderlip
<b>First Apparition</b>	Giles Tomkins
<b>Second Apparition</b>	Charlotte Siegel
<b>Third Apparition</b>	Midori Marsh
<b>Conductor</b>	Speranza Scappucci
<b>Assistant Conductor</b>	Derek Bate
<b>Director</b>	Sir David McVicar
<b>Assistant Director</b>	Andrew Adridge
<b>Set Designer</b>	John Macfarlane
<b>Costume Designer</b>	Moritz Junge
<b>Lighting Designer</b>	David Finn
<b>Choreographer</b>	Andrew George
<b>Assistant Choreographer</b>	Julia Aplin
<b>Fight Director</b>	Nick Sandys
<b>Price Family Chorus Master</b>	Sandra Horst
<b>Stage Manager</b>	Jenifer Kowal

With the COC Orchestra and COC Chorus

### **TICKET INFORMATION**

Single tickets for *Macbeth* range from **\$35 – \$250 for adults**, with Grand Ring seats available at **\$290** and **\$350**, and **\$22 tickets available for guests between the ages of 16 and 29** through the COC's **Opera Under 30** program. Tickets can be purchased online at **coc.ca** or by calling the Four Seasons Centre Box Office at **416-363-8231**. For more information on booking **student groups, standing room, and rush tickets**, as well as other specially priced tickets available to **young people under the age of 15**, please visit **coc.ca**.

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

**Season Sponsor:** BMO Financial Group

**Production Sponsor:** Power Corporation of Canada

**Speranza Scappucci** is generously sponsored by **Kristine Vikmanis & Denton Creighton**

**Sondra Radvanovsky** is generously sponsored by an anonymous donor

**Quinn Kelsey** is generously sponsored by **Sadhisha Ambagahawita, Melissa & Barry Avrigh, and Al Ramsay & Michael Daniels**

**Charlotte Siegel** is generously sponsored by **Catherine Fauquier** and **Joy Levine**

**Midori Marsh** is generously sponsored by **Marcia Lewis Brown**

**Sandra Horst** and the **COC Chorus** are generously underwritten by **Tim & Frances Price**

The **COC Orchestra** is generously sponsored, in part, by **W. Bruce C. Bailey, in honour of Christie Darville, COC Deputy General Director, and Johannes Debus, COC Music Director**, and in part by **The Schulich Foundation**

Thank you to the entire COC community, including our [COC Board of Directors](#), our [Corporate Sponsors and Foundation Supporters](#), [generous public funders](#), [union partners](#), and — most critically — [our audience](#). Your inspiring support ensures that opera flourishes, uniting global audiences and paving the way for a vibrant future.

### **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. General Director Perryn Leech joined the company in 2021, forming a leadership team with Music Director Johannes Debus and Deputy General Director Christie Darville. The COC enjoys a loyal audience, including a dedicated base of subscribers, and has an international reputation for artistic excellence and creative innovation. Its diverse repertoire includes new commissions and productions, local and international collaborations with leading opera companies and festivals, and attracts the world's foremost Canadian and international artists. The company is an incubator for the future of the art form, nurturing Canada's new wave of opera performers and creators with customized training and support. The COC's purpose-built opera house, the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts, is hailed internationally as one of the finest in the world. For more information, visit [coc.ca](http://coc.ca).

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