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## **A NAUTICAL GHOST STORY SETS SAIL IN THE COC'S *THE FLYING DUTCHMAN***

**Toronto** – The **Canadian Opera Company's** 2022/2023 season kicks off with an early masterpiece from one of the world's greatest composers, *The Flying Dutchman* by Richard Wagner. The haunting sea legend returns to Toronto in a visually arresting production to capture audiences' imaginations. Legend has it the Flying Dutchman has been cursed to an eternity at sea. His freedom can only come with the finding of true love, so when a local sailor and his daughter Senta encounter the ghostly ship, initial attraction leads to a high-stakes test of devotion. *The Flying Dutchman* runs for seven performances at the **Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts** on **October 7, 9, 13, 15, 19, 21, and 23, 2022.**

Canadian revival director **Marilyn Gronsdal** takes on the original vision from multi-award-winning American director **Christopher Alden**, framing the action around an imposing, off-kilter ship that heightens tension. American designer **Allen Moyer** is behind the set's tilted and twisted landscape, painted with streaks of light and shadow from Los Angeles-based artist and designer **Anne Militello**. The production's aesthetic is a nod to German expressionism of the early 20th century and the ghostly nautical feel is further accentuated by sea-battered costumes from **Moyer**, and pockets of glowing red from **Militello** that hint at the crew's underworld origins.

*The Flying Dutchman* was the first opera that **COC Music Director Johannes Debus** led after joining the company in 2010 and this fall marks a full-circle moment for the acclaimed conductor. "I was originally supposed to conduct this in 2020, marking my tenth anniversary with the COC," says **Debus**. "Of course, because of the pandemic, we're celebrating a full two years later! But it's remarkable to think of the journey we've all been through and exciting to bring this opera about a famously epic journey back to our audiences. It's been a true joy exploring opera as COC Music Director and I look forward to seeing where we go next." **Debus** will lead the **COC Orchestra** through Wagner's feverish Romantic score, with **Price Family Chorus Master Sandra Horst** leading the **COC Chorus**.

The production welcomes several cast members back to Toronto, with Danish baritone **Johan Reuter** taking on the title role, opposite American soprano **Marjorie Owens** as the young woman infatuated with his legend. The pair last appeared on the COC mainstage with **Reuter** delivering a "powerful" performance (*Globe and Mail*) in Wagner's *Die Walküre* (2015) and **Owens** as Puccini's cold and calculated Princess Turandot (2019).

German bass **Franz-Josef Selig** and American tenor **Miles Mykkanen** also return to the COC, following performances in *Tristan und Isolde* and *The Nightingale and Other Short Fables*, respectively; this time **Selig** is Daland, the captain who discovers the Dutchman's ghostly ship, and **Mykkanen** brings his "focused, full-voiced tenor" to the role of the Steersman. British tenor **Christopher Ventris** and mezzo-soprano **Rosie Aldridge** make COC debuts as the huntsman Erik and Senta's companion, Mary.

*The Flying Dutchman* is sung in German and presented by the COC with English SURTITLES™.

### **Cast and Creative Team**

<b>The Dutchman</b>	Johan Reuter
<b>Senta</b>	Marjorie Owens
<b>Daland</b>	Franz-Josef Selig

**The Steersman** Miles Mykkanen  
**Erik** Christopher Ventris  
**Mary** Rosie Aldridge

**Conductor** Johannes Debus  
**Director** Christopher Alden  
**Revival Director** Marilyn Gronsdal  
**Set & Costume Designer** Allen Moyer  
**Lighting Designer** Anne Militello  
**Price Family Chorus Master** Sandra Horst

**With the COC Orchestra and COC Chorus**

### **TICKET INFORMATION**

Single tickets for *The Flying Dutchman* 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](http://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](http://coc.ca).

### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

**Season Sponsor:** BMO Financial Group

Production of *The Flying Dutchman* underwritten, in part, by:

**Lisa Balfour Bowen and Family in memory of Walter Bowen and in honour of Alexander Neef**

The COC Orchestra is generously sponsored, in part, by:

**Bruce C. Bailey, in honour of Christie Darville, COC Deputy General Director, and Johannes Debus, COC Music Director.**

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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