

COC'S 2023/2024 CASTS AND CREATIVE TEAMS AT-A-GLANCE**Fidelio, by Ludwig Van Beethoven****October, 1, 7, 12, 14, 18, 20, 2023****Sung in German with English SURTITLES™****A production from San Francisco Opera**

Beethoven's only opera follows the story of Leonore, a woman who disguises herself as a man to go undercover into the very prison where she suspects her husband is being held as a political prisoner. As she descends deeper into the prison's cells, she uncovers a sinister plot of abuse and oppression.

Acclaimed director Matthew Ozawa transports the action to a modern-day prison facility, reminding viewers that Beethoven's warnings in *Fidelio*—about power, corruption, and tyranny—remain as relevant today as they were 200 years ago, while crystallizing the composer's vision for justice and freedom.

Cast and Creative Team

Leonore	Miina-Liisa Väreä
Florestan	Clay Hilley
Rocco	Dimitry Ivashchenko
Marzelline	Anna-Sophie Neher
Jaquino	Josh Lovell
Don Pizarro	Johannes Martin Kränzle
Don Fernando	Sava Vemić
Conductor	Johannes Debus
Director	Matthew Ozawa
Set and Projection Designer	Alexander Nichols
Costume Designer	Jessica Jahn
Lighting Designer	Justin A. Partier
Price Family Chorus Master	Sandra Horst

With the COC Orchestra and Chorus

La Bohème, by Giacomo Puccini**October 6, 8, 11, 13, 19, 21, 22, 28, 2023****Sung in Italian with English SURTITLES™****A Canadian Opera Company co-production with Houston Grand Opera and San Francisco Opera**

From a cold but charming apartment in the Latin Quarter to the bustling street scenes at the Café Momus, we follow the poet Rodolfo and his seamstress neighbour Mimì, struggling artists searching for love and life in Bohemian Paris.

These spirited scenes unfold against a set designed out of perpetually shifting painted canvases, all under the direction of Tony Award-winner John Caird. The real-life married couple of tenor Pene Pati and soprano Amina Edris star as the show's tragic young lovers.

Cast and Creative Team

Mimì	Amina Edris
Rodolfo	Pene Pati/Kang Wang
Marcello	Joo Won Kang
Musetta	Charlotte Siegel
Colline	Blaise Malaba
Schaunard	Justin Welsh
Conductor	Jordan de Souza
Director	John Caird
Set and Costume Designer	David Farley
Lighting Designer	Michael Clark
Price Family Chorus Master	Sandra Horst

With the COC Orchestra and Chorus**The Cunning Little Vixen, by Leoš Janáček****January 26, 28, February 3, 8, 10, 14, 16, 2024****Sung in Czech with English SURTITLES™****A production from English National Opera**

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 family-friendly opera invites audiences to reflect on the advancing toll of climate change and the importance of cultivating a harmonious interrelationship with the natural world.

Canadian soprano and COC favourite Jane Archibald stars as the clever fox, Sharp Ears, while COC Music Director Johannes Debus leads the COC Orchestra through Czech composer Leoš Janáček's lush score.

Cast and Creative Team

Vixen (Sharp Ears)	Jane Archibald
Fox (Gold-Stripe)	Ema Nikolovska
Forester	Christopher Purves
Parson/Badger	Giles Tomkins
Forester's Wife/Owl	Megan Latham
Lapák	Carolyn Sproule

Conductor	Johannes Debus
Director	Jamie Manton
Set and Costume Designer	Tom Scutt
Lighting Designer	Lucy Carter
Choreographer	Jenny Ogilvie
Price Family Chorus Master	Sandra Horst

With the COC Orchestra and Chorus

Don Giovanni, by Wolfgang A. Mozart

February 2, 4, 7, 9, 15, 17, 24, 2024

Sung in Italian with English SURTITLES™

A co-production of Royal Opera House, Covent Garden; Gran Teatre del Liceu; The Israeli Opera; and Houston Grand Opera

Mozart's dark, twisted masterpiece is presented as you've never seen it before in this breathtaking production from Danish director Kaspar Holten. The show features spectacular set designs combined with ingenious video projections, plunging audiences into an Escher-like web of rotating rooms, revolving with the rhythms of Don Giovanni's infernal drama.

Inside this darkly glamorous world, we witness the playboy's downfall when his latest seduction spirals out of control and leads to murder. In synchronicity with the stylish visuals, COC Music Director Johannes Debus and the COC Orchestra build out the otherworldly architecture of Mozart's score—turn by musical turn—to reveal the most thrilling, adventurous, and elegant music the composer ever wrote.

Cast and Creative Team

Don Giovanni	Gordon Bintner
Donna Elvira	Anita Hartig
Donna Anna	Mané Galoyan
Leporello	Paolo Bordogna
Don Ottavio	Ben Bliss
Zerlina	Simone McIntosh
Masetto	Joel Allison
Conductor	Johannes Debus
Director	Kaspar Holten
Associate Director	Amy Lane
Set Designer	Es Devlin
Costume Designer	Anja Vang Kragh
Lighting Designer	Bruno Poet
Projection Designer	Luke Halls
Choreographer	Signe Fabricius
Price Family Chorus Master	Sandra Horst

With the COC Orchestra and Chorus

Don Pasquale, by Gaetano Donizetti**April 26, May 2, 4, 8, 10, 12, 14*, 18, 2024****Sung in Italian with English SURTITLES™****A production from Scottish Opera*****Ensemble Studio performance**

The aging Pasquale refuses to let his love-struck nephew Ernesto marry, and decides to get married himself. The only snag is that the woman he's chosen as his bride-to-be, the fiery Norina, is secretly his nephew's beloved, which sets up a riotous clash between generations.

This new production marks the first appearance of *Don Pasquale* at the COC in 30 years. Making their company debut, the French-Canadian creative team of Renaud Doucet and André Barbe place this fizzy, feel-good comedy in 1960s Rome, topping it with Technicolor visuals and Pop Art aplomb.

Please note: a role is still being finalized for this production.**Cast and Creative Team**

Don Pasquale	Misha Kiria
Dr. Malatesta	Joshua Hopkins
Ernesto	Santiago Ballerini
Conductor	Jacques Lacombe
Director	Renaud Doucet
Set and Costume Designer	André Barbe
Lighting Designer	Guy Simard
Choreographer	Renaud Doucet
Price Family Chorus Master	Sandra Horst

With the COC Orchestra and Chorus**Medea, by Luigi Cherubini****May 3, 5, 9, 11, 15, 17, 25, 2024****Sung in Italian with English SURTITLES™****A co-production of the Metropolitan Opera, Greek National Opera, Canadian Opera Company, and Lyric Opera of Chicago**

Never before seen on the COC stage and seldom performed anywhere in the world, *Medea* is an exquisite rarity, featuring one of the most challenging roles in opera history. As the culmination of our season, world-renowned soprano Sondra Radvanovsky will tackle the role, reuniting with director Sir David McVicar for this brand-new production.

Medea is based on an ancient Greek myth, in which the title character helps Jason (Giasone), leader of the famous Argonauts, steal the Golden Fleece—only to be abandoned by him. While her betrayal makes Medea a victim, this operatic interpretation gives her the last word as she unleashes her rage with chilling violence against those who have wronged her.

Cast and Creative Team

Medea	Sondra Radvanovsky
Giasone	Matthew Polenzani

Glauce	Janai Brugger
Creonte	Eric Owens
Conductor	Lorenzo Passerini
Director	Sir David McVicar
Set Designer	Sir David McVicar
Costume Designer	Doey Lüthi
Lighting Designer	Paule Constable
Projection Designer	S. Katy Tucker
Movement Director	Jo Meredith
Price Family Chorus Master	Sandra Horst

With the COC Orchestra and Chorus

Aportia Chryptych: A Black Opera for Portia White, by HAUI x Sean Mayes

June 14, 15, 16, 2024

A world premiere opera

Nova Scotian contralto Portia White was the first Black Canadian concert performer to achieve international fame in the mid-20th century, hailed as the best classical voice of her generation. Yet, despite her accomplishments, her story has been largely erased from Canadians' collective memory.

Aportia Chryptych: A Black Opera for Portia White is a bold, new Black opera from Canadian director and librettist HAUI and Toronto and New York-based composer Sean Mayes that sets out to reclaim Portia White's story, featuring Canadian soprano Neema Bickersteth and Emmy Award-winning mezzo-soprano Adrienne Danrich. The opera begins at the end of Portia's life, as she is thrust into the crossroads of the spirit realm.

As she is fractured into her divine feminine trinity of Body, Soul, and Spirit, she must reconcile the coded and cryptic secrets from her past to shed her earthly existence and finally ascend. Spoken word, rap, folk songs, hip-hop, R&B, and classic opera repertoire collide in an explosive score that seeks to break down musical silos and unite artistic and cultural communities.

Cast and Creative Team

Portia Body	Neema Bickersteth
Portia Spirit	Adrienne Danrich
Conductor	Sean Mayes
Director/Librettist	HAUI
Composer	Sean Mayes with HAUI
Dramaturg	Neema Bickersteth

****Please note:** the performance venue for *Aportia Chryptych: A Black Opera for Portia White* will be the **Canadian Opera Company Theatre (COCT)** at 227 Front St., embodying the COC's commitment to presenting opera of all scales, which includes bold and boundary-breaking works at the COCT.

All repertoire, dates, productions, and casting are subject to change without notice.

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