

For immediate release: December 5, 2023

## **EXPERIENCE MOZART'S *DON GIOVANNI* AS NEVER BEFORE IN A BREATHTAKING NEW PRODUCTION**

**Toronto** – One of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's most powerful and brilliant operas is transformed into a spectacle for the senses and a deeply thought-provoking experience in the **Canadian Opera Company's** winter production of *Don Giovanni*. The twisted comedic masterpiece thrusts audiences into the darkly glamorous world of entitled aristocracy, where the womanizing title character has grown used to getting away with murder—that is, until his latest seduction spirals out of control and leads to an actual murder, setting off a supernatural chain of events that sees karma come calling. *Don Giovanni* runs for seven performances at the **Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts** on **February 2, 4, 7, 9, 15, 17, and 24, 2024**.

### **DRAMATIC DESCENT INTO CHAOS**

British director **Amy Lane** is widely known for her thoughtful and innovative approach to staging classic operas. As associate director in Toronto, **Lane** takes over the creative reins from the production's original director, **Kasper Holten**, offering a nuanced glimpse inside the chaotic mind of one of opera's most notorious predators. Award-winning set designer **Es Devlin** has worked with some of the entertainment industry's biggest stars, from Beyoncé to U2 and, here, she has created an Escher-like web of revolving rooms that emulates the title character's spiralling descent. Eye-popping video projections from **Luke Halls** and projection associate **Gareth Shelton** combine with vivid colour from revival lighting designer **John-Paul Percox**, based on the original concept from **Bruno Poet**, to infuse the stage with both drama and dread as the story progresses.

*Don Giovanni* is the second of Mozart's enormously successful collaborations with librettist Lorenzo da Ponte. Its score is widely regarded as one of the greatest of all time and its dramatic pull featuring prominently in the Oscar-winning film *Amadeus*, as well as the television drama *Hannibal*. **COC Music Director Johannes Debus** expertly leads the **COC Orchestra** through the opera's thrilling musical complexities, with **Price Family Chorus Master Sandra Horst** leading the Dora Award-winning **COC Chorus**.

### **A SUPERB CAST OF INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED VOICES**

Canadian bass-baritone **Gordon Bintner** returns to the COC as Don Giovanni, following his leading role last winter in the company's "sublime" (*NEXT*) production of *The Marriage of Figaro*. **Bintner** has been a rising star on the international stage in recent years and he is joined by two renowned sopranos making their COC debuts: **Mané Galoyan** of Armenia, bringing her "radiant presence" (*The Guardian*) to the role of the Commendatore's daughter, Donna Anna, and **Anita Hartig** of Romania, who brings her "superb dramatic instincts" (*New York Classical Review*) to the role of Donna Elvira.

The opera features two additional **Ensemble Studio** graduates, with award-winning mezzo-soprano **Simone McIntosh** singing Zerlina, and bass-baritone **Joel Allison** taking on the role of her fiancé, Masetto. American tenor **Ben Bliss** returns to Toronto as Donna Anna's fiancé Don Ottavio, following his last appearance "at his lyric best" (*Toronto Star*) in the COC's *Così fan tutte* (2019). Italian bass-baritone **Paolo Bordogna**, "one of the most esteemed specialists in the buffo/comic repertoire," (*OperaWire*) makes a COC debut as Leporello, servant and sidekick to Don Giovanni and American bass **David Leigh** completes the cast as the retired army general, the Commendatore.

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

*Don Giovanni* is a co-production of Royal Opera House, Covent Garden; Gran Theatre del Liceu; The Israeli Opera; and Houston Grand Opera.

### Cast and Creative Team

<b>Don Giovanni</b>	Gordon Bintner
<b>Donna Anna</b>	Mané Galoyan
<b>Donna Elvira</b>	Anita Hartig
<b>Zerlina</b>	Simone McIntosh
<b>Don Ottavio</b>	Ben Bliss
<b>Leporello</b>	Paolo Bordogna
<b>Masetto</b>	Joel Allison
<b>Commendatore</b>	David Leigh
<b>Conductor</b>	Johannes Debus
<b>Director</b>	Kasper Holten
<b>Associate Director</b>	Amy Lane
<b>Set Designer</b>	Es Devlin
<b>Costume Designer</b>	Anja Kragh
<b>Original Lighting Designer</b>	Bruno Poet
<b>Revival Lighting Designer</b>	John-Paul Percoc
<b>Projection Designer</b>	Luke Halls
<b>Projection Associate</b>	Gareth Shelton
<b>Original Movement Director</b>	Signe Fabricius
<b>Revival Movement Director</b>	Anna-Marie Sullivan
<b>Fight/Intimacy Coordinator</b>	Siobhan Richardson
<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 *Don Giovanni* 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

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**Gordon Bintner** is generously sponsored by **Janet Stubbs**.

**Johannes Debus** is generously sponsored by **George & Kathy Dembrowski**.

**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](#).

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