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For immediate release

## Calgary Opera Announces 2011-2012 Season

Calgary AB... Today Calgary Opera announces its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, 2011-2012 season highlighted by three traditional masterpieces and a critically acclaimed Canadian premiere.

"I'm thrilled with the fantastic line-up we have for our anniversary season," says General Director and CEO W.R. (Bob) McPhee. "With *La Bohème*, the first opera ever performed by our company, we celebrate Calgary Opera's history while looking forward with the company premiere with *Gianni Schicchi* and the Canadian premiere of *Moby Dick*, co-commissioned and co-produced by Calgary Opera"

Calgary Opera opens the 2011-2012 season with a double bill of tragedy and comedy – Leoncavallo's *Pagliacci* and Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi*. With some of the most rich and memorable music in the repertoire, this pair of one-act operas compliment each other beautifully. *Pagliacci* tells the story of a Commedia dell' art troupe lead by the hot-blooded Canio. When he discovers his wife Nedda's infidelity, he flies into a rage on stage, committing the ultimate crime while the audience looks on in horror.

On the flip side, the company premiere of *Gianni Schicchi* turns a sad situation into a light one when an old miser dies, leaving all his money to the church. In an act of good will, Gianni uses his wits to have a new will drawn up, meanwhile lining his own pockets. *Pagliacci* and *Gianni Schicchi* are conducted by **Robert Tweeten** with stage direction by **Alain Gauthier**. **Marc Hervieux** stars in the role of Canio, with **Sally Dibblee** as Nedda, **John Fanning** as Gianni Schicchi, **Elizabeth Turnbull** as Zita and **Taras Kulish** as Simone.

In January we present the Canadian premiere of Jake Heggie and Gene Sheer's *Moby Dick*, starring internationally acclaimed Canadian Tenor **Ben Heppner** as Captain Ahab. This classic novel turned opera brings a fresh look to the story of Captain Ahab and his relentless pursuit of the white whale who crippled him. Premiering to rave reviews at Dallas Opera last spring, *Moby Dick* promises to be an epic adventure on the high seas. *Moby Dick* is conducted by **Jean-Marie Zeitouni** and directed by **Leonard Foglia**, and features **Brett Polegato** as Starbuck, **Colin Ainsworth** as Greenhorn, **Lisa DiMaria** as Pip and **Peter McGillivray** as Stubb.

As a fitting conclusion to our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary season, we present *La Bohème*, the first opera performed by our company and one of the most beloved operas of all time. Following the lives of a group of poverty stricken bohemian friends, *La Bohème* is a portrait of love, loss and the pursuit of art in Paris. *La Bohème* is conducted by **Gordon Gerrard** with direction by **Robert Herriot** and stars **Antoine Bélanger** as Rodolfo, **Marianne Fiset** as Mimi, **Phillip Addis** as Marcello, **Alexandre Sylvestre** as Colline and **Laura Albino** as Musetta.

Subscription renewals for next season are now on sale. Single performance tickets go on sale next fall.

- 30 -

For more information on:

[Pagliacci/Gianni Schicchi click here](#)

[Moby Dick click here](#)

[La Bohème click here](#)

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