

# CALGARY OPERA

Media Release

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## CALGARY OPERA ANNOUNCES POWERFUL 2026/27 SEASON OF COURAGE, TRANSFORMATION, AND HOPE

**CALGARY, AB** - Calgary Opera proudly announces its 2026/27 season, a bold and emotionally charged journey featuring three grand operas on the Southern Alberta Jubilee stage, a beloved family production, and a wide array of immersive experiences that bring opera into the heart of the community.

The season opens with Puccini's *Tosca* (October 2026), a pulse-pounding political thriller where passion and power collide in one of opera's most emotionally explosive masterpieces. In winter, audiences are swept into the shimmering fantasy of Massenet's *Cinderella* (January–February 2027), a radiant tale of transformation, true love, and escape. Spring brings Verdi's searing *Otello* (April 2027), an unflinching exploration of jealousy and manipulation inspired by Shakespeare's most psychologically devastating tragedy. Rounding out the season, Seymour Barab's *Pied Piper* offers theatrical charm and unforgettable melodies for younger audiences and families, with multiple performances at the Mamdani Opera Centre in November 2027 and an on-the-road Southern Alberta school and community tour in February 2027.

"Opera is meant to be felt — viscerally, together, in the moment. We've chosen works that make hearts race, may bring unexpected tears, and remind us why nothing compares to the power of the human voice in live performance. These are stories that reveal something new about the characters and about us," said Jonathan Brandani, Calgary Opera's Artistic Director.

"Every season, I get to ask: what do we need right now? What will move us, challenge us, stay with us? For 2026/27, the answer felt clear—we need stories of breathtaking beauty and raw honesty, performed by voices that stop you in your tracks. Whether this is your

first opera or your fiftieth, you're going to discover something here. That's the power of grand opera," added Brandani.

Audiences are invited to witness timeless stories of love, sacrifice, magic, and profound truth — brought to life by world-class artists, Calgary Opera Chorus, Cantaré Children's Choir, and Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, and emerging talents of tomorrow.

“This season reflects our responsibility not only to present extraordinary art, but also to make opera welcoming, accessible, and meaningful for our community. From expanded youth pricing and new performance times to immersive experiences beyond the theatre, we’re meeting audiences where they are and inviting them into something powerful. Calgary Opera exists to bring people together — across generations, backgrounds, and experiences — and our 2026/27 season is a celebration of that connection,” said Sue Elliott, Calgary Opera’s General Director & CEO.

The 2026/27 season shifts opening nights to Friday evenings, and continues with the now popular Sunday afternoon matinees. Tickets for youth ages 18 and under are 50% off for all seats and all shows.



## **TOSCA**

*Music by Giacomo Puccini*

*Words by Luigi Illica and Giuseppe Giacosa*

**Friday October 16, 2026 – 7:30 PM**

**Sunday October 18, 2026 – 2:00 PM**

**Saturday October 24, 2026 – 7:30 PM**

*Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium*

A singer. A painter. A police chief. An impossible bargain. How far would you go to save the person you love?

Puccini’s *Tosca* is a gripping political thriller fueled by ravishingly beautiful music and devastating choices. Passion collides with power in one of opera’s most beloved and emotionally explosive masterpieces.

Conductor: Jonathan Brandani

Stage Director: Joshua Borths

Sung in Italian with projected English translations; with Calgary Opera Chorus, Cantaré Children's Choir, and Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra



## **CINDERELLA**

*Music by Jules Massenet*

*Original words by Henri Cain*

**Friday January 29, 2027 – 7:30 PM**

**Sunday January 31, 2027 – 2:00 PM**

**Saturday February 6, 2027 – 7:30 PM**

*Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium*

A glass slipper. A true love found. One night to change everything.

Massenet's *Cinderella* is pure escape fantasy—shimmering, romantic, and filled with wonder. Experience the thrill of transformation in a breathless race against the clock, set to music as magical as the ballroom itself.

Conductor: Jacques Lacombe

Stage Director: Mieko Ouchi

Sung in English with projected English captions; with Calgary Opera Chorus and Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra



## **OTELLO**

*Music by Giuseppe Verdi*

*Words by Arrigo Boito*

*Based on William Shakespeare's Othello*

**Friday April 16, 2027 – 7:30 PM**

**Sunday April 18, 2027 – 2:00 PM**

**Saturday April 24, 2027 – 7:30 PM**

*Southern Alberta Jubilee Auditorium*

A general and his wife. His scheming friend. A whispered lie.

In Shakespeare's most psychologically brutal tragedy, a single lie unravels everything. Verdi's *Otello* is opera at its most devastating—an unflinching exploration of jealousy, manipulation, and the fragility of love.

Conductor: Jonathan Brandani

Stage Director: Elizabeth Stepkowski Tarhan

Sung in Italian with projected English translations

With Calgary Opera Chorus, Cantaré Children's Choir, and Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra



## **PIED PIPER**

*Music and words by Seymour Barab*

**Mamdani Opera Centre**

Multiple performances; Sensory-friendly performance included

A town. A tune. And a surprising twist.

*Pied Piper* delivers adventure, magic, and a timeless lesson about keeping promises—packed with theatrical charm and melodies that linger long after the piper leaves town.

Performed by members of Calgary Opera's McPhee Artist Development Program; Sung in English

### **Performance Dates & Times**

**Friday November 13, 2026 -7:00 PM**

**Saturday November 14, 2026 -11:00 AM & 3:00 PM**

**Sunday November 15, 2026 -3:00 PM**

**Friday November 20, 2026 -3:00 PM & 7:00 PM**

**Saturday November 21, 2026 -11:00 AM\* & 3:00 PM**

**Sunday November 22, 2026 -3:00 PM**

\*Sensory-friendly performance on Saturday November 21, 2026 at 11:00 AM

February 2027: On-the-Road Southern Alberta School & Community Tour



## OPERA BEYOND THE STAGE

Calgary Opera invites audiences to experience opera through intimate, interactive, and social events that bring artists and audiences closer together.

Highlights include:

- **Opera Brunch** - Star singers with a side of eggs.
- **Arias + Ales** - Casual arias over craft beer at Best of Kin Social.
- **Cabarets** - Opera's party night. McPhee Artists let loose in intimate, festive performances
- **Serious Family Fun** - Create-your-own opera adventure at our free, interactive open houses
- **Get Acquainted** - Start with a free Opera Talk in the lobby before every show. Go deeper with Unpacking Opera (free with registration) or peek behind the curtain at our Spotlight Series where we illuminate the planning, design, and problem-solving that brings opera to life.
- **Dive Deeply** - For the truly curious: attend Masterclasses with visiting artists or join Opera Buddies for ongoing learning and community.
- **Dress Rehearsals** For students, schools, choirs, universities, and lifelong learning groups. Polished but not perfect, where you might catch the fascinating moments when things go slightly off-script

**Exclusive Donor Events** - Engage with artists, craftspeople, and kindred opera lovers at Around the Piano, Prelude at Piano Dress, and VIP Receptions

### **McPhee Artist Development Program: Calgary Opera's Talent Launchpad**

Each season, Calgary Opera provides emerging professional singers with the opportunity to study and perform under a professional staff of teachers and performers, led by Dr. Tara Laberge. The program serves as a bridge between academic programs and the professional world of opera, offering the experience and practical skills necessary to succeed as a self-employed artist in a highly competitive international environment.

The 2026/27 season marks the 20th Anniversary of the McPhee Artist Development Program, which welcomes Matthew Bermudez - tenor; Zoe McCormick - soprano; Gabriel Sanchez-Ortega - bass; and returning artists Katelyn Bird - soprano; Maria Milenic – mezzo-soprano; and George Theodorakopoulos - baritone.

## **TICKETS AND INFORMATION**

Three-show season ticket packages start at \$129 and individual tickets will be released for sale in April 2026. Subscribers get the best seats and save money! For more information and to purchase tickets, visit [CalgaryOpera.com](http://CalgaryOpera.com) or contact Calgary Opera Audience Services at [Info@CalgaryOpera.com](mailto:Info@CalgaryOpera.com) or 403-262-7286.

**Season Graphics can be found ([add link](#))**

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### **For Further Information, please contact:**

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### **ABOUT CALGARY OPERA**

Founded in 1972, Calgary Opera is one of Canada's leading professional opera companies. For 52 years, the not-for-profit arts company has made a name for itself nationally and internationally for its commitment to the development of Canadian talent and the creation of new opera works, including seven world premieres. Through education and community outreach, Calgary Opera fosters a love of music and theatre in young people and provides opportunities for young artists to develop skills for successful professional careers in the performing arts industry.

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