

CALGARY OPERA



LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD

NOV. 28-DEC. 7, 2025
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HANSEL AND GRETEL

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LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD

Music and words by **SEYMOUR BARAB**

**FIRST PERFORMANCE: OCTOBER 13, 1963
NEW YORK, NY, MUSIC THEATRE FOR CHILDREN**

This production features unamplified voices and instruments throughout.

Running Time: Approximately 45 minutes,
with no intermission.

Enjoying the Show: Little Red is family-friendly fun for everyone! And hey, we get it—little ones get antsy. Feel free to step out whenever you need to. Our theatre team will happily help you find a seat when you return.

About the Artists: This performance features artists from Calgary Opera's McPhee Artist Development Program, led by Dr. Tara Laberge. Think of it as opera's version of a launch pad—where talented singers get the coaching, connections, and real-world experience they need to go from classroom stardom to taking the international opera stage by storm. Calgary Opera makes sure everyone, from all walks of life, gets a shot at belting out their dreams.

We acknowledge that we come together to create music and tell stories on land known by the Blackfoot name Moh-kíns-tsis, which we also call Calgary. This land is on the traditional territories of the Blackfoot Confederacy (Siksika, Piikani, and Kainai First Nations), the Stoney Nakoda (Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Goodstoney First Nations), and the Tsuut'ina First Nations, as well as the Otipemisiwak Métis Government of the Métis Nation within Alberta Districts 5 and 6. We honour this land and all those who share it in a spirit of peace, friendship, and respect.

CAST AND CREATIVE TEAM

CAST

Little Red Riding Hood	KATELYN BIRD* (NOV. 29, DEC. 5, DEC. 7)
Little Red Riding Hood	KELSEY RONN* (NOV. 28, NOV. 30, DEC. 4, DEC. 6)
Mother/Grandma	MARIA MILENIC* (NOV. 29, DEC. 5, DEC. 7)
Mother/Grandma	ALESSIA VITALI* (NOV. 28, NOV. 30, DEC. 4, DEC. 6)
Wolf / Woodsman	LUKE NOFTALL* (NOV. 28, NOV. 30, DEC. 4, DEC. 6)
Wolf / Woodsman	GEORGE THEODORAKOPOULOS* (NOV. 29, DEC. 5, DEC. 7)

* Member of the McPhee Artist Development Program

CREATIVE TEAM

Music Director	EVAN MOUNCE
Stage Director	MIEKO OUCHI†
Set & Prop Designer	SCOTT REID
Lighting Designer	BRETT JOHNSON
Costume Designer	HEATHER MOORE
Stage Manager	JENNIFER YEUNG
Apprentice Stage Manager	SUZIE KLEMMER
Director of Production	CODY STADEL
Assistant Technical Director	BRETT JOHNSON
McPhee Artist Development Program Manager	TARA LABERGE

† Calgary Opera Debut

STORY HIGHS (AND LOWS)

Mother warns Little Red Riding Hood not to stray in the woods on her way to Grandma's house, but the cunning Wolf has other plans. He tries to trick Little Red, but at one mention of the treats in her basket, the Wolf's stomach begins to sour: his sensitive digestive tract cannot handle any sweets! Embarrassed and angry that Little Red has ruined his appetite, the Wolf rushes off to Grandma, whom he plans to eat for dinner with Little Red for dessert! Will help arrive in time or can Little Red outwit the Wolf herself?

This English-language children's opera adaptation of the classic fairy tale is accessible and delightful for all ages. **Join the performers for a short Q&A after the show.**

MEET THE CAST & CREATIVE TEAM



MIEKO OUCHI | STAGE DIRECTOR

Mieko is thrilled to be making her Calgary Opera debut with such a wonderful team. She's proud to be one of the founding members of Edmonton's Concrete Theatre—a company specializing in work for young audiences, where she continues to support as Artistic Director Emeritus after writing, translating and directing over 35 shows. In 2020 she stepped into her new role as Associate Artistic Director at the Citadel. Recent theatre directing includes: multiple productions

of her own new play *Burning Mom* (RMT/Arts Club/Belfry/Citadel) and as a staged reading (Arcola Theatre) in London, UK, *Pride and Prejudice* (Citadel) and *Alberta Kitchen Party* (ATP). Mieko received the Lieutenant Governor of Alberta Distinguished Artist Award in 2023.

MEET THE CAST & CREATIVE TEAM



EVAN MOUNCE | MUSIC DIRECTOR

Calgary-based pianist and vocal coach Evan Mounce is a sought-after collaborator and musical leader. He currently serves as Assistant Chorus Director for the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, Répétiteur with Calgary Opera, and Director of Music at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. As a vocal coach, Evan has worked with a wide range of artists, including kd lang, whom he prepared for the 25th anniversary tour of *Ingenue*. His recent collaborations include performances and projects with Luminous Voices, Spiritus Chamber Choir, Edmonton Opera, and Choir Alberta. In partnership with soprano Laura Brandt, Evan has performed numerous recitals for the Mountain View International Festival of Song and Chamber Music, the ProArts Recital Series, and has twice toured as a musical ambassador for Calgary Opera on river cruises from Budapest to Amsterdam.



KATELYN BIRD* | LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD

Katelyn Bird is a Canadian soprano and member of Calgary Opera's McPhee Artist Development Program in the 2025/26 season, where she performs the Cousin in *Madama Butterfly*, the title role in *Little Red Riding Hood*, and the Dew Fairy in *Hansel and Gretel*. She made her professional debut as Barbarina in *Le nozze di Figaro* with Pacific Opera Victoria (2024). Recent credits include Adele in *Die Fledermaus*, Giannetta and Adina (understudy) in *L'elisir d'amore* with Toronto City Opera, Madame Herz in *Der Schauspieldirektor*, and the North American premiere of Philippe Leroux's *Quid sit Musicus* with the Noise Academy (2025). Other recognition includes an Encouragement Award at the 2025 Laffont Competition and nomination as a 2025 Jeunes Ambassadeurs Lyriques laureate.



KELSEY RONN* | LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD

Soprano Kelsey Ronn returns for her second year with Calgary Opera's McPhee Artist Development Program, where she will make her role debuts as the Aunt in *Madama Butterfly* and Berta in *The Barber of Seville*. Additionally, Ronn takes on the title role in Calgary Opera's *Little Red Riding Hood* this winter. Last season, she charmed audiences as The Squirrel in *The Witty Squirrel*. Most recently, Ronn was a young artist in Opera Kelowna's VOSI Program and L'Institut Canadien d'Art Vocal in Montreal, Quebec. In 2022, Kelsey made her debut with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra as a featured artist in their Manitoba Hydro Holiday Tour.

*2025/26 McPhee Artist



MARIA MILENIC* | MOTHER/GRANDMA

Mezzo-soprano Maria Milenic, originally from Newmarket, Ontario, recently joined Calgary Opera's McPhee Artist Development Program. Her upcoming season includes singing the role of Cio-Cio-San's Mother in *Madama Butterfly*, Mother/Grandmother in *Little Red Riding Hood*, as well as Sandman in *Hansel and Gretel*. Previous performance credits include Minskwoman (*Flight*), Ljubica (*Svadba*), Mrs. Splinters (*The Tender Land*), Mrs. McLean (*Susannah*),

Mercedes (*Carmen*), Cherubino (*Le Nozze di Figaro*), Hänsel (*Hänsel und Gretel*), Ada (*The Shop Girl*), and Mrs. Hildebrand (*Street Scene*). She has also been a featured artist in the 21C Festival, where she had the honour of premiering Chaya Czernowin's piece *The Habekhi* (The Crying), written for mezzo-soprano, ensemble, and electronics.



ALESSIA VITALI* | MOTHER/GRANDMA

Mezzo-soprano Alessia Vitali is from Montréal, Québec, and in her second year of Calgary Opera's McPhee Artist Development Program. In 2025/26, she appears as Kate Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly*, performs the dual roles of Mother and Grandmother in *Little Red Riding Hood*, and covers Rosina in *The Barber of Seville*. Last season, Vitali made her Calgary Opera debut as La Ciesca in *Gianni Schicchi* and sang the title role in *The Witty Squirrel*. Most recently, she was an artist-

in-residence at the Banff Centre, where she performed Warren's Wife in the world premiere of Poul Ruders' *The Handmaid's Tale*. Other career highlights include performances as the alto soloist in Beethoven's Symphony No. 9, Signora Guidotti (*I due timidi*), Miles (*The Turn of the Screw*), Magdalena (*Rigoletto*), Cherubino (*Le nozze di Figaro*), and Mercédès (*Carmen*).



LUKE NOFTALL* | WOLF/WOODSMAN

Hailing from Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canadian bass-baritone Luke Noftall is in his second year of Calgary Opera's McPhee Artist Development Program. This season, Noftall performs the roles of The Registrar in *Madama Butterfly*, Fiorello in *The Barber of Seville*, and dual roles of the Wolf and Woodsman in Calgary Opera's school tour of *Little Red Riding Hood*. Last year, Noftall made his Calgary Opera debut as Guccio in *Gianni Schicchi*, and also performed the roles of the

King and Chamberlain in their production of Nino Rota's *The Witty Squirrel*. This past summer, Noftall was part of Brott Opera's production of *Carmen*, where he sang the role of Zuniga.

*2025/26 McPhee Artist

MEET THE CAST & CREATIVE TEAM



GEORGE THEODORAKOPOULOS* | WOLF/WOODSMAN

Described as having a “powerful stage presence and a rich baritone voice,” George Theodorakopoulos is looking forward to the 2025/26 season where he will be joining both Calgary Opera for his first year in the McPhee Artist Development Program and Edmonton Opera as part of its Emerging Artist Program. Upcoming performances include Officer in *The Barber of Seville* and Yakusidé in *Madama*

Butterfly, both with Calgary Opera. George will also be covering the role of Chip in the world premiere of Ian Cusson’s *Indians on Vacation* with Edmonton Opera. Recent operatic highlights include Danilo (*The Merry Widow*), Moralès & Le Dancaire (*Carmen*), Guglielmo (*Così fan tutte*), Sacristan (*Tosca*), Pandolfe (*Cendrillon*), Marullo (*Rigoletto*), Emilio (*Il cappello di paglia di Firenze*), and Dr. Pangloss (*Candide*).



SCOTT REID | SET & PROP DESIGNER

Scott Reid is a Calgary-based designer who is happy to be back designing for Calgary Opera. Some of his previous Calgary Opera credits include Don Pasquale, Don Giovanni, Macbeth, Eugene Onegin, Die tote Stadt, The Flying Dutchman, Otello, as well as several productions for the McPhee Artist Development program. He recently designed The Pearl Fishers, directed by Rachel Peake, for Vancouver Opera. In addition to opera, Scott designs for theatre and dance

at places such as Theatre Calgary, Alberta Ballet, Vertigo Theatre, The Citadel Theatre (Edmonton), Alberta Theatre Projects, and The Shakespeare Company, to name a few.

scottreiddesigns.com



HEATHER MOORE | COSTUME DESIGNER

Heather Moore’s Costume Design credits include the Canadian premiere of *Die tote Stadt*, as well as *Macbeth* (Betty Mitchell award winner for Outstanding Costume Design), *Hansel and Gretel*, *Brothers Grimm* and *South Pacific* for Calgary Opera, *The Last Wife* and *The Virgin Trial* for ATP, and *The Allan Parkinson’s Project*, *Mesa*, *The Carrot Warrior Seminar*, and *Confessions of a Paperboy* for Ghost River Theatre. As a film professional, her credits include *The Assassination of*

Jessie James, *Inception*, *Hellboy*, *Hell on Wheels*, *Interstellar*, and *Togo*. Her most recent productions are *The Last of Us* and *The Thicket*.



BRETT JOHNSON | ASSISTANT TECHNICAL DIRECTOR + LIGHTING DESIGNER

Brett has had multiple careers spanning forty years including lighting, audio, carpentry, construction, and technical direction. He has been with Calgary Opera for the last four, and with Alberta Ballet for the twenty before that. Some previous highlights include working rock shows such as Pink Floyd and the Rolling Stones, the TV series *The Little Vampire*, the Citadel Theatre, the Edmonton Fringe Festival, touring in China, Egypt, and Finland, and driving forklifts. He has put mics on George Hearn and Paul Brandt and partied with Joni Mitchell. He has designed soundscapes for theatre, lighting for raves, sets for plays, and unique cases for touring companies. When he's not working Brett's favourite things are reading and cooking.



JENNIFER YEUNG | STAGE MANAGER

Jennifer is grateful to role debut as Stage Manager for Calgary Opera's holiday show. For Calgary Opera: *Madama Butterfly*, *Don Pasquale*, *Marriage of Figaro*, *Norma*. Elsewhere: *Blithe Spirit*, *Selma Burke*, *Jimmy Buffet's Escape to Margaritaville*, *Steel Magnolias* (Theatre Calgary), *Murder on the Links*, *Sherlock Holmes and the Raven's Curse* (Vertigo Theatre), *Static* (Chromatic Theatre Co.Pro Inside Out Theatre), *Naughty But Nice 8 & 9* (Forte), *Hookman* (SCPA & Chromatic Theatre), *Undressed* (ATP), 我的名是张欣 (Chromatic Theatre). In her free time, you will see her spending time at local events, exploring new restaurants, or playing video games. She is grateful for her parents, her fur baby, Max, and her partner, Lowell, for their immense love and continued support.



SUZIE KLEMMER | APPRENTICE STAGE MANAGER

Suzie is an apprentice stage manager based out of Calgary and is thrilled to make her Calgary Opera debut with *Little Red Riding Hood!* As a dual-citizen, originally from Vermont, she graduated from Bishop's University with a BAH in Drama in 2023. After spending a year in New Orleans working as an apprentice production manager, as well as assistant stage manager and production stage manager, she moved to Calgary. When she isn't busy working on shows, she works as the Event and Production Coordinator for Breaking Bounds Dance Challenge. Most recently she was the apprentice stage manager for Theatre Calgary's *Made in Italy*. She would like to thank her family and friends for their endless love and support.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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HOLIDAY CABARET

December 12 & 13, 7 PM | Mamdani Opera Centre

UNPACKING OPERA: HANSEL AND GRETEL

January 9, 7 PM | Mamdani Opera Centre

UP CLOSE & OVER EASY: OPERA BRUNCH

January 11, 11 AM | Calgary Petroleum Club

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January 25 & March 22, 2026

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