



Canadian Children's Opera Company

Commedia

Canadian Youth Opera Chorus
with the Principal Chorus



April 29, 2017, 7:00 pm

227 Front St E

Joey & Toby Tanenbaum Opera Centre

Writer & Stage Director: Alix Sideris

Music Director: Teri Dunn

\$20 adult; \$15 student/senior; \$5 child

416-366-0467

canadianchildrensopera.com



Thank you for not filming the
performance

DVD copies are available to order on the CCOC's online store or
at the box office for \$15.

<https://squareup.com/store/CCOC/>

Don't forget to visit the bake sale at the back of the
room before the performance begins! There is no
intermission.

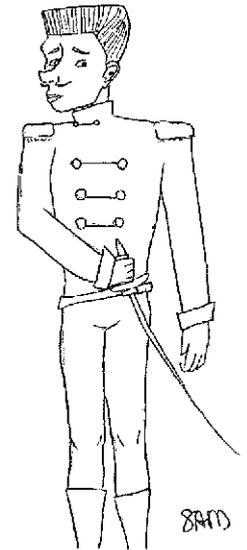
Benvenuti a tutti!

Welcome to our Youth Chorus production of *Commedia!*

The Canadian Children's Opera Company is represented by many
different ages, and it is such a thrill to watch Butterflies turn into Rubies,
Juniors into Principals, and Principals become the talented young men
and women of our Youth Chorus.

With "opera" right in the company name, it is our mandate to fully
explore not only the musical aspect of the art form, but also the dramatic.
CCOC Drama Coach, Director and heralded
actor Alix Sideris joined us at the beginning
of our 2015/2016 season and has greatly
deepened the YC drama program with last
year's French cabaret *Liberté, Egalité,
Fraternité*. Knowing her vast experience in
the field of the influential Italian tradition of
commedia dell'arte, it was inevitable that
this work would come to life. The classic
commedia characters of Arlequino,
Columbine and Pantalone have inspired
everything from Mozart's *The Marriage of
Figaro* to *The Simpsons*. It requires precision,
dedication and the ability to look like a fool!
Alix along with CCOC Music Director Teri
Dunn have created a charming return to
16th Century Italy with hilarious musical
stops along the way.

Il Capitano



Character sketch by
Sophie De Goeij

So sit back, relax and SEND IN THE CLOWNS!

Dear Barry
Artistic Director

Canadian Youth Opera Chorus

Music Director: Teri Dunn

Drama Coach: Alix Sideris

Accompanist: Gergely Szokolay

Serina Ahmad
Ilana Ben-David
Drae Clarke
Ethan Cohen
Jakob De Abreu
Sophie DeGoey
Ella Farlinger
Alexa Frankian
Gabe Gough

Will Graham
Zoe Kertes
Michael Mochocki
Miriam Nisonen Oliver
Victoria Petrini
Connor Ross
Alex Szokolay
Alec Tong
Tristan Winfield-Hicks

Principal Chorus

Music Director: Teri Dunn

Drama Coach: Alix Sideris

Accompanist: Gergely Szokolay

Isobel Arseneau	Alia Ginevra	Charlotte Rugard
Abbigael Arseneau	Sarah Gorfinkel	Felicity Rugard
Charlotte Barnes	Sophie Habkirk	Alice Shen
Gwyneth Barnes	Ella Kerr	Finleigh Smart
Allie Bernstein	Talia Kertes	Zahra Somji
Geneva Bernstein	Victoria Martinez	Rosalind Spiegelman
Sophie Bilyea	Nicholas Mochocki	Celine Tan
Rachel Courante	Clara Moir	Alastair Thorburn-Vitols
Sylvia Dai	Savannah Munro	Veronica Tucci
Lucas Drube	Kiran Nair	Chloe Vaina
Katerina Eustace	Nathan Niang	Maaike van Benthem
Anna Farley	Mayur Nijhawan	Claire Wilcox
Sophia Filip-Vicari	Beatrice Nusink	Claudia Winfield-Hicks
Zoe Finkelshtein	Daniel Park	Nathalie Winfield-Hicks
Arianna Forgione	Tyler Prince	Kaiya Winter
Josh Fralick	Frances Quilty	Yiling Yang
Asher Freedman-Lawson	Lindsay Redding	Emma Zwick
Samantha Fu	Madelaine Ringo-Stauble	
Uma Ganguli	Cecilia Rugard	

Director's Note

So much of our contemporary comedy has been greatly influenced by the centuries old theatre art form of Commedia dell'Arte. Originated in Italy in the 16th century, it was characterized by the use of masks, improvised dialogue, physical shtick (lazzi) and a cast of colourful stock characters: the foolish old man, the devious cut throat, the military officer full of false bravado, the miser, the imp, the sharp-tongued servant, the innamorati (lovers) and so many others.

It is interesting to note that the first professional theatre contract was signed by a Commedia troupe in 1545. As well, female roles were actually played by women in these Commedia troupes, documented as early as the 1560s ... well in advance of any theatre in the world.

The CCOC's Youth Chorus began exploring Commedia's stock characters way back in November during their camp retreat. Throughout rehearsal, they actively learned how to apply Commedia's character embodiment, playfulness, comic timing, and ensembles picture-making to their pieces and text. Over the past several months, these lovely artists have made me laugh so much, my belly ached. I'm so proud of their evolution as artists and very content that they have now added a new skill to their creative repertoire - the skill of playfulness, broad embodiment, inventiveness and creative problem-solving.

It is also with great joy that the Principal Chorus has joined us in bookending this play. The PCs have been working hard all year learning the principals of precision, risk, truth and embodiment. Their commitment and rigour are a marvel. I'm a big fan of them.

Enjoy the antics of this very silly and romantic play. It was spawned from the creative sparks and hearts of all involved. As I've said over and over again during this rehearsal process ... these loves are delicious creative wonders! Ok, I may have actually called them delicious freaks but really, it's a term of endearment ... right?

Alix Sideris

Stage Director & Writer

Commedia

~ La volontà del mio cuore ~
(My Heart's Will)

Teri Dunn: Music Director

Alix Sideris: Stage Director & Writer

Jan Venus: Costume Designer

Shannon Halliwell-MacDonald: Stage Manager/Assistant Director

Gergely Szokolay: Pianist

The King (Signor Magnifico) Will Graham
Pantalone Ella Farlinger
Arlecchino Michael Mochocki
Franceschina Drae Clarke
Brighellita Victoria Petrini
Brighella Jakob De Abreu
Il Capitano Connor Ross
Smeraldina Ilana Ben-David
Columbina Miriam Nisonen Oliver
Tartaglia Alec Tong
Pasquala Zoe Kertes
Flavia Alexa Frankian
Giovanna Serina Amahd
Mitch Alex Szokolay
Lelio Gabe Gough
Bruno Ethan Cohen
Celia Sophia De Goey
Puto Tristan Winfield-Hicks

Scene:

A travelling theatre company arrives at the court of a great king.

Overture from *Le nozze di Figaro* W. A. Mozart; arr. H. Gable
Principal Chorus

Send in the Clowns from *A Little Night Music* S. Sondheim
The King

Prologue from *Zwillingen-Komödie* R. Mohaupt
Youth Chorus

Please Kind Sir P. D. Q. Bach
Youth Chorus

Duetto buffo di due gatti G. Berthold after G. Rossini
Brighellita & Smeraldina

Anything "I" Can Do "You" Can Do Better from *Annie Get Your Gun* ... I. Berlin
Bruno, Giovanna & Mitch

Caro mio ben G. Tommaso
Pantalone, Lelio & Arloquino

Come Mighty Must! from *Princess Ida* A. Sullivan
Pasquala

Always Look on the Bright Side of Life from *Spamalot* E. Idle
Puto, Capitano, Franceschina, Brighella, Tartaglia

O mio babbino caro from *Gianni Schicchi* G. Puccini
Flavia

The Impossible Dream from *Man of La Mancha* M. Leigh; arr. M. Hayes
Lelio, Flavia, Youth Chorus

Eccomi pronta ai baci G. Monteverdi
Celia, Columbina, Pasquala

Amanti costanti from *Le nozze di Figaro* W. A. Mozart
Youth and Principal Choruses

Caro mio ben

My dear beloved,
Believe me, at least,
Without you
My heart languishes!

Your faithful one
Always sighs;
Cease, cruel one
So unbending!

O mio babbino caro

Oh my dear papa,
I love him, he is handsome.
I want to go to Porta Rossa
To buy the ring!

Yes, yes, I want to go there!
And if my love were in vain,
I would go to the Ponte Vecchio
And throw myself in the Arno!

I am anguished and tormented!
Oh God, I'd like to die!
Papa, have pity, have pity!
Papa, have pity, have pity!

Eccomi pronto ai baci

Here I am, ready for kisses:
kiss me, my Ergasto; but kiss
in such a way that no trace of biting teeth
may leave a scar to mark my face;
so that others may not point to it and in it
read my shame and your kisses.
Ah! You bite and do not kiss,
you have branded me, ah! Ah!
Better to die than kiss you no more!

Amanti costanti

Principal Chorus
Faithful lovers,
zealous in honour,
sing the praises
of such a wise master.
Renouncing a right
that insults and
offends,
he renders you spotless
to your lovers.

Tutti
Sing the praises of such
a wise master!

Faithful lovers, etc.

Special Thanks

Pietro Adamo
Canadian Opera Company
Teodoro Dragonieri
Ruth Graves

Emily Hamilton
Michele Morgan
Anne O'Neill
Maria Ringo

Katherine Semcesen
Hall Train
Jarvin Wang

Staff

Artistic Director Dean Burry
Managing Director Ken Hall
Music Director, Principal & Youth Chorus Conductor Teri Dunn
Intermediate Chorus Conductor..... Lynn Janes
Apprentice Chorus Conductor Adine Mintz
Ruby & Butterfly Chorus Conductor Linda Song
Senior Division Drama Coach & Stage Director Alix Sideris
Junior Division Drama Coach & Stage Director Dean Burry
Principal, Youth, Apprentice & Intermediate Chorus Pianist Gergely Szokolay
Ruby & Butterfly Chorus Pianist Myna Denov
Office Administrator Diana Roach
Chorus Coordinator Shannon Halliwell-MacDonald
Bookkeeper Mala Perera
OPERATION KIDS..... Dean Burry & Adine Mintz

Ann Cooper Gay Circle of Distinction

Ann Cooper Gay Anne O'Neill
Errol Gay

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Honorary Patrons

Michael Patrick Albano	Peter Oundjian
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Victor Feldbrill, O.C. LL.D.	R. Murray Schafer, C.C.
Derek Holman, C.M.	Jean Stilwell
Richard Margison, O.C.	Bramwell Tovey
Alexander Neef	

Previous Music/Artistic Directors

Ann Cooper Gay	2000-2015	Donald Kendrick	1974-1975
John Tuttle	1985-2000	Lloyd Bradshaw	1968-1974
Derek Holman	1975-1985		

Founder

Ruby Mercer

Extra special thanks to our wonderful artistic, production and rehearsal parent volunteers who make possible the operation of the CCOC.