

Media Release

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## FOUNDING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR TIMOTHY VERNON PASSES THE BATON

Victoria, BC - Pacific Opera's Founding Artistic Director will be completing his term following the 2022|23 Season, when a successor will be announced. Vernon has programmed the next two seasons of opera and will continue to conduct productions in the future, including *Die Walküre* which will open the 2023|24 Season.

Vernon helped found Pacific Opera in 1980 and during his tenure the company has presented a vast repertoire of work ranging from the classic tradition to modern explorations. He brought numerous Canadian and world premieres to the McPherson and Royal Theatre stages and showcased this country's finest singers and offered debuts for several emerging artists.

"With his vision and expansive knowledge of the art form, not to mention his ebullient wit and sharp intellect, he has entertained and challenged audiences," said Grania Litwin, President, Pacific Opera, Board of Directors. "Thank you Maestro for your bold leadership, your passion for opera, and your unrivalled talents as a raconteur."

During his extraordinary 42 years of creative leadership, Vernon has raised his baton over the Victoria Symphony hundreds of times, but his career has not been limited to Victoria. While leading Pacific Opera he also conducted orchestras and appeared with professional opera companies from coast to coast. As a professor in the McGill University Faculty of Music, in addition to directing the Opera School, he led the McGill Symphony Orchestra on several tours, and two appearances and recordings in Carnegie Hall. In addition, Vernon has received numerous awards, the Order of Canada, Opera Canada's Ruby Award, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal, as well as honorary degrees from the University of Victoria and Royal Roads University. Last month, he was honoured with the Lieutenant Governor's Arts and Music Award for demonstrating exceptional leadership, creativity, community engagement, and commitment through fostering and mentoring others in music and the arts.



The 2022/23 Pacific Opera season explores the greatest of all human conditions – love! Vernon will conduct Pacific Opera’s productions of three engaging love stories, Georges Bizet’s *Carmen* in October 2022, *The Birds* by Walter Braunfels in February of 2023 and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart *Così fan tutte* in April 2023.

For more information about the 2022/23 season including tickets, visit: [2022|23 Season Information and Tickets](#)

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