

Media Release

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Pacific Opera Victoria Announces Principal Conductor

Victoria, BC – Pacific Opera Victoria has promoted Victoria BC conductor, Giuseppe (Joey) Pietraroia, as its Principal Conductor.

Founded in 1980 by a group of passionate opera enthusiasts and ignited by the vision of founding Artistic Director Timothy Vernon, Pacific Opera Victoria has developed into a leading voice in Canadian opera, and increasingly in international circles. Distinguished by its inspired repertoire, Pacific Opera curates surprising seasons that weave original productions of traditional and contemporary operas, with new commissions, co-productions and collaborations, and thoughtful community initiatives.

"I am excited to serve as Principal Conductor with Pacific Opera Victoria. Having made my home in Victoria for the past two decades, I am eager to continue my working relationship with the musicians of the Victoria Symphony, and looking forward to welcoming Pacific Opera's new Artistic Director Brenna Corner and collaborating with her and the entire leadership team. As a student of conducting under Timothy Vernon, it's a privilege to build upon his countless musical accomplishments over the past four decades."

CEO Ian Rye remarked "We are thrilled to elevate Joey's role in the organization, ensuring we will continue to enjoy his artistry on the podium and the accomplished musical performances that Pacific Opera is known for. As Principal Conductor, Joey will direct the Musicians of the Victoria Symphony, the Pacific Opera Chorus, and the many Canadian and International soloists who grace our stages. He will invite guest conductors to the podium each season to expand our musical horizons, and will continue to collaborate with conductors in the Women in Musical Leadership program."

Giuseppe Pietraroia is the Associate Conductor with the **Victoria Symphony** with whom he has recently conducted programs of Bach, Rameau, and Respighi and Vivaldi's *Ring of Mystery*. As a guest conductor he has been engaged by **l'Orchestre Métropolitain**, **Calgary Philharmonic**, **Hamilton Philharmonic**, **Kingston Symphony**, **Okanagan Symphony**, **Orchestra London**, **Thunder Bay Symphony**, **Toronto Symphony**, **Regina Symphony**, and the **Vancouver Symphony**. Pietraroia's extensive opera practice include productions of *Il Barbiere Di Siviglia*, *La Traviata*, *La Boheme*, *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *Norma*, *Rigoletto*, *Manon Lescaut*, *Madama Butterfly*, *La Cenerentola* and *Tosca* with **Pacific Opera Victoria**. He has also conducted productions of *Tosca* and *La Traviata* (**Opera New Brunswick**), *La Boheme* (**l'Opéra de Montréal**), *Madama Butterfly* (**l'Opéra de Québec**), and *Les Feluettes* (**Edmonton Opera**).

As Chorus Master, he has led the **Pacific Opera Chorus** to become one of the city's leading choral groups. Pietraroia also served 7 seasons as Music Director for the Victoria Choral Society where he conducted the Musicians of the **Victoria Symphony** in performances of Handel's *Messiah*, Mozart's *Mass in C minor*, Dvorak's *Stabat Mater*, David Fanshawe's *African Sanctus*, the *Durufié* and *Fauré* Requiem, and *Carmina Burana* in collaboration with **Ballet Victoria**. He conducted the Juno-nominated recording with soprano Marie-Josée Lord and **l'Orchestre Métropolitain** for the ATMA label, which garnered Album of the Year, Classical Vocal from **l'ADISQ** Felix Awards. Learn more about Pietraroia's work at <http://www.giuseppepietraroia.com>

As a mentor and instructor Pietraroia has conducted for **l'Institut Canadien d'Art Vocal** in Montreal, the **Calgary Opera** Emerging Artist Program, the **University of Victoria** Symphony Orchestra, the **McGill University** Symphony Orchestra, the **Victoria Conservatory of Music** Summer Vocal Academy and Opera Studio programs, and with the **Plattsburgh State University of New York**. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Saxophone Performance and a Master's Degree in Orchestral Conducting from McGill University.

CEO Ian Rye shared "It is an honour to celebrate Joey's musical leadership at Pacific Opera, and I look forward to collaborating on the journey that artists, musicians and audiences take as the curtain rises. His body of work with the musicians of the Victoria Symphony, the Pacific Opera Chorus and singers from across Canada and abroad is indicative of an artist with a passion for connecting artists and audiences. I am excited to explore how we will continue to create musical complexity and engaging stories together."

Pietraroia conducts Osvaldo Golijov's *Ainadamar* at the Royal Theatre February 21, 23, 25 and 27, 2024.

For more information visit: <https://pacificopera.ca/event/ainadamar/>.

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