



Media Release
March 14, 2024

Pacific Opera Victoria Presents *The Marriage of Figaro*

Victoria, BC – Opening on April 3 at Victoria’s Royal Theatre, Pacific Opera Victoria presents Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart’s *The Marriage of Figaro*, for four performances, April 3, 5, and 9 at 7:30 pm, and April 7 at 2:30 pm. A luxurious celebration banquet of an opera, *The Marriage of Figaro* is a favourite of aficionados and the perfect production for a first taste of opera.

Mozart’s *The Marriage of Figaro* is a whirlwind of love, desire, and witty schemes set originally in opulent 18th-century Spain. The story follows the complex web of relationships between the Count, his young wife the Countess Rosina, their clever and charming valet Figaro, and his betrothed Susanna. As the plot unfolds, a series of passionate encounters, hilarious misunderstandings, and daring disguises ensue, all driven by a desire for forbidden romance and social equality.

The third opera of the 2023/24 season, *The Marriage of Figaro*, is being presented on the Pacific Opera stage for the first time since 2014. A literary sequel to *The Barber of Seville*, this production is being created by the same outstanding team whose *Barber* with Pacific Opera in 2016 has been remounted on a dozen opera stages across North America; Stage Director, Morris Panych, Set Designer, Ken MacDonald and Costume Designer, Nancy Bryant.

The production is conducted by Pacific Opera’s Founding Artistic Director, Timothy Vernon, “We loved preparing a splendid *Don Giovanni* and a dashing production of *Così fan tutte*; the appearance of *Le nozze di Figaro* at the conclusion of this season feels almost inevitable, for this is Mozart’s third collaboration with the redoubtable Lorenzo Da Ponte (whose long life story makes such a delightful read). We’ve met the Count and Countess before, though in an opera composed a bit later by Rossini; here, in *Figaro*, in their now settled noble household, whose peace is threatened by a philandering husband, Mozart gives us as charming a version of *Upstairs/Downstairs* as anyone could wish—a ‘perfect’ comedy, glittering with musical invention, as well as a micro-cosmic picture of social unrest that would lead to revolution.”

In the role of Figaro, Grammy winning, American bass-baritone, Donovan Singletary, makes his Pacific Opera debut. Singletary previously performed the role with the Fort Worth Opera. His Figaro was praised for “comic timing and strong vocal presence” in *D Magazine*, and *Opera News* praised him for his “bright baritone”. He has won numerous national and international awards including *Grand Prize* in The Metropolitan Opera National Council Grand Finals, where he was the youngest male competitor in the competition's history to win America's most important display of vocal talent.

Canadian, coloratura soprano, Suzanne Rigden, who will be remembered for her previous performances at Pacific and in the role of Lisa in *Countess Maritza*, amongst others, returns in the role of Susanna. Victoria's *Times Colonist* wrote of her performance in *Countess Maritza*, “Suzanne Rigden, as Lisa, has a light, clear, sweet tone, beautifully appropriate to the genre.”

Making her Pacific Opera and role debut as Countess Almaviva is soprano Sydney Baedke. The Alberta native was named one of Canada's top emerging musicians under 30 by the CBC in 2021 and a “rising star to watch” by Opera Canada.

British Columbia native, baritone Tyler Duncan, returns to Pacific Opera, in the role of Count Almaviva. With a voice described as “honey-coloured and warm, yet robust and commanding” (*The Globe and Mail*), Duncan has performed worldwide to great acclaim in both opera and concert repertoire.

Tickets for single performances to the Royal Theatre shows start at \$30. To keep Pacific Opera accessible, Community Preview tickets are available to students and community organizations for \$15. For more information about *The Marriage of Figaro*, and the 2024/25 season, including tickets, visit: [Tickets and Information](#) at pacificopera.ca.

-30-

Media enquiries: Sandra Hudson 250-216-1380 sandra@sandrahudsoncomm.com