

2024/25 SEASON LIVE AT THE ROYAL THEATRE

PORTMAN / WRIGHT



THE
LITTLE
PRINCE

FEBRUARY 19, 21, 25 AT 7:30PM

FEBRUARY 23 AT 2:30PM

SUNG IN ENGLISH WITH ENGLISH SURTITLES

HOST HOTEL



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OPERA

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PORTMAN / WRIGHT

THE LITTLE PRINCE



PRODUCTION SPONSOR



Pacific Essences
ENERGY MEDICINE FROM NATURE

The Little Prince

Music by Rachel Portman

Libretto by Nicholas Wright

First Performance on May 31, 2003 at Houston Grand Opera

Dates February 19, 21, & 25, 7:30 pm

February 23, 2:30 pm | The Royal Theatre

Sung in English with English surtitles

This performance is approximately two hours and fifteen minutes, including a 20-minute intermission.

CAST (in order of vocal appearance)

The Little Prince Jake Apricity Hetherington & Callum Spivack

The Pilot Andrew Love

Snake / Vain Man Christian Sanders

Fox Emma Parkinson

Water Andrea Núñez

The Rose Melody Courage

Lamplighter / Drunkard Benjamin Butterfield

Businessman Marcus Nance

King Giles Tomkins

*With the **Victoria Symphony** and members of the **Victoria Children's Choir***

CREATIVE TEAM

Conductor Giuseppe Pietraroia

Stage Director Brenna Corner

Set Designer James Rotondo

Costume Designer Judith Bowden

Lighting Designer Sophie Tang

Victoria Children's Choir Artistic Director David Stratkauskas

Principal Coach & Kimberley-Ann Bartczak

Victoria Children's Choir Collaborative Artist

Simi Luttrell Apprentice Pianist

Stage Manager Christopher Sibbald

Assistant Stage Manager Bonni Baynton

Assistant Stage Manager Katerina Sokyrko

Apprentice Stage Manager Davis Shewchuk

Child Supervisor Geoff Malcolm

Royal Theatre Stage Employees and Running Crew,
Members of IATSE Local 168

House Programme Design: Trapeze Communications

Production & Editor: Rhonda Ganz

Synopsis: Robert Holliston

Cast and programme are subject to change

The Little Prince is composed by Rachel Portman with libretto by Nicholas Wright.

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Synopsis

PROLOGUE

A pilot recalls an image he saw as a child of a boa constrictor consuming an animal. Marveling at the miracles of nature, he made his own drawing, but it was ridiculed by the narrow-minded adults in his life, who told him to abandon such fantasies and focus on making a successful life. So, he became a pilot, and now makes his home in the sky amongst the stars.

ACT ONE

A violent sandstorm sweeps across the landscape, causing the pilot to crash in the Sahara Desert. As he tries to repair his aircraft, the Pilot is interrupted by a small boy—the Little Prince. The child asks the Pilot to draw him a picture of a sheep. After his initial attempts are rejected by the Prince, the Pilot sketches a crate and tells the boy his sheep is inside. The Little Prince is overjoyed, stating “this is exactly what I wanted!” as he imagines the sheep in the crate.

We soon discover that the Little Prince lives on a tiny asteroid which is constantly under threat from mighty Baobab trees. We also learn that on his planet there lives a beautiful and very special Rose. In order for the Prince to be better equipped to protect her, the Rose challenges him to travel far from home to gain wisdom. The Rose, he tells the Pilot, is alone and therefore vulnerable to predators.

During his travels to neighbouring planets, the Prince meets several eccentric individuals: a king, a vain man, a drunken man, a businessman, and a lamplighter. Not completely satisfied with what he’s learned thus far, the Prince decides it is time to journey to Planet Earth.

Intermission

ACT TWO

We continue to learn more about the Little Prince’s story. The Prince had arrived in the Sahara Desert one year before the Pilot crashed there. The first being the Prince met on Earth was the Snake, who offered to help him find his way home once when he was ready. Armed with this knowledge, the Prince journeys across the world. He discovers a garden full of beautiful roses, and slowly realizes that his own Rose was never, after all, unique.

The Prince encounters the friendly Fox, who has been hiding from hunters. The Fox gently explains to the Little Prince that genuine friendship is about true connection: anything really worthwhile cannot be seen or touched, only felt by the heart. The Little Prince’s Rose, the Fox explains, may not be special, but it is the love he has for his Rose that makes her special.



Scan for extended
notes and more
The Little Prince
content online.

Back in the present day it has been eight days since the Pilot and Little Prince met. Their water supply has almost run out; to replenish it, they travel to a spot on Earth directly beneath the Prince's tiny planet, which shines in the night sky. Here they find a well full of clear water. Pilot and Prince are now united in their mutual belief in the message of the Fox—that one should “look only with the heart,” and not the eyes.

The Pilot realizes sadly that he is about to lose a true friend, as it is time for the Little Prince to return home to his planet and his beloved Rose. When he is alone, a chorus of children remind the Pilot that he will heal because he's learned a priceless truth: “Anything essential is invisible to the eye.”

ROBERT HOLLISTON, CURATOR OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Creators

RACHEL PORTMAN | Composer

Rachel Portman is an Academy Award-winning composer celebrated for her evocative film scores. She made history as the first woman to win an Oscar for Best Original Score for *Emma* (1996). Known for her lyrical and emotionally rich music, Portman has scored films like *The Cider House Rules* and *Chocolat*. She was awarded the Order of the British Empire in 2010, and is an honorary member of Worcester College, Oxford. Her work spans film, television, and opera, earning her global acclaim as a pioneering figure in contemporary composition.

NICHOLAS WRIGHT | Librettist

Nicholas Wright is a renowned playwright celebrated for his compelling works, exploring historical and contemporary themes with depth and sensitivity. His career spans numerous acclaimed plays, including *His Dark Materials*, adapted from the trilogy by Philip Pullman with composer Rachel Portman, and *Man on the Moon* with composer Jonathan Dove, showcasing his talent for intricate character studies and poignant storytelling. Wright's contributions to theatre have earned him widespread recognition, establishing him as a pivotal figure in British drama. His work continues to captivate audiences worldwide with its profound insight and emotional resonance.



Artist Profiles



JAKE APRICITY HETHERINGTON | The Little Prince

Jake Apricity Hetherington is a 9-year-old classically trained treble from Vancouver. She is set to make history as the youngest performer worldwide to play the role of the Little Prince. Jake has performed with the Vancouver Opera in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Carmen*, as well as with UBC Opera in *The Cunning Little Vixen* and *Cendrillon*. At just 7, Jake starred in her first title role as Amahl in *Amahl and the Night Visitors*.



CALLUM SPIVACK | The Little Prince

Callum makes his début with Pacific Opera Victoria as the Prince in *The Little Prince*. Recent musical theatre credits include Cowichan Musical Society's *Shrek: The Musical* (Dopey); Victoria On Stage Musical Theatre's *The Wizard of Oz* (Mayor of the Munchkins); and Triple Threat Performers' *Les Misérables* (ensemble). Callum has received awards at local and provincial music festivals in classical voice and musical theatre. He sings with the Victoria Children's Choir and studies voice, percussion, and dance.



ANDREW LOVE | The Pilot

Andrew Love, a dynamic Canadian baritone known for his work in opera and musical theatre, has been featured many times with Pacific Opera Victoria. After his début in *Carmen*, his other Pacific Opera credits include *For A Look Or A Touch*, *Maria Stuarda*, and *La bohème*. Career highlights are *Les Misérables* on Broadway, *Louis Riel* with the Canadian Opera Company, and *The Merry Widow* with Calgary Opera. A passionate educator, Andrew serves as Associate Dean of Music at The Norwalk Conservatory.



CHRISTIAN SANDERS | Snake / Vain Man

Christian Sanders makes his Pacific Opera Victoria début as Snake / Vain Man in *The Little Prince*. Sanders' repertoire encompasses Tom Rakewell in *The Rake's Progress*, Fenton in *Falstaff*, Laurie in *Little Women*, Tamino in *Die Zauberflöte*, Rinuccio in *Gianni Schicchi*, and Prince Charmant in *Cendrillon*, amongst more. This season brings exciting engagements, including Tobias Ragg in *Sweeney Todd* with Utah Opera and Philip Hirschkop in the new opera *Loving vs. Virginia* with Virginia Opera.



EMMA PARKINSON | Fox

Chinese-Canadian mezzo-soprano Emma Parkinson has performed across Canada and internationally. She last appeared with Pacific Opera Victoria as Florrie in *Rattenbury*. Recently, she made her début in France as Flora in *La traviata* with Opéra de Massy. Last season, Emma appeared as Third Lady in *The Magic Flute* with Vancouver Opera. She has also performed roles with Opéra de Montréal, Seefestspiele Berlin, City Opera Vancouver, and Burnaby Lyric Opera.



ANDREA NÚÑEZ | Water

Praised for her “blinding brilliance,” soprano Andrea Núñez has established herself as a versatile artist. Andrea made her début with Pacific Opera singing Frasquita in Bizet’s *Carmen*. This season, Andrea returns to Opéra de Montréal for Musetta in Puccini’s *La bohème*, where she recently debuted Susanna in Mozart’s *Le nozze di Figaro*. She subsequently made her house and role début with Edmonton Opera (Donna Elvira, Mozart’s *Don Giovanni*), and returned to Voicebox: Opera in Concert (Elvira, Verdi’s *Ernani*).



MELODY COURAGE | The Rose

Métis soprano Melody Courage gained national attention as The Native Girl in the 2017 world première of *Missing*, co-produced by Pacific Opera Victoria and City Opera Vancouver. Recent performances for Melody include Chrisann in Calgary Opera’s production of *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs*, First Lady in *The Magic Flute* with Vancouver Opera, and *Indigidivas* with Calgary Philharmonic. In 2025, Melody joins Vancouver Bach Choir for Britten’s *War Requiem*.



BENJAMIN BUTTERFIELD | Lamplighter / Drunkard

Internationally acclaimed tenor Benjamin Butterfield, a recipient of Opera Canada’s Ruby Award, is celebrated for his performances in opera, concert, and recital. Recent highlights include performances with Barbara Hannigan (Pacific Opera Luminary Series), Verdi’s *Requiem* with the Vancouver Symphony, and Handel’s *Alcina* with Les Violons du Roy in Montreal. Operatic credits include *The Barber of Seville* (Welsh National Opera), *The Cunning Little Vixen* (Canadian Opera Company), *Die Zauberflöte* (New York City Opera), and *Perséphone* (San Carlo, Naples). He is Head of Voice at UVic’s School of Music.





MARCUS NANCE | Businessman

Hailed as “thrillingly powerful” (*New York Times*) and “a major talent” (*Toronto Star*), bass-baritone Marcus Nance has appeared with Pacific Opera Victoria in *Carmen*, *Ariadne auf Naxos*, *Werther*, and *Tosca*. Known for his versatility in opera and music theatre, recent roles include Andrey in *Natasha, Pierre & the Great Comet of 1812* (Mirvish Theatre) and Jupiter in *Cymbeline* (Stratford Festival). Winner of *My Entertainment World’s* 2023 Performer of the Year.



GILES TOMKINS | King

Bass-baritone Giles Tomkins sings the King in his eighth production with Pacific Opera Victoria, including Snug (*A Midsummer Night’s Dream*), Superintendent Budd (*Albert Herring*), Colline (*La bohème*), Don Basilio (*The Barber of Seville*) and Raimondo, (*Lucia di Lammermoor*). Recent and upcoming highlights for Giles include Parson/Badger in *The Cunning Little Vixen* (Canadian Opera Company); Fafner (*Das Rheingold*) and Hunding in *Die Walküre* (Edmonton Opera).

Creative Team



GIUSEPPE PIETRAROIA | Conductor

Principal Conductor for Pacific Opera Victoria and Associate Conductor for the Victoria Symphony, Giuseppe Pietraroia has guest conducted at l’Orchestre Métropolitain, Orchestra London, Calgary Philharmonic, Hamilton Philharmonic, and the Vancouver, Toronto, Okanagan, Regina, Kingston and Thunder Bay symphony orchestras. In his role as Chorus Master, the Pacific Opera Chorus has become one Victoria’s leading choral groups. In addition, he has conducted productions for l’Opéra de Montréal, l’Opéra de Québec, Opera Lyra Ottawa, Edmonton Opera, Opera New Brunswick, Calgary Opera’s Emerging Artist Program, and the Institut Canadien d’Art Vocal.



BRENNA CORNER | Stage Director

Outside her work as the Artistic Director for Pacific Opera Victoria, Brenna Corner is an international stage director making her début on the Royal Theatre stage with *The Little Prince*. Known for her innovative work and clear storytelling across Canada, the US, and Europe, Brenna has directed many notable productions, including *Hansel & Gretel* (Vancouver Opera), *Il trovatore* and *Macbeth* (Washington National Opera), *Madama Butterfly* (Los Angeles Opera), *Dead Man Walking* (Israeli National Opera), and *Carmen* (The Atlanta Opera). She is also a certified Fight Director.



JAMES ROTONDO | Set Designer

James Rotondo (he/him) is excited to make his Pacific Opera Victoria début. James is a set designer for opera and theatre based in Boston, Massachusetts. James and his team of collaborators won the 2022 Opera America Tobin Director-Designer Prize for their design of *Fellow Travelers*. Recent productions include *Pagliacci* (Glimmerglass Festival), *Songbird* (Washington National Opera), *The Pajama Game* and *Roméo et Juliette* (Manhattan School of Music), and *Legally Blonde* (Prescott Park Arts Festival). Upcoming: *Rigoletto* (Pacific Opera Victoria). www.jamesrotondo.design



JUDITH BOWDEN | Costume Designer

Judith Bowden has been designing set and costumes for the past 30 years. She feels fortunate to have had an ongoing creative relationship with the Shaw Festival Theatre in Niagara-on-the-Lake for the past 25 seasons. Her work has taken her to many lovely theatres across North America, including past visits to Victoria. Most recent credits include set and costume design for *Othello* (Royal Shakespeare Company, Britain), and *Witness for the Prosecution* (Shaw Festival).



SOPHIE TANG | Lighting Designer

Sophie Tang is an award-winning lighting designer working in theatre, opera, and dance. She has worked with companies across Canada, including Stratford Festival, Shaw Festival, Vancouver Opera, Pacific Opera Victoria, Arts Club Theatre Company, Bard on the Beach, Canadian Stage, and many others. Recent credits: *The Lehman Trilogy* (Theatre Calgary), *Jersey Boys* (Arts Club Theatre), *Salesman in China* (Stratford Festival), *The Three Musketeers* (Citadel Theatre / Arts Club Theatre), *Twelfth Night* (Bard on the Beach), *The Pearl Fishers* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Vancouver Opera). Portfolio: sophieyufeitang.com



CHRISTOPHER SIBBALD | Stage Manager

Working closely with production and artistic staff to support the creation and execution of Pacific Opera productions, Christopher has worked with the company in various capacities for over a decade. A graduate of UVic's Department of Theatre (BFA 2010) he has worked in theatres across Canada, including the Belfry Theatre, and both the Stratford Festival and Charlottetown Festival. Favourite credits include *Fidelio*, *Flight* (Pacific Opera); *4000 Miles*, *Griffin & Sabine* (Belfry Theatre); and *Christina*, *The Girl King* (Stratford Festival).



KATERINA SOKYRKO | Assistant Stage Manager

Katerina is thrilled to be returning to Pacific Opera. Her previous credits include *La clemenza di Tito*, *Ainadamar*, *Die Walküre*, *Così fan tutte*, *The Birds*, *Don Giovanni*, *Flight*, *Il trittico*, *La traviata*, *La bohème*, *Les Feluettes*, *The Magic Flute*, and *Missing*. Elsewhere, recent shows include: *A WONDERHEADS Christmas Carol* (WONDERHEADS); *Jersey Boys*, *Anne of Green Gables* (Charlottetown Festival); *Hamlet-911* (Stratford Festival); *Hurry Hard* (Chemainus Theatre Festival); and five seasons at the Blyth Festival.



BONNI BAYNTON | Assistant Stage Manager

A University of Calgary graduate, Bonni brings extensive experience in Stage Management, having worked with numerous theatres across the country. Bonni also spent many summers as a faculty member for the Banff Centre Opera as Theatre program. Prior to moving back to Victoria in the fall of 2023, Bonni was the Director of Production with Calgary Opera from 2011–2023. Since returning to Vancouver Island, Bonni has stage managed for Pacific Opera Victoria, Chemainus Theatre Festival, and the Belfry Theatre.



DAVID STRATKAUSKAS | Victoria Children's Choir Artistic Director

David Stratkauskas has worked with the Victoria Children's Choir since 2011, and was appointed Artistic Director in 2021. David has been active as an organist and choir director, pianist, and conductor, in Vancouver, London (UK), and Victoria. He is Director of Music at the Church of Saint John the Divine, has directed the St. John's Chamber Singers and the Victoria Baroque, and is also the Artistic Director of Vox Humana Chamber Choir.



Read extended bios and meet our artists online.



Victoria Children's Choir

Victoria Children's Choir

David Stratkauskas **Artistic Director** | Carla Tadla **Executive Director**

Charlotte Biggs
Lucy Cameron
Callum Dennler
Marielle Ferris
Molly Hansen
Roy Kim
Ida Lafleur
Kaelyn Manseau

Amelie Nakatsuka
Anna Newall
Sophie Parrott
Ben Pease
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Acting Concertmaster
Jennifer Ross, Acting Principal
2nd Violin
Cory Balzer
Müge Büyükçelen
Kimberly Durflinger
Michele Kwon
Hannie McGarity
Jeremy Potts
Emily Salmon
Julian Vitek
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Kenji Fusé, Principal
Stacey Boal
Kay Cochran
Mieka Michaux

Cello

Brian Yoon, Principal
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Joyce Ellwood
Yu Yu Liu

Bass

Malcolm Armstrong,
Principal
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Horn

Alana Despins, Principal

Trumpet

David Michaux,
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Trombone

Graham Middleton, Principal

Percussion

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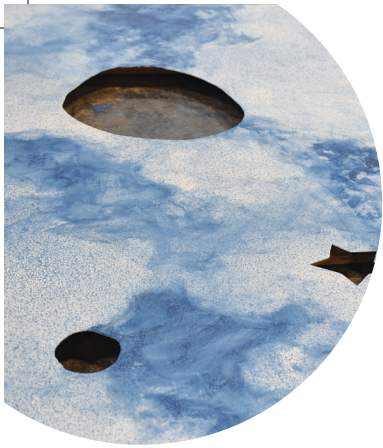
Harp

Annabelle Stanley, Principal

Celeste

Kimberley-Ann Bartczak,
Principal





Pacific Opera Victoria

Brenna Corner, Artistic Director
Giuseppe Pietrarora, Principal Conductor
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Peter McGillivray as Noah, Rebecca Hass as Mrs. Noah, with chorus in *Noye's Fludd*, 2012.
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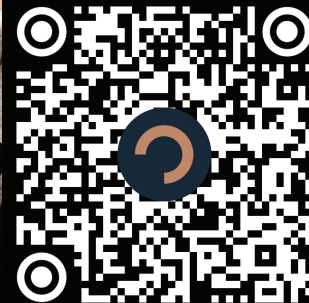
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The cast and chorus of Mozart's *La clemenza di Tito*, Pacific Opera Victoria, 2024. David Cooper Photography.



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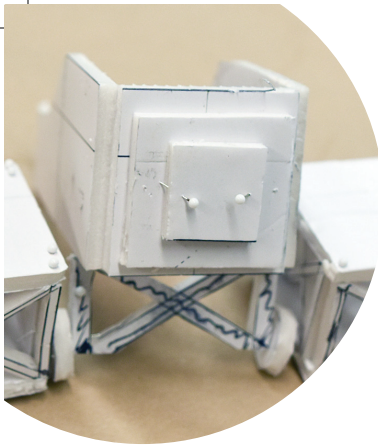
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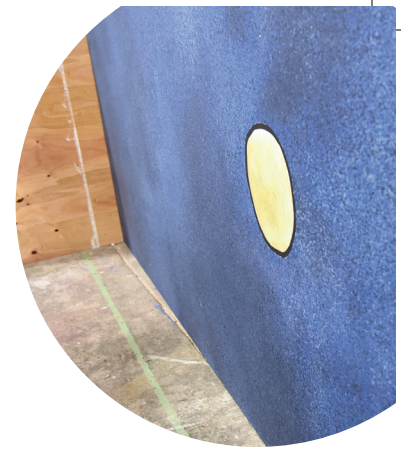
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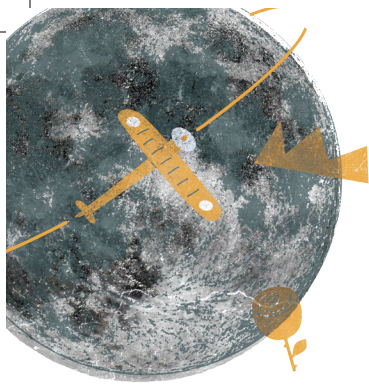
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