

Pacific Opera Victoria Presents Mozart's Timeless Story of Political Intrigue - *La clemenza di Tito*

Victoria, BC – Opening on October 16 at Victoria's Royal Theatre, Pacific Opera Victoria presents Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's timeless masterpiece *La clemenza di Tito*, a story of political intrigue and the value of leadership. The production will grace the stage of the Royal Theatre for four performances, October 16, 18 and 22 at 7:30 pm, and October 20 at 2:30 pm.

"*La clemenza di Tito* is the culmination of Mozart's extraordinary musicality and writing for the human voice, says Artistic Director Brenna Corner. "As one of the last pieces he created, it delves deeper than ever before into the depth of the human psyche, exploring the complexities of leadership, friendship and power through his remarkable music."

La clemenza di Tito is a captivating opera seria that follows the story of Emperor Tito Vespasiano. Renowned for his benevolence and clemency, Tito grapples with political intrigue and personal conflicts. The narrative takes a thrilling turn as Tito faces betrayal from those closest to him, including his closest friend Sesto and the passionate Vitellia. The opera reaches its climax with Tito's struggle to balance mercy and vengeance, culminating in a powerful display of forgiveness and redemption. The sumptuous arias and emotionally charged ensembles, combined with Mozart's exquisite orchestration, create a musical tapestry that elevates the drama to extraordinary heights, making *La clemenza di Tito* a timeless dramatic and musical masterpiece.

In the title role of Emperor Tito Vespasiano is Canadian tenor, Andrew Haji, making both his Pacific Opera and role debuts. Kenneth DeLong, of the Calgary Herald wrote of his performance as Pollione in Calgary Opera's *Norma*, "While there are a number of operatic tenors on the Canadian scene, few have the lyric beauty and carrying power that Haji has." Victoria audiences will remember his appearance during the 2023/24 season with the Victoria Symphony, performing Handel's *Messiah*.

Mezzo-soprano, Taylor Raven, praised as a "vocal sensation" (Washington Classical Review) with a "deep range" (OperaWire), makes her role and Pacific Opera debut as Sesto. During 2023/24, Taylor performed as Rosina in *Il barbiere di Siviglia* with Seattle Opera, *Carmen* with Des Moines Metro Opera, Fatima in *Omar* with San Francisco Opera, and Flossilde in *Das Rheingold* with the Los Angeles Philharmonic.

Tracy Canton returns to Pacific Opera in the role of Vitellia. The Canadian Soprano will be remembered by Pacific Opera audiences for her acclaimed debut performance as Donna Elvira in Mozart's *Don Giovanni* during the 21/22 season. Victoria Times Colonist reviewer, Adrian Chamberlain, wrote of her performance in *Don Giovanni*, "Cantin impressed with her judicious displays of vocal heft, offering thrilling upper-register forays that filled the theatre, elsewhere navigating soft passages with exquisite control and a purring vibrato."

The two act, two-hour and 45 minute production is conducted by Pacific Opera Principal Conductor, Giuseppe Pietraroia, with an outstanding, all-female artistic team. Award-winning Canadian Stage Director Jennifer Tarver, in her Pacific Opera debut, is joined by Set Designer Camellia Koo and Lighting Designer Kimberly Purtell.

Kelly Lin serves as Assistant Conductor, as a part of the Women in Musical Leadership Program. Kimberley-Ann Bartczak, Principal Coach and Accompanist at Pacific Opera Victoria, serves as Chorus Director for the production, with 20 local singers in the Chorus.

Tickets for single performances to the Royal Theatre shows start at \$35, with a subscription package that includes all three operas starting at \$84. Tickets for the *Luminary Series* at the McPherson start at \$65 (with a special price of \$50 for Pacific Opera subscribers). To keep Pacific Opera accessible, Community Preview tickets are available to students and community organizations for \$15. For more information about the 2024/25 season including tickets, visit: [Pacific Opera 2024 2025 season](#) .