PACIFIC
OPERA
VICTORIA

Media Release
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Pacific Opera presents: *Remembering Mary's Wedding*

Victoria, BC – As the community honours those who have served and continue to serve our country, to mark Remembrance Day, Pacific Opera is presenting, *Remembering Mary's Wedding*, at the Baumann Centre on Friday, November at 6 at 7:30 pm and Saturday, November 7 at 4:00 pm. Originally developed and premiered in Victoria, this new presentation returns following last year's performances.

"Remembering the past is such a vital part of our society. This piece offers us the opportunity to engage in the ritual of remembrance through storytelling and music. It's not just about what we remember but how we remember," says Pacific Opera Artistic Director Brenna Corner.

Weaving together text and music from the 2011 opera of the same name, composer Andrew Paul MacDonald and librettist Stephen Massicotte have created this new interpretation of the *Mary's Wedding* story. This production features local artists Christopher Mackie, Chelsea Kutyn, Tim Carter, and Kimberley-Ann Bartczak with direction by Mercedes Bátiz-Benét.

In *Remembering Mary's Wedding*, a professor's lecture on World War I in Canada becomes the gateway into another story. Arriving late and unsettled, he begins his talk, but soon memory and imagination take over. The lecture transforms into a frame for select songs and scenes from *Mary's Wedding*, evoking a tender love story shaped by the turmoil of war. Blending history with theatre, the piece offers audiences both a glimpse of the classroom and a moving remembrance on stage.

In 2008, Pacific Opera Victoria invited MacDonald and Massicotte to adapt Massicotte's award-winning play *Mary's Wedding* into a new opera. The original play, a poignant story of love and remembrance, moves between the wide-open Prairies, the trenches of France, and the Battle of Moreuil Wood in March 1918. After three years in development, the opera had its world première in Victoria on November 10, 2011. In 2015, *Mary's Wedding* toured local schools, including Victoria High School and the University of Victoria.

In the spirit of remembrance, Pacific Opera is once again partnering with the University of Victoria Special Collections and Archives. A key element of the production will be content from the archives created by the University for the 2011 world-premiere of the production. Using photos and elements from the archives, the fictional story becomes rooted through a visual connection to the reality of that time. The photographs from the archives will make up the visual background of the narrative story unfolding from the performers.

This event is made possible by an extraordinary gift from Robert G. Milne, in honour of Larry Ryan.

Tickets are available at Remembering Mary's Wedding tickets, starting at $20 for students and $40 for Adults, *In Remembrance* tickets are available for $60. 50% of *In Remembrance* Tickets proceeds benefit the Military Family Resource Centre.

For more information about Pacific Opera and the 2026/27 season, including tickets, visit: Pacific Opera

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