



Laura's Cow: The Legend of Laura Secord

The CCOC's 2011-12 Mainstage production will commemorate the 200-year anniversary of the War of 1812 with a story about Laura Secord. This is a project that Michael Albano has been discussing with Ann Cooper Gay for several years, and it reunites Mr. Albano with his creative partner from the successful A Dickens of a Christmas, composer Errol Gay.

The story has many advantages for the company – it relates a pivotal moment in Canadian history, is very timely as we approach the bicentennial of the War of 1812, and presents a strong young woman in the heroic role. Laura Secord is a figure that young women can very easily relate to: a courageous, independent woman acting on her own to change history is sometimes difficult to find as a subject in children's works.

Laura's journey was not only a historical event that had a significant effect on the outcome of the war, it has also been embellished in the re-telling enough to have gained the status of a modern legend. Mr. Albano has embraced the mixing of myth and history to create a fantastical telling of the story. We expect this approach will suit young audiences without obscuring the core historical elements of the story.

The story presents an opportunity to incorporate elements of First Nations history and culture, as the First Nations feature prominently in both the history and in the opera. We have established a working partnership with the First Nations School of Toronto. Their teachers and elders have been providing us with advisory help regarding the development of the opera, ensuring that we portray First Nations cultural elements accurately. As well, students of the school will



Photo: Michael Cooper

provide us with several First Nation children performers. In hopes of cementing this relationship, and to ensure that our own members maximize this cultural enrichment opportunity, we will also be hosting an Ojibwe cultural exchange workshop, where our staff and older members help introduce First Nations students to opera, while they share some of the endangered Ojibwe cultural traditions with us.

We have also come to an agreement with the Luminato Festival, who will Co-Present our production. This is fantastic news for the CCOC, as the partnership will allow us a much greater reach in terms of marketing and media coverage. Laura's Cow will appear in all print brochures for this year's festival – approximately one million pieces in all. Make sure you get your tickets early!

Enwave Theatre— Harbourfront Centre
School shows June 6—7
Public Shows June 7—10

Jazzing it Up

Join jazz luminaries Adi Braun, Sophia Perlman, Adrean Farrugia and Jordan Klapman, and members of the CCOC for an entertaining evening. Proceeds of the event will go to support the CCOC production of Laura's Cow.

Featuring
Adi Braun with Jordan Klapman
Sophia Perlman with Adrean Farrugia

Friday, April 13, 2012
Crescent School-Creative Learning Centre
2365 Bayview Avenue, Toronto



- Intimate Concert
Wine / Hors d'oeuvres / Dessert
Silent Auction

Doors Open & Silent Auction Begins: 7:00 pm
Intimate Concert: 8:00 pm
Silent Auction Ends: 10:00 pm

Tickets: \$125 OR \$100 each for 10 or more
Call 416-366-0467 to reserve

Tax receipts will be issued for the maximum allowable amount of ticket price.



We are also seeking help in soliciting donations related to leisure experiences. If you have access to tickets to sporting events, shows or concerts, restaurant or spa certificates, vacation accommodations, travel-related services or if you can provide gift certificates for your own professional or artistic services, your help procuring such items will be much appreciated! For more information about donating auction items, contact the office at 416-366-0467

Austria & Northern Italy - 2011 Tour, June 28—July 13



Photo: Christina Okumura
Performing the Servants' Chorus in Vienna's Musikverein

The CCOC won second place in our category at the Summa Cum Laude Festival in Vienna, performing the Servants' Chorus from Don Pasquale (complete with costume and props!) in the winners' concert in the Musikverein. The group of 54 touring choristers also performed in Salzburg, Wolkersdorf, Deutschlandsberg, Eisenstadt, Venice, and Innsbruck during a 15-day tour that also included stops in Munich, Melk, Graz and Verona.

A choral work was commissioned for the tour from Canadian composer Norbert Palej. Dr. Palej graciously consented to travel with the chorus and accompanied his new work, "Ogopogo," at the piano, along with cello and flute. The piece was premiered at the CCOC spring concert on May 27, 2011.



At The Haydn Hall in Eisenstadt. Photo: Ken Hall

In addition to performing, the group was exposed to cultural events such as a performance of The Magic Flute at the Salzburg Marionette Theatre and a performance of Aida at the Roman arena in Verona—a performance that memorably ended prematurely in a hailstorm and a run for the buses.

Special thanks to the chaperones and staff who made this incredible trip possible!



Photos: Ken Hall
Venice walking tour, Carnival masks, Folk-dancing in Salzburg, The Sound of Music gazebo

News & Recent Events



CCOC members in the Canadian Opera Company production of Tosca. Photos Michael Cooper

Tosca: Twenty-five members of the CCOC participated in the recent Canadian Opera Company production of Puccini's Tosca. Performers included three supernumeraries, twenty choristers, and two soloists who sang offstage as the shepherd. Congratulations to everyone involved on a great run!

Camp: Our annual Principal Chorus camp was held at Camp Timberlane for the fifth straight year. This year's edition was highlighted by the inclusion of the Youth Chorus, and special guest instructors Akufuna Sifuba (African music) and Ashlie Corcoran (drama).

Boys: It's a busy year for the boys of the Principal Chorus!
• Four boys appeared in the Pax Christi Chorale presentation of Britten's St. Nicolas
• One joined in the Toronto Operetta Theatre production of Beckwith's Tuptoo!
• One will perform in Against the Grain Theatre's production of Britten's The Turn of the Screw in May
• Two more will appear in the upcoming COC production of Puccini's Gianni Schicchi, April 26—May 15

Winter Celebrations: our winter concert was a great success, selling out the theatre at St. Michael's College School. Thanks to everyone who attended.

Toronto Argonauts and Toronto Marlies: Our two anthem-sing fundraisers are in the books already for the 2011-12 season, having raised over \$7000 in total for the CCOC. Next year, stay tuned for activities leading up to the 100th Grey Cup!



Photos: Ken Hall

New Staff: We have recently welcomed Adi Braun to the CCOC artistic team. She has joined us as co-conductor of the Intermediate Chorus. Diane Jamieson stepped down in order to focus on her many other operational duties.

OPERATION KIDS: Our outreach program is going strong in its fourth year, now with after-school programs in both the West and East end of Toronto, plus programs in schools and a fantastic new training program for school teachers who are interested in running opera clubs on their own. We are pleased that funding has been secured from BMO Financial to ensure a fifth season for the program.

Upcoming Events

Open House
April 15, 3:00-5:30pm
First Unitarian Congregation
175 St Clair Ave W

Admission FREE

Join the members of the CCOC and special guest instructors at our annual free open house!

- Props-making with Michele Morgan—take home your very own magic flute!
African music with Akufuna Sifuba

Jazzing It Up—CCOC Fundraising Gala
April 13, 7:00pm
Details above

Spring Concerts

Oliver! and Co.

Excerpts and choral repertoire
May 25, 7:30pm
First Unitarian Congregation
175 St Clair Ave W
Junior Divisions

Orpheus in the Underworld & Dido and Aeneas (excerpts)

May 27, 4:00pm
First Unitarian Congregation
175 St Clair Ave W
Principal and Youth Choruses

Alumni News

No fewer than three opera productions are being mounted by CCOC alumni in March! Congratulations and best wishes to everyone involved. Have you started your own opera company? Let us know for our next newsletter!

Nicole Bazuin & Victoria College Drama Society

A Ladylike Murder - a new musical
Music by Joseph Trefler, Directed by Nicole Bazuin
March 8—10
Isabel Bader Theatre

Kate Applin & Metro Youth Opera

Donizetti's The Elixir of Love
March 23 & 25
Crescent School Creative Learning Centre
Tickets: http://elixir-of-love.eventbrite.ca/

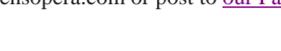
Gabrielle Blais-Jones & Vic Chorus

The Mikado
Gilbert & Sullivan
March 23
Isabel Bader Theatre

The CCOC is looking for an alumni coordinator. If you are interested in taking this on, please contact Ken Hall at the CCOC office or at ken@canadianchildrensopera.com

Be sure to get in touch and let us know your own news!

E-mail info@canadianchildrensopera.com or post to our Facebook page



To remove your name from our mailing list, please reply with "remove"

