

### Andrea Pinna, tenor

Born in Cagliari, Italy, Andrea did not start singing until he was 33 years old. Singing in an exhibition in a tourist village was a wonderful experience which prompted Andrea to seek professional training from renowned teachers in Italy. In 2014, the Pinna family left Italy and made the decision to make Edmonton their new home. After a gala show organized by the Italian community, the Artistic Director of Edmonton Opera invited Andrea to be part of the chorus where he is still collaborates. Andrea was chosen by "Pop Goes The Opera" as principal in *Cavalleria Rusticana*, *Pagliacci*, and *Il Tabarro*. Andrea has performed in numerous shows in Alberta and Saskatchewan, including events by the Italian Consulate, Edmonton Opera at the Devonian Gardens, Heritage Festival, Edmonton Metropolitan Orchestra, Opera Nuova.

### Bertrand Malo, baritone

Native of Joliette "Sol de la Musique", Lanaudière, Quebec, Bass-Baritone Bertrand Malo graduated from McGill University in 2003 with a Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance. He has performed for several opera companies. Throughout his career, he has sung principal roles in various opera productions such as *Les Pêcheurs de Perles*, *Christopher Sly*, *Don Giovanni*, *Fidelio*, *Le Nozze di Figaro*, *Salome*, *Cavalleria Rusticana*, *I Pagliacci*, *Die Zauberflöte*, *Il Tabarro*, *Adriana Lecouvreur* and *Gianni Schicchi*. In the concert arena, he has appeared as a guest soloist in *Seven Last Words of Christ* by T. Dubois, Canada/France National Anthems at Brive La Gaillarde (France), *Requiem* by G. Fauré, the Vermont International Opera Festival (VIOF) galas and the Edmonton Verdi Festival.

### Emilio De Mercato, piano

Italian concert pianist, composer and conductor, Emilio De Mercato holds master's degrees in Piano and in Composition from the Conservatory of Music "Giuseppe Verdi" in Milan and the *Konzertdiplom* in Piano from the Hochschule für Musik in Bern. Since his move to Canada in 2012, he has been a featured pianist and conductor on many stages performing in numerous tours and festivals. In 2015 he founded the Alberta Symphony Orchestra Society which presented events such as *Symphony of Hope*, *Celebrate The Season* at the Alberta Legislature Building, *A Stradivarius for the People*, *Tribute to Renoir*, *Music in the Air*, the *Ode to Humanity 2022/23 Series*, and *Tribute to Glenn Gould* for Canada's 150th anniversary at the Winspear Centre for Music in partnership with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra featuring 55-piece Alberta Symphony Orchestra and Emilio as the pianist and conductor. In 2017 Emilio debuted in a piano recital at the renowned 63<sup>rd</sup> *Puccini Festival* in Torre del Lago, Italy. Emilio is currently a member of the Piano Faculty at the Mount Royal University Conservatory in Calgary.

RIGOLETTO

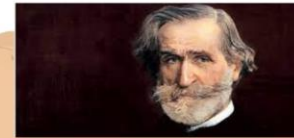
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LA TRAVIATA



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Tuesday, December 5, 2023 | 7:30pm  
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FEATURING

Cara Lianne McLeod  
soprano

Barbara King  
mezzo-soprano

Helen Hassinger  
soprano

Andrea Pinna  
tenor

Nansee Hughes  
soprano

Bertrand Malo  
baritone

Emilio De Mercato  
pianist and music director



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AMADEUS MUSIC



## PROGRAM

### OVERTURE

G. Verdi/F. Liszt *Rigoletto* Concert Paraphrase for piano De Mercato

### ACT 1

ARIA “Pari siamo” from *Rigoletto* Malo  
DUET “Figlia! Mio padre!” from *Rigoletto* Hughes, Malo  
ARIA “Oh! Dischiuso è il firmamento” from *Nabucco* King  
DUET “Un dì, felice, etera” from *La Traviata* McLeod, Pinna  
DUET “E’ lui! Desso! l’Infante!” from *Don Carlo* Pinna, Malo  
ARIA “Caro nome che il mio cor” from *Rigoletto* Hughes  
TRIO “Infida!.. Qual voce!” from *Il Trovatore* Hassinger, Pinna, Malo

### ACT 2

Prelude (arr. for piano) from *La Traviata* De Mercato  
ARIA “Addio, del passato” from *La Traviata* McLeod  
ARIA “Celeste Aida” from *Aida* Pinna  
DUET Aida and Amneris from *Aida* McLeod, King  
DUET “Mira, di acerbe lagrime” from *Il Trovatore* Hassinger, Malo  
ARIA “La donna è mobile” from *Rigoletto* Pinna  
QUARTET “Un dì se ben rammentomi.. Bella Figlia dell’Amore”  
from *Rigoletto* Hughes, King, Pinna, Malo

### ACT 3

“Va, pensiero” (arr. for piano) from *Nabucco* De Mercato  
DUET “Parigi, o cara” from *La Traviata* McLeod, Pinna  
ARIA “Pace, pace, mio Dio” from *La forza del destino* Hassinger  
DUET “Pura siccome un angelo” from *La Traviata* Hughes, Malo  
ARIA “Condotta Ell’era in ceppi” from *Il Trovatore* King  
“Libiamo, ne’ lieti calici” from *La Traviata* TUTTI

### Cara Lianne McLeod, soprano

Cara Lianne McLeod’s musical and artistic journey has been winding and rewarding. Most recently she performed the demanding role of Queen Elisabetta in Roberto Devereux, both with Calgary Concert Opera Company, and with her newly formed company CLM Productions. She followed that up with singing in a fall tour of the prairies with Rocky Mountain High - An Evening of John Denver. She has appeared with organizations such as Alberta Symphony Orchestra, Vocal Alchemy, and Edmonton Youth Orchestra. Cara has recently released 4 singles in the blues/pop/jazz genres. She remains a sought-after performer, teacher, and adjudicator, heading back to her alma mater, Western University, to present a recital and masterclass in the spring.

### Helen Hassinger, soprano

Ms Hassinger’s recent stage appearances include Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni* (Chautauqua Opera), Ninfa in *L’Orfeo* (Chautauqua Opera), Mélisande in *Pelléas et Mélisande* (Boston University Opera Institute), the title role in *Emmeline* (BUOI), Fiordiligi in *Così fan tutte* (BUOI, Opera Memphis), and Helen in *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* (BUOI). Concert work includes appearances as the soprano soloist in Beethoven’s *Symphony No. 9* (Columbus Symphony Orchestra, Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra), Beethoven’s *Missa solemnis* (Choral Society of Northeastern Pennsylvania), and Brahms’ *Ein deutsches Requiem* (Brookline Chancel Choir). This season, Ms. Hassinger will appear as a soloist with the Red Deer Symphony Orchestra for “A Night at the Opera.”

### Nansee Hughes, soprano

Canadian Dramatic Coloratura Soprano Nansee Hughes has captivated audiences with her effortless and precise coloratura, showcasing her artistry across a wide range of vocal repertoire, encompassing both traditional and modern works. She pursued her Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance and later obtained her Master of Music degree from the University of Alberta. Nansee has participated in programs around the world including the Franz-Schubert-Institut in Austria, the COSI program in Italy, and Nuova Vocal Arts here in Edmonton.

### Barbara King, mezzo-soprano

Canadian mezzo-soprano Barbara King is no stranger to the stage, having won the Québec Provincial Gymnastics Championship and dazzling audiences with her "exquisite vocal command of a three octave range" and the presence of a "warm, agile mezzo-soprano voice" in titles roles such as Carmen (*Carmen*), Dalilah (*Samson et Dalila*), Maddalena (*Rigoletto*), Sara, Duchess of Nottingham (*Roberto Devereux*), Flora (*La Traviata*) and many more. Barbara's most recent performance was the role of Princess de Bouillon in Cilea's *Adriana Lecouvreur* with Calgary Concert Opera and Opera by Request and is looking forward to her debut with Alberta Vocal Arts as Prince Orlofsky in *Die Fledermaus*, followed by her return to Manitoba Opera as Mercédès in *Carmen*. [@barbkingmezzo](http://www.mezzoking.com)