



*Music in the Air*  
*One Night at the Amphitheatre*

**Wednesday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 – 7:00pm**  
**Hawrelak Park Heritage Amphitheatre**

**Cara Lianne McLeod, Soprano**  
**Emilio De Mercato, Piano**

**presented by**



**ALBERTA  
SYMPHONY  
ORCHESTRA**

**in support of**



## PROGRAM

- G. Puccini "O mio babbino caro" from *Gianni Schicchi*
- L. V. Beethoven Sonata quasi una Fantasia in C-sharp minor Op.27 No.2 "Moonlight"  
Adagio sostenuto
- G. Verdi Prelude from *La Traviata*
- G. Puccini "Chi il bel sogno" from *La Rondine*
- F. P. Tosti Ideale
- S. Gastaldon Musica Proibita
- Guest performer* Dongping Zhang, violin  
O. Rieding Concertino in A minor Op.21  
Andante sostenuto - Allegro moderato
- F. Lehár "Meine Lippen, sie küssen so heiss" from *Giuditta*
- intermission-*
- C. Debussy Nuit d'Etoiles
- F. Liszt Oh! Quand je dors
- F. Liszt Sonetto 104 del Petrarca from *Années de pèlerinage, Deuxième année: Italie*
- W. Bolcom Amor
- S. Rachmaninoff Prelude in G minor Op.23 No.5
- M. W. Smith Forever
- D. Parton I Will Always Love You
- T. Brabec/C. McLeod My Love (lyrics by C. McLeod and K. Larkin)  
*Guest performer* Jeff Hendrick, saxophone
- H. Arlen Somewhere Over The Rainbow

## CARA LIANNE McLEOD, Soprano



Cara Lianne McLeod is a Canadian soprano praised for her "enviable clarity of tone" (Opera Canada). Recognized as a vibrant and generous artist both on and off stage, she has been inspiring audiences with her distinct voice and compelling honesty in operas, recitals, and programs. Ms. McLeod made her operatic debut in *COSI FAN TUTTE* and most recently performed Annina in *LA TRAVIATA* with Edmonton Opera. She made her company debut with Edmonton Opera in the role of High Priestess in *AIDA* and subsequently sang Berta in *IL BARBIERE DI SIVIGLIA*. As a cover, Cara went on to successfully perform the role of Donna Elvira in *DON GIOVANNI*, for which Edmonton Journal's Mark Morris noted, "A special word must go to Edmonton soprano Cara McLeod as Donna Elvira. She stepped in as an understudy during rehearsals...and she pulled it off with a convincing character portrayal, vocally and

theatrically." Other credits include Nedda in *PAGLIACCI*, Contessa in *LE NOZZE DI FIGARO* and Micaëla in *CARMEN* with Mercury Opera, Calgary Concert Opera Company, Vancouver Island Opera, and Operafestival di Roma. In recital and concert, Ms. McLeod has appeared as a featured soloist with Vancouver Island Opera, Red Deer Symphony, Edmonton Youth Orchestra, and Calgary Concert Opera Company. As the soprano soloist for the Alberta Symphony Orchestra Society (ASO), Ms. McLeod toured throughout Alberta, under the direction of Emilio De Mercato. She has subsequently appeared as the soprano soloist with Maestro De Mercato in *Symphony Paradiso: The Movie Music of Ennio Morricone* and *Nino Rota*, and several other performances with ASO including a Tribute to Renoir. She made her Edmonton Symphony Orchestra debut with conductor Lee Holdridge, performing in *Rocky Mountain High - An Evening of John Denver*, highlighting her versatility as an artist. She has performed the National Anthem at the Alberta Legislature several times, including for Canada's 150th birthday. During the Covid19 pandemic, Cara remained as active as possible; singing and connecting with audiences both in outdoor venues and online performances. She performed with Edmonton Opera, Calgary Concert Opera Company, Peace Region Music Series, and on her own. She taught select students online, and adjudicated the Ontario Music Festival Association Junior Voice classes. A major highlight, and labour of love, was co-creating and performing in *Music in the Air*, an outdoor concert series presented by Alberta Symphony Orchestra Society. Together with Emilio De Mercato, they offered 26 performances, both private and public, in Edmonton and various cities throughout Alberta. Upcoming artistic commitments include writing on and recording her debut album, performing in a one-night only special full-length presentation of *Music in the Air*, and singing the role of Elisabetta in Donizetti's *ROBERTO DEVEREUX* with Calgary Concert Opera Company and Opera by Request in Toronto.

## EMILIO DE MERCATO, Piano



Concert pianist, conductor and composer, Emilio De Mercato was born and raised in Varese, Italy. He holds master's degrees in piano and composition from the Conservatory of Music "Giuseppe Verdi" in Milan, and the postgraduate degree in piano performance from the Hochschule für Musik in Bern, Switzerland. Based in Edmonton since 2012, Emilio is the founder and Music Director of the Alberta Symphony Orchestra. In 2017, Emilio led the ASO for a *Tribute to Glenn Gould* at the Winspear Centre on the occasion of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Canada, in partnership with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. Performer since the age of nine, as a soloist, with chamber ensembles and orchestras, Emilio toured Europe, Asia and North America. Since 2012 he has been Piano Faculty member at the MacEwan University Conservatory of Music, and piano instructor at the Giovanni School of Music. Currently, he is Piano Faculty member at the Mount Royal University Conservatory in Calgary, as well as piano instructor at the Windermere Music Academy, and at Amadeus Music. Emilio has been extensively performing in Edmonton, across Alberta and beyond, at venues such as the Muttart Hall, the Jubilee Auditorium, City Hall, the Italian Cultural Centre, the Myer Horowitz Theatre, CBC Radio,

Alberta Legislature, Bissell Centre, Canterbury Foundation, Mazankowski Heart Institute, Santa Maria Goretti Centre Theatre. In 2013 he was Music Director of the *Edmonton Verdi Festival* for the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Giuseppe Verdi. Recipient of awards and recognitions such as the *Pintadera* Award and the CIFES Award, he has been featured and interviewed on radio and TV including CityTV, CKUA Radio, CBC Radio, CTV Alberta Primetime and Global News. In 2019 Emilio was the pianist and conductor of the ASO for a *Tribute to Renoir* at Allard Hall Triffo Theatre in Edmonton. In the Summer 2021 Emilio performed a tour of 26 outdoor concerts together with soprano Cara McLeod in Edmonton and across Alberta, titled *Music in the Air*, which was featured on CTV News. Most recently, Emilio performed at Festival Place, Sherwood Park, on two occasions, one of them as a pianist and conductor of the ASO Chamber Orchestra, and in a piano recital at the Maclab Centre for the Performing Arts in Leduc as part of the *Wednesday Night Live* series.

## The Alberta Symphony Orchestra Society

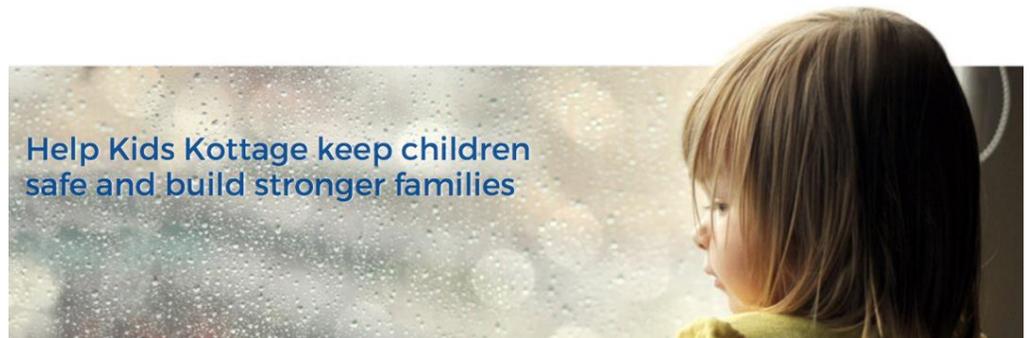
The idea of the Alberta Symphony Orchestra was born in the summer of 2014 when pianist and conductor Emilio De Mercato was on tour in Italy performing with the Musica in Cripta Chamber Orchestra, a formation that he founded. Upon his return to Edmonton, Emilio hosted the ASO's first official presentation on November 30, 2014. It was at this intimate reception at the Santa Maria Goretti Community Centre in Edmonton that Emilio shared his vision of the ASO. A few months later, in April 2015, together with a group of enthusiastic people, Emilio founded the Alberta Symphony Orchestra Society. In November the same year, the ASO became a registered charity with Canada Revenue Agency. Support from the first wonderful donors made it possible to commence the ASO's first season and first two tours - both provincially and nationally. The



Premiere Tour was a series of 10 concerts in 10 cities throughout Alberta. The *Stradivarius Tour* in early 2016 consisted of concerts in Edmonton, Calgary, Vancouver and Toronto. This second tour featured the Stradivarius Violin 1715 "ex Bazzini" for the first time ever in Canada. Sold-out concerts on both tours solidified the ASO's dream of being the orchestra for all Albertans. People loved classical music and there was an appetite for more. In December 2015, the ASO was invited to perform a stunning finale at Celebrate The Season Festival at the Alberta Legislature, breaking the record of 1000+ attendees. The same happened again in December 2016, 2017, and 2018. In 2016 the ASO led by Emilio De Mercato hosted *Symphony of Hope*, benefit concert for Fort McMurray at the Royal Alberta Museum in Edmonton, raising money towards rebuilding after the wildfire devastation and towards the Canadian Red Cross. Those performances throughout the first year of activities, in addition to private events for various organizations, put the ASO at over 30 performances in their first season. In 2017 the ASO made history with a *Tribute to Glenn Gould* at the Winspear Centre for Music, in partnership with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and with the support of Canadian Heritage. On December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Emilio was the pianist and conductor of the Alberta Symphony Orchestra for a *Tribute to Renoir* at Allard Hall Triffo Theatre in Edmonton, on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of the French Impressionist painter. The event was preceded by a special interview and a live performance on CTV Morning Live Show. COVID-19 pandemic hit the ASO and many music organizations around the world. As a recipient of a grant from the New Horizons for Seniors Program, since 2020 the ASO has been working on bringing music relief to the seniors across Alberta through online events and virtual performances.

## Kids Kottage Foundation

Founded in 1995, Kids Kottage Foundation is Edmonton and area's only crisis prevention and intervention shelter for infants and children. When families experience toxic levels of stress, whether it be because of homelessness, poverty, mental illness, abuse, or whatever the case, the infants and children are the hidden victims. Kids Kottage Foundation works with infants and children and their families to stop the cycle of toxic stress and trauma, before they become victims of their circumstances. The mission of Kids Kottage Foundation is to ensure that every infant and child is kept safe, and that their families are connected with the support systems and resources they need to build stronger, more resilient futures. Kids Kottage Foundation operates 24 hours per day, 365 days per year, ensuring that the basic needs of infants and children are met, and that caregivers are matched with the resources they need.



## HOW TO DONATE



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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



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## TRANSLATIONS

### O mio babbino caro

O mio babbino caro  
Mi piace, è bello, bello  
Vo'andare in Porta Rossa  
A comperar l'anello!  
Si, si ci voglio andare!  
E se l'amassi indarno  
Andrei sul Ponte Vecchio,  
Ma per buttarmi in Arno!  
Mi struggo e mi tormento!  
O Dio, vorrei morir!  
Babbo, pietà, pietà!

### Chi il bel sogno di Doretta

Chi il bel sogno di Doretta  
Potè indovinar?  
Il suo mister come mai  
Come mai fini

Ahimè! un giorno uno studente  
In bocca la baciò  
E fu quel bacio  
Rivelazione:  
Fu la passione!  
Folle amore!  
Folle ebbrezza!  
Chi la sottil carezza  
D'un bacio così ardente  
Mai ridir potrà?

Ah! mio sogno!  
Ah! mia vita!

Che importa la ricchezza  
Se infine è rifiorita  
La felicità!  
O sogno d'or

Poter amar così!

### O my dear papa

O my dear papa  
I like him, he is so handsome.  
I want to go to Porta Rossa  
To buy the ring!  
Yes, yes I want to go there!  
And if my love were to be in vain,  
I would go to the Ponte Vecchio,  
And throw myself into the Arno!  
I am pining, I am tormented!  
Oh, God, I would want to die!  
Daddy, have pity, have pity on me!

### Doretta's beautiful dream

Who could every guess Doretta's  
beautiful dream?  
Her mystery - how come it's never,  
how come it's never ending

Alas! One day a student  
kisses her on the lips  
and that kiss was the revelation:  
It was passion!  
Crazy love! Crazy intoxication!  
Who could this subtle caress  
of such an ardent kiss  
ever describe;

Ah! my dream! Ah! my life!

What do riches matter  
If happiness has finally flourished?  
Oh golden dream  
to be able to love like this!

## Meine Lippen, sie küssen so heiß

Ich weiß es selber nicht  
Warum man gleich von Liebe spricht  
Wenn man in meiner Nähe ist  
In meine Augen schaut und meine Hände küsst

Ich weiß es selber nicht  
Warum man von dem Zauber spricht  
Dem keine widersteht  
Wenn sie mich sieht, wenn sie an mir vorübergeht  
Doch wenn das rote Licht erglüht  
Zur mitternächt'gen Stund'  
Und alle lauschen meinem Lied  
Dann wird mir klar der Grund

Meine Lippen, sie küssen so heiß  
Meine Glieder sind schmiegsam und weich  
In den Sternen, ja da steht es geschrieben  
Mmh, du sollst küssen, du sollst lieben  
Meine Fesseln, sie schweben dahin  
Meine Augen, sie locken und glüh'n  
Und ich tanz' wie im Rausch, denn ich weiß  
Meine Lippen, sie küssen so heiß

In meinen Adern drin,  
Da läuft das Blut der Tänzerin,  
Denn meine schöne Mutter war  
Des Tanzes Königin  
Im gold'nen Alcazar.  
Sie war so wunderschön,  
Ich hab' sie oft im Traum geseh'n.  
Schlug sie das Tambourin  
So wild im Tanz, da sah man alle Augen glüh'n.

Sie ist in mir aufs Neu' erwacht,  
Ich hab' das gleiche Los.  
Ich tanz' wie sie um Mitternacht  
Und fühl' das Eine bloss:

## My lips, they kiss with such fire

I don't understand,  
Why they talk of love,  
If they come near me and look in my eyes  
They kiss my hands.

I don't understand,  
Why ones talks of magic,  
Which nobody resists when he sees me  
Or when he passes me.

But when the red light glows  
At midnight hour  
And everyone listens to my song,  
Then I understand the reason:

My lips, their kisses are fiery.  
My arms are soft and white,  
It's written in the stars:  
When you kiss me, you will love me!

My feet, they float  
My eyes, they entice and glow,  
And I dance as though intoxicated  
My lips, their kisses are fiery.

A dancer's blood runs in my veins  
Because my beautiful mother was the  
dance queen  
In the golden Alcazar.

She was so wonderful,  
I often see her in my dreams.  
If she beat the tambourine to a wild dance,  
You could see all eyes glowing.

She awakes in me again  
I have the same fortune  
I dance like her at midnight  
And feel just one thing:

## Nuit d'étoiles

Nuit d'étoiles,  
Sous tes voiles,  
Sous ta brise et tes parfums,  
Triste lyre  
Qui soupire,  
Je rêve aux amours défunts.

La seriene Mélancolie  
Vient éclore au fond de mon cœur,  
Et j'entends l'âme de ma mie  
Tressallir dans le bois rêveur.

Nuit d'étoiles,  
Sous tes voiles,  
Sous ta brise et tes parfums,  
Triste lyre  
Qui soupire,  
Je rêve aux amours défunts.

Je revois à notre fontaine  
Tes regards bleus comme les cieux;  
Cette rose, c'est ton haleine,  
Et ces étoiles sont tes yeux.

Nuit d'étoiles,  
Sous tes voiles,  
Sous ta brise et tes parfums,  
Triste lyre  
Qui soupire,  
Je rêve aux amours défunts.

## Night of Stars

Night of stars,  
beneath your veils,  
beneath your breeze and your scent,  
A sad lyre is sighing...  
I dream of departed loved ones.

Serene Melancholy  
Blooms deep in my heart,  
and I hear the soul of my beloved  
tremble in the dreaming wood.

Night of stars,  
beneath your veils,  
beneath your breeze and your scent,  
A sad lyre is sighing...  
I dream of departed loved ones.

At our fountain, I see again  
your blue eyes, like the skies  
this rose is your breath,  
and these stars are your eyes.

Night of stars,  
beneath your veils,  
beneath your breeze and your  
perfumes,  
sad lyre  
which is sighing,  
I dream of bygone loves.

## Oh! Quand je dors

Oh! Quand je dors, viens auprès de ma couche,  
Comme à Pétrarque apparaissait Laura,  
Et qu'en passant ton haleine me touche...  
Soudain ma bouche  
S'entr'ouvrira!

Sur mon front morne où peut-être s'achève  
Un songe noir qui trop longtemps dura,  
Que ton regard comme un astre se lève...  
Soudain mon rêve  
Rayonnera!  
Rayonnera!

Puis sur ma lèvre où voltige une flamme,  
Éclair d'amour que Dieu même épura,  
Pose un baiser, et d'ange deviens femme...  
Soudain mon âme  
S'éveillera!  
S'éveillera!

Oh viens, comme à Pétrarque apparaissait Laura!

## Oh! When I Sleep

Oh, when I sleep, approach my bed,  
As Laura appeared to Petrarch;  
And when in passing, your breath  
touches me...  
Suddenly my lips  
Will part!

On my sad face, where perhaps  
A dark dream is ending, which lasted  
too long,  
May your glance, like a star, arise,  
Suddenly my dream  
Will become radiant!

Then on my lips, where a flame is  
flickering,  
A flash of love that God has kept pure,  
Place a kiss, and from an angel,  
become a woman...  
Suddenly my soul  
Will be awakened!