



1. HOS 2018: 'The Glove', Andrew Erasmus 2. Richard Margison teaching 3. HOS 2018, 'La Bohème', Rocco Rupolo & Natalya Gennadi, 4. HOS 2017: Elizabeth Polese & Samuel Chan 5. HOS General Director & Stage Director, Valerie Kuinka, working with Cree composer, Andrew Balfour on 'Mishaabooz's Realm' 6. HOS 2018 Participants in concert 7. Richard Margison, O.C., Artistic Director/Master Vocal Teacher 8. HOS 2019, 'Ariadne auf Naxos', Sunny Shams, Daevyd Pepper, Jacob Feldman

HIGHLANDS OPERA STUDIO

VALERIE KUINKA **RICHARD MARGISON**
General Director Artistic Director

WHAT IS HIGHLANDS OPERA STUDIO?

Operating out of Haliburton, Ontario, since its creation in 2007, Highlands Opera Studio (produced by Highlands Opera Theatre, a not-for-profit nationally registered charity) is a professional performing arts organization for emerging operatic artists. An advanced summer professional training program and professional development resource to assist singers/pianists make the transition into the professional world, the focus is not only on performance and production excellence, but on top level coaching and professional development/networking with the goal of expanding employment opportunities both nationally and internationally. Established opera professionals (international artist agents, vocal coaches, general directors of professional opera companies, etc.) are invited to interact with and advise our participants during the intensive 5 week summer season, resulting in new connections, many leading to employment and/or artist representation (national and international).

Core activities also include 16-19 live public events/ performances: multiple performances of 2-3 fully staged operas, 3-4 public masterclasses, 5-6 concerts (including operatic, musical theatre, and Art Song repertoire), free community events, and the Highlands Opera Community School, where local amateur singers can receive lessons and interact with the visiting emerging professionals of the main program.

WHY SHOULD I SUPPORT HIGHLANDS OPERA STUDIO?

“Without a doubt, [Highlands Opera Studio attracts] the absolute highest standard of emerging operatic professional. I thoroughly enjoyed working with everyone and look forward to returning regularly in the coming years.” – *John Fisher, Director of Music Administration/Master Vocal Coach, Metropolitan Opera, New York, NY*

“It was a joy to work with the exceptional talents you have chosen, and to be part of your vision for these young professional artists. This program is unlike others I have worked for and puts the needs of the artists first. I look forward to returning next year!” – *Anthony Manoli, Master Vocal Coach & Collaborative Pianist, (Coach and primary concert collaborator of soprano, Sondra Radvanovsky), New York, NY*

“I have, through my role as Director of Corporate Donations for BMO Financial Group, supported Highlands Opera Studio for close to a decade and will continue to do so. I have known and respected Richard and Valerie for over twenty years through their careers and previous initiatives, and know them to be visionary, and fiscally responsible. Highlands Opera Studio offers something truly unique in Canada by providing extremely important training, professional development, and networking opportunities to emerging Canadian professional operatic artists, and is extremely worthy of financial support.” – *Nada Ristich, Director, Corporate Donations, BMO Financial Group, 100 King Street West, Toronto, Ontario*

“After successful performances throughout Canada and abroad, through my participation in HOS I met and sang for Bruce Zemsky who signed me to the Zemsky/Green Roster in NYC and I made my Metropolitan Opera debut shortly thereafter. The high level of training and networking opportunities in an intimate environment make HOS a truly unique and invaluable experience.” – *Peter Barrett, baritone, HOS 2007*

“I found Highlands Opera Studio to be extremely valuable. We had the opportunity to work with and spend time with the best singers, teachers, and agents who were working internationally, and therefore learn from them what is required to have a long and fulfilling career.” – *Miriam Khalil, soprano, HOS 2009*

“My experience at HOS was absolutely wonderful and working with Richard [Margison] was life changing....a crucial step in my continuing development as an opera singer. The faculty of professionals they assemble is first rate.” – *Adam Luther, tenor, HOS 2013*

“Highlands Opera Studio is an intimate intensive retreat ideal for the most accomplished young professional singers. It gave me personal access to world class agents, artistic directors, and teachers.” – *Aaron Ferguson, tenor, HOS 2013*

“There are very few artist-development programs in Canada that provide such a valuable experience, and Valerie & Richard’s decades of experience at the top level of this business brings a very high profile to productions....Highlands exists for the sole purpose of advancing burgeoning careers, a quintessential niche that few other organizations can fill.” – *Michael Nyby, baritone, HOS 2015, 2016*

HOW ARE THE PARTICIPANTS CHOSEN?

The Opera Studio singers/pianists are chosen from across Canada and internationally through a rigorous competitive audition process that takes place annually in January and February. The 20-25 participants, once chosen out of the pool of 160+ annual applicants, attend the program free of charge (Canadian citizens, and landed immigrants).

The successful candidates are divided into three divisions within the program: Apprentice (19-25 years of age), Professional (no age limit), and Independent Study (no age limit). Members of the Apprentice Division are usually cast as covers and chorus. The Professional Division are cast in lead roles. The Independent Study Division is available for a very select number of highly qualified applicants who submit a proposal to use our professional resources to follow a personal project (eg. Operatic role study, Art Song recital preparation, competition or audition tour preparation, etc.). All participants in every division participate in all training and professional development activities and opportunities.

Highlands Opera Studio is a collaborative partner of l’Atelier Lyrique de l’Opéra de Montréal and other similar year round professional training programs.



HOS 2017: 'Mishaabooz's Realm', Nathan Keoughan, Kevin Deer, Lauren Margison

MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY AND HELP BUILD FOR THE FUTURE!

Experiencing in live performance the power and beauty of the unamplified trained human singing voice at its best can stir deep emotion and change the world.

"The art form [of opera] when done right...takes the breath away, moves the human heart, soul, and spirit, and creates excitement like no other."
— mezzo-soprano Alice Coote

HOS has grown steadily since 2007, from a 3-week program with 7 participants, to a 5-week program with 20-25 participants and the same number of staff and professional consultants. The company has been guided fiscally and artistically throughout this time by the General and Artistic Directors, Valerie Kuinka and Richard Margison, in conjunction with the Board of Directors, and the Accounting/General Management Personnel of Highlands Opera Theatre. HOS has never run a deficit and has maintained balanced financial statements since 2007.

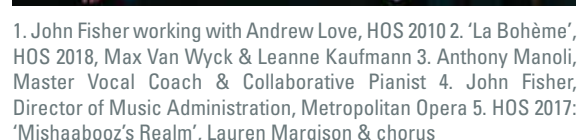
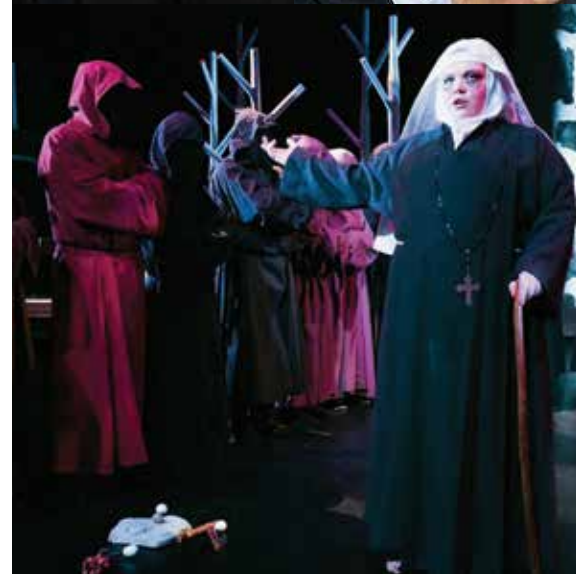
Except for a modest one time administration fee of \$500, **ALL SUCCESSFUL CANADIAN PARTICIPANTS ATTEND THE 5-WEEK PROGRAM FREE OF CHARGE. THE COST TO HIGHLANDS OPERA STUDIO IS APPROXIMATELY \$10,000 PER PARTICIPANT.** This covers ALL TUITION, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & AUDITION OPPORTUNITIES, ACCOMMODATION, & 2 MEALS PER DAY, 6 days a week.

Fundraising is an ongoing and primary concern, and is an annual challenge.

The majority of funding has come from the private sector, including occasional individual corporate donations and ongoing support from BMO Financial Group, government support (Ontario Arts Council Opera Project grants, EODP (2015-2018; non-renewable) through the Haliburton County Development Corporation (HCDC), fundraising events, individual donations, and revenue generated by ticket sales. In 2017 we received funding from Canada Council New Chapter and Canadian Heritage: Canada 150 Fund supporting the creation and presentation of 'Mishaabooz's Realm/Le Royaume de Michabous', by Cree First Nation composer and librettist, Andrew Balfour. This new opera creation and presentation was in partnership with l'Atelier Lyrique de l'Opéra de Montréal.

Since 2007, we have received and continue to build strong support and commitment from the community of Haliburton through a strong volunteer base and small managerial staff.

Highlands Opera Studio has been operating successfully since 2007, and has established the reputation of providing interactive, intimate opera of the highest calibre. Our professional development program has established an international reputation for providing the highest level of professional training, development, and performance experience including the opportunity to perform important standard repertoire while receiving relevant professional feedback from exceptional internationally acclaimed opera professionals. Although we are also extremely committed to the creation and performance of new and existing Canadian works, presenting standard operatic repertoire is still important to the development of emerging operatic artists and interesting to our audiences. In 2017, Art Song was also introduced as a specialized area of study for singers and collaborative pianists within the Independent Study Division. Creating a balance between what is important to the emerging professionals and keeping our audiences excited and engaged is at the core of our ongoing goals.



1. John Fisher working with Andrew Love, HOS 2010 2. 'La Bohème', HOS 2018, Max Van Wyck & Leanne Kaufmann 3. Anthony Manoli, Master Vocal Coach & Collaborative Pianist 4. John Fisher, Director of Music Administration, Metropolitan Opera 5. HOS 2017: 'Mishaabooz's Realm', Lauren Margison & chorus



1. HOS 2018, 'La Bohème', guest celebrity performer, Kurt Browning 2. HOS 2017: 'Cosi fan tutte', Nathan Keoughan, Caroline Gélinas, Elizabeth Polese, Mathieu Abel, Lauren Margison, Max Van Wyck 3. HOS 2018: The Troublemaker, David Diston & Suzanne Taffot 4. HOS 2018, 'La Bohème', Sebastian Haboczki & Shantelle Przybylo 5. HOS 2018, 'La Bohème', Sebastian Haboczki, Bruno Roy, David Diston, Brenden Friesen, with celebrity guest performer, Richard Margison 6. HOS 2011, 'Falstaff', Tracy Cantin 7. France Bellemare (HOS '16), Richard Margison, Valerie Kuinka 8. HOS 2016: Combat classes 9. HOS 2017: relaxing with Chantal Lambert & Andrew Balfour 10. HOS 2018: 'The Glove', Melissa McCann & Matthew Dalen

Our work at Highlands Opera Studio focuses on the power and beauty of singing,
and it's ability to express and touch the human spirit.

WE HOPE YOU WILL CONSIDER SUPPORTING US! FEEL THE PASSION! GET INVOLVED!

www.highlandsoperastudio.com | Info and Administration: 1-855-455-5533

Highlands Opera Studio is operated by Highlands Opera Theatre, a not-for-profit nationally registered charity. Donations are gratefully accepted and can be made online at www.highlandsoperastudio.com by clicking on the DONATE link, or by cheque. Please make cheques payable to HIGHLANDS OPERA THEATRE and mail to P.O. Box 1440, Haliburton, Ontario, K0M 1S0. Tax receipts will be issued at the beginning of the year, or immediately if made through the Canada Helps link on the HOS website. ALL DONATIONS ARE ACKNOWLEDGED PUBLICLY. Charitable Reg. # 822457263RR0001.

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