



This just in...

# La Camerata Newsletter

October 2011

## The premiere of *The Barber of Bytown* - madcap opera for young audiences...

Pre-production is in full swing, here at Opera Lyra Ottawa, preparing for the premiere of [The Barber of Bytown](#). While the very portable set is being assembled in the rehearsal hall, colourful costumes are ready for fittings and the Opera Studio singers are rehearsing non-stop!

This madcap 50-minute opera for elementary school students and families is adapted from Rossini's *The Barber of Seville* by Director **Ann Hodges**.

*"The Barber of Bytown is an Ontario-specific adaptation of The Barber of Barkerville which was commissioned and created for Vancouver Opera. \*\* Both adaptations are set during the gold rush. In this version it's during the Porcupine Gold Rush of 1909", explains director Ann Hodges. "It's definitely meant for kids but there are lots of laughs for adults as well."*



Emanuel Lebel & Arminè Kassabian rehearse with Ann Hodges

### The Story:

**It's Rossini revisited!! The Barber of Bytown takes Figaro from his usual home in Seville, Spain, to Porcupine Lake, Ontario, at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The Porcupine Gold Rush is on and prospectors seek and lose their fortunes as Figaro, a barber and jack-of-all-trades, endeavours to bring the young Al together with his lady love Rosie despite the devious dealings of the dastardly innkeeper, Bart.**

Opera Lyra Ottawa's Principal Repititeur, **Judith Ginsburg** accompanies the singers on piano. Each 50-minute performance is followed by a lively Q & A with the performers and production crew. It's a wonderful way to introduce your family to the adventure of opera in the intimate 4th Stage at the National Arts Centre!

### Public Shows:

#### 4th Stage, NAC

October 15 & 16 @ 1:00 PM & 3:30 PM

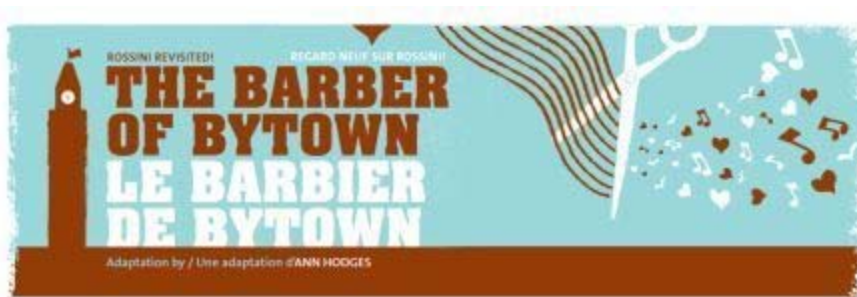
October 21 @ 7:00 PM

\$15/children, \$25/adults, \$60/families of 4

Call Amy at 613-233-9200, ext. 231 or [adesrosiers@operalyra.ca](mailto:adesrosiers@operalyra.ca)

Elementary School Tours : Did you know that after the show closes at the NAC, the singers take it on the road to elementary schools in the Ottawa/Gatineau region? Schools can bring this funny opera into their gym or auditorium so several classes or the whole school can enjoy it. Call Amy for more details.

\*\*The Barber of Barkerville was originally created by **Vancouver Opera**, the set, props and colourful costumes were designed by **Christine Reimer**.



## DIVA Auction sneak peek...

Are you craving a luxurious 10 day cruise for two on Holland America Line? Do you dream of owning a restored vintage Mini Cooper? Take a look at some of our amazing auction offerings for Opera Lyra Ottawa's annual fundraiser at the **DIVA Auction** on **October 21st** at the **Ottawa Convention Centre**. Or, better still, join us for a glittering, glamorous evening that includes dining and dancing - all in support of opera in Ottawa! Take a peek at the [online auction catalogue!](#)

## Ein Prosit!...

At the end of September, *Oktoberfest* was celebrated early at the *Lindenhof Restaurant*. It was an evening of singing and camaraderie featuring the Opera Studio singers - *Brian Wehrle, Emanuel Lebel, Arminè Kassabian, Bethany Hörst and David Lafleur*. The singers were accompanied by Opera Lyra Ottawa's Principal Repetiteur, *Judith Ginsburg* and the evening was directed hosted by *Alix Sideris*, an acting coach working with the singers during the *Opera Studio* program. The entertaining evening was a fundraiser for Opera Lyra Ottawa. Ein Prosit, a toast to everyone who came out to eat, drink and sing along in support of their opera company.



Singers introduced by host Alix Sideris and accompanied by Judith Ginsburg.



## Did you know...?



...that the Ottawa Senator's mascot Sparty went to the opera? Sparty made a surprise appearance at [Opera Lyra Ottawa's Young People's Opera Matinee](#) before the performance of *Pagliacci*.

Hard to believe?  
Watch for yourself ... "[Sparty Goes To The Opera](#)".

Sparty is everywhere!

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Artistic Director - Tyrone Paterson

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