

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
February 26, 2019

**Superstar Soprano Measha Brueggergosman  
Makes Triumphant Return to the Canadian Opera Stage in  
Opera Atelier's Award-Winning Production of Mozart's  
–Idomeneo–**

***Lauded Company Makes Ed Mirvish Theatre Debut  
with Sumptuous Sound, Breathtaking Ballet, and Lavish Scenery***

**Toronto, ON – Opera Atelier** is delighted to present their award-winning production of Mozart's *Idomeneo* from **April 4–13, 2019** at the **Ed Mirvish Theatre** starring Canadian soprano superstar **Measha Brueggergosman**, who returns to the Toronto opera stage after an absence of 10 years, in her internationally acclaimed performance as Elettra. Brueggergosman is joined by a luminary cast featuring some of North America's finest singers including tenor **Colin Ainsworth** in the title role, mezzo-soprano **Wallis Giunta** (Young Singer of the Year, 2018 International Opera Awards) as Idamante, soprano **Meghan Lindsay** as Ilia, bass-baritone **Douglas Williams** as Neptune, baritone **Olivier Laquerre** as Arbace, and baritone **Bradley Christensen** as the Priest. Brimming with Mozart's show-stopping arias, deeply emotional ensembles, and spectacular ballet, *Idomeneo* tells the story of the Greek hero who is forced to choose between the life of his son and a terrible promise he has made to the god of the sea.

"*Idomeneo* demands a unique juxtaposition of an extremely formal dramatic and musical structure coupled with an emotional intensity that foreshadows the Romantic movement," says Opera Atelier Founding Co-Artistic Director **Marshall Pynkoski**, who also directs the opera. "In Opera Atelier's production, every element - superbly rendered music, fully-integrated ballet, and historically-informed design - combine to tell this timeless story with precision and clarity."

"We have restored the ballet that closes *Idomeneo*," adds Opera Atelier Co-Artistic Director and Choreographer **Jeannette Lajeunesse Zingg**. "The Artists of Atelier Ballet also appear throughout *Idomeneo* not as divertissements, but as totally engaged characters who interact with the chorus and principals."

The opera, which premiered in 1781 when Mozart was just 25 years of age, tells the story of Idomeneo, King of Crete, returning home after the Trojan War. When his ship is caught in a storm, he desperately prays to the god Neptune and promises that if he survives, he will sacrifice the first living creatures he sees upon reaching land safely. His prayer is answered, but the first person he sees is his son, Idamante.

The Toronto Star called Opera Atelier's 2008 production "flawless" and the company has assembled a remarkable team of award-winning singers, instrumentalists, dancers, and designers for its upcoming debut at the Ed Mirvish Theatre.

Mozart's remarkable score will be played on period instruments by the Grammy-nominated **Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra**, **Elisa Citterio**, Music Director, under the baton of **David Fallis**. The **Chorus of the University of Toronto Schola Cantorum**, along with members of the **Choir of the Theatre of Early Music**, under the direction of Lead Vocal Consultant and Chorus Master **Daniel Taylor**, will perform *Idomeneo's* strikingly beautiful choruses that highlight the universality of the opera.

The production includes a cast of singers and dancers who have grown and developed with Opera Atelier over many years, and have played an important role in the development of the company's signature style. All of the cast members enjoy international careers in all forms of opera and are also recognized as specialists in 18th century style.

Set Designer **Gerard Gauci's** striking scenography includes an expanded use of painted scenery and scrimms to encompass the entire space of the Ed Mirvish Theatre. Award-winning Costume Designer and longtime Opera Atelier Associate **Michael Gianfrancesco** has crafted costumes that reflect the influence of Classical Greece on the aesthetics of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. **Jennifer Lennon** is the Lighting Designer for *Idomeneo*, with **Michelle Ramsay** as Co-Lighting Designer.

Soprano Brueggergosman's career effortlessly embraces the broadest array of performance platforms and musical styles and genres. She began her career predominantly committed to the art of the song recital and has presented innovative programs at Carnegie Hall, Washington's Kennedy Center, London's Wigmore Hall, both the Konzerthaus and Musikverein in Vienna, Madrid's Teatro Real, as well as at the Schwarzenberg, Edinburgh, Verbier and Bergen Festivals with celebrated collaborative pianists Justus Zeyen, Roger Vignoles, Julius Drake, and Simon Lepper. On the opera stage, her recent highlights include the roles of Giulietta and Antonia in *Les contes d'Hoffmann*, Jenny in Weill's *Mahagonny*, Emilia Marty in Janáček's *Věc Makropulos* and Sister Rose in Jake Heggie's *Dead Man Walking*. On the concert platform, she has worked with the Orchestre de Paris, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the San Francisco Symphony and New World Symphony Orchestras and conductors Daniel Barenboim, Michael Tilson Thomas, Sir Andrew Davis, Gustavo Dudamel, and Daniel Harding, among others.

Opera Atelier Founding Co-Artistic Director Pynkoski has collaborated with many of the finest artists in the world of early music and his productions of opera and ballet have been featured in major opera houses and festivals throughout North America, Europe, and Asia. He is the recipient of numerous awards including the Toronto Arts Award, the Opera Canada Ruby Award for outstanding contribution to opera in Canada, and the TIME Magazine award for Classical music. He has been named Chevalier dans L'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the Government of France and was recently awarded the Order of Canada.

Opera Atelier Co-Artistic Director and Choreographer Lajeunesse Zingg has performed and choreographed for more than three decades. Her choreography for OA productions has been featured in major theatres and festivals internationally and she has collaborated with artists from the Dutch National Ballet, the Scapino Ballet, and dancers from La Scala among others. She received her training in London, Copenhagen, and Paris. Lajeunesse Zingg has received a multitude of awards including the prestigious Toronto Arts Award, the Opera Canada Ruby Award for outstanding achievement in the field of opera in Canada, and was named by TIME Magazine as one of Canada's most influential artists in the field of Classical music. She was recently awarded the Order of Canada for her contribution to ballet and opera in Canada.

Tickets and concert information for *Idomeneo* at: [OperaAtelier.com](http://OperaAtelier.com)

### **About Opera Atelier**

Established in 1985, Opera Atelier is Canada's premier period opera/ballet company, specializing in productions of opera, ballet, and drama from the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. While drawing upon the aesthetics and ideals of the period, Opera Atelier goes beyond "reconstruction" and infuses each production with an inventive theatricality that resonates with modern audiences. These productions feature soloists of

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international acclaim, period ballet, original instruments, historically-informed set and costume design, and an imaginative energy that sets Opera Atelier apart.

Opera Atelier the busiest international touring schedule of any theatre company in Canada. OA tours on a regular basis to the Royal Opera House in Versailles. The company has also performed at the BBC Proms, the Glimmerglass Festival in New York, the Salzburg Festival, the Rossini Opera Festival in Pesaro, and at La Scala in Milan. Opera Atelier has collaborated with some of early music's most distinguished artists including Andrew Parrott, Trevor Pinnock, Hervé Niquet, Christopher Hogwood and Marc Minkowski among others.

Opera Atelier creates historically-informed productions that speaks to the here and now; finding fresh relevance for modern audiences. Through impassioned outreach and audience development, Opera Atelier aims to secure a future by ensuring opera and ballet has a place in the hearts and lives of the upcoming generation.

## LISTING INFORMATION

**Opera Atelier presents**  
***Idomeneo***

**Dates:**

April 4–13, 2019

**Ticket Prices:**

\$39–\$184 plus taxes and fees

**Venue:**

Ed Mirvish Theatre  
244 Victoria St,  
Toronto, Ontario

**Tickets and Info:**

[OperaAtelier.com](http://OperaAtelier.com)

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