

OPERA 21 *Wings of* ATELIER 22 *Desire*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Opera Atelier Launches Fall Season with Visionary Film Premiere **– Angel –**

Film features an international roster of artists, led by Opera Atelier's Artist In Residence - soprano Measha Brueggergosman, the Artists of Atelier Ballet, and Tafelmusik

Toronto, ON — Opera Atelier is delighted to announce a thrilling film premiere of ***Angel*** - fully-staged and filmed at St. Lawrence Hall, in strict compliance with provincial health and safety regulations - **streaming Thursday, October 28, 2021 at 7pm ET (available until Friday, November 12, 2021)**. *Angel* marks the culmination of composer **Edwin Huizinga's** commission for the company in association with Associate Composer/Assistant Conductor, **Christopher Bagan**. The first iteration of the work took place in the Royal Chapel in Versailles in 2017 where Opera Atelier was invited to participate in the official Canada 150 celebrations in France.

The 70-minute film will include stage direction by Founding Co-Artistic Director **Marshall Pynkoski C.M.**, the full corps of **Artists of Atelier Ballet** with choreography by Founding Co-Artistic Director **Jeannette Lajeunesse Zingg C.M.**, and additional solo contemporary choreography created and performed by Artist of Atelier Ballet **Tyler Gledhill**, and featuring the renowned **Tafelmusik - Elisa Citterio, Music Director** - under the baton of Opera Atelier Music Director **David Fallis**.

The production of *Angel* will include excerpts from John Milton's *Paradise Lost*, interwoven with Rainer Maria Rilke's mystic poetry in a new translation commissioned by Opera Atelier from American Playwright **Grace Andreacchi**. It also marks Opera Atelier's first collaboration with **The Nathaniel Dett Chorale** - Canada's premiere choral group specializing in Afrocentric music of all styles - under the direction of **D. Brainerd Blyden-Taylor**, and reunites with Canadian filmmaker **Marcel Canzona**.

"Opera Atelier's *Angel* explores timeless themes of heroes versus anti-heroes, loss of innocence, isolation and redemption. The story - although loosely chronological, is not meant to be linear," says Marshall Pynkoski, Founding Co-Artistic Director. "It is our hope that the music, text, dancing and staging of *Angel* will wash over you like a dream."

Alongside soprano **Measha Brueggergosman**, *Angel* will feature tenor **Colin Ainsworth**, soprano **Mireille Asselin**, baritone **Jesse Blumberg**, soprano **Meghan Lindsay**, baritone **John Tibbetts** (Opera Atelier debut), and bass-baritone **Douglas Williams**.

The production will showcase new sets and art direction from Opera Atelier Resident Set Designer **Gerard Gauci**, and costumes by **Michael Gianfrancesco** and **Michael Legouffe**.

In addition to Huizinga's original compositions for *Angel*, the film will include music by William Boyce and Matthew Locke, as well as "Summer 1" and "Winter 1" from *Recomposed by Max Richter: Vivaldi - The Four Seasons*. *Angel* marks the first time Richter's recomposition will be played on period instruments.

"It is a privilege to work with the Artists of Atelier Ballet, who are to me, angelic beings who come together to realize a vision of beauty and power," says Jeannette Lajeunesse Zingg, Opera Atelier Founding

Co-Artistic Director. “For *Angel*, I have had the great pleasure of working with the music of Antonio Vivaldi as recomposed by Max Richter. This has inspired dances with strong baroque roots - somewhat reimaged, in keeping with Richter’s contemporary reexamination of this iconic work.”

In addition to the streamed presentation, Opera Atelier will be holding an in-person film screening to celebrate *Angel*’s film premiere on **Thursday, October 28, 2021 at 7pm ET** at the TIFF Bell Lightbox. The evening will include a special musical performance, film screening, and a post-show Q&A session with *Angel*’s Creative Team. Opera Atelier’s in-person event will follow health and safety protocols as outlined by the Government of Ontario, as well as those set by the TIFF Bell Lightbox. For more information, please visit [tiff/net/covid-19](https://tiff.net/covid-19)

Single tickets for the streamed presentation are \$30 and on sale now. Tickets for the in-person screening are \$99 and go on sale Friday, October 1. Capacity restrictions are in effect; please note that seating is limited. **Tickets and information at OperaAtelier.com**

The film premiere of Angel is dedicated to the memory of Jeanne Lamon (1949 - 2021), Tafelmusik’s longtime Music Director and Music Director Emerita (1981 - 2014), and Opera Atelier’s beloved friend, treasured colleague and collaborator for more than 35 years.

2021/22 Season Presenting Sponsor: BMO Financial Group

Opera Atelier gratefully acknowledges the ongoing support of The Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council, the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund, the Ontario Trillium Foundation and the City of Toronto through the Toronto Arts Council.

“Summer 1” and “Winter 1” are published by Mute Song Ltd. and Rough Trade Publishing, and appear by arrangement with Bank Robber Music.

About Opera Atelier (OperaAtelier.com)

Opera Atelier is North America’s leading opera/ballet company dedicated to the creation of period productions that are realized as complete artistic statements - with equal attention given to music, dancing, acting, and design. With productions performed in partnership with award-winning period-instrument orchestra, Tafelmusik (Elisa Citterio, Music Director), Opera Atelier strives to promote Canadian artists in its work, and is committed to training the next generation of Canadian artists through apprenticeships and extensive workshops.

For more than 35 years, Opera Atelier has maintained a commitment to diversity, equality, and inclusion through representation of BIPOC artists and personnel in administrative and board positions. In 2015, Opera Atelier’s Co-Artistic Directors assembled an Artistic Advisory Board that includes BIPOC artists and advisors who have played important roles in the development of the company.

Opera Atelier believes in making opera and ballet accessible to a wide public through national/international touring, programs for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing and the Blind and Partially-Sighted communities, and *Making of an Opera* - the company’s in-person workshop and online learning modules for high-school students across the GTA and beyond.

Led by founding Artistic Directors Marshall Pynkoski and Jeannette Lajeunesse Zingg since 1985, Opera Atelier has toured to major opera houses and festivals internationally. Most recently, Pynkoski and Zingg were both named members of the Order of Canada and Officers of the Order of Arts and Letters (Officiers dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres) by the French Republic.

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