

Christian Kluxen, Music Director



Sunday, March 19, 2023 | 2:30 pm Farquhar at UVic

> JOEY PIETRAROIA, Conductor SAMANTHA BITONTI, Actor COLIN HEATH, Actor

This season is underwritten in part by generous gifts from

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PLATYPUS THEATRE'S



Created by Peter Duschenes with Danielle Desormeaux, D'Arcy Gray and Brian Smith

Original Music Patrick Cardy

Musical Direction

Mario Duschenes

Performers
Samantha Bitonti and Colin Heath

Set and Costume Design

Brian Smith

Percussion Consultant
D'Arcy Gray

Choreography
Robert Bergner and Pamela Newell

Stage Manager **Wendy Rockburn**

A PRODUCTION OF





Platypus Theatre wants to hear from you!

Leave a comment at platypustheatre.com or follow us on Twitter or YouTube: @PlatypusTheatre

Tagic, music and wonder Mabound as two wanderers discover beauty in unexpected places. Twilight is falling one crisp, autumn day when two tired and hungry homeless pals find themselves in a junkyard for the night. As they settle down to sleep, beautiful reverberations suddenly fill the air and in no time they're off on an extraordinary quest, exploring hidden sounds that live all around them. A saw plays a duet with a cello. Bottles and flutes interweave in a beautiful serenade. Pots, bowls, and horns transform into magical instruments as the pair waltz and play and tumble among the discarded treasure. After an enchanting black-light dream sequence, the wanderers, the orchestra and the audience finish off this mesmerizing show with an epic percussion battle.

REPERTOIRE INCLUDES EXCERPTS FROM:

Patrick Cardy: Rhythm in Your Rubbish Suite

Aaron Copland: *Buckaroo Holiday*Albert Von Tilzer (arr. Wagler):
"Take Me Out to the Ballgame"

Julius Fučík: Entrance of the Gladiators

Johann Strauss: *Vienna Blood*Antonín Dvořák: **Cello Concerto in B minor (excerpt)**

Harry Freedman: "Samba 2" from *Oiseaux Exotiques*

Trevor Wagler, arr.: "Turkey in the Straw"

Johannes Brahms: *Lullaby*Sergei Prokofiev: "Scene" and
"Masks" from *Romeo and Juliet*Suite

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky: Swan Lake Suite

Platypus Theatre

Since 1989, almost one million young audience members have been introduced to classical music through Platypus Theatre. After more than 650 performances with more than 75 orchestras worldwide, Platypus has established itself as one of North America's premiere music education theatre companies. Original and engaging storylines are presented in an intelligent and interactive way, with music always taking the lead role. Children laugh, sing and empathize with the characters while learning musical concepts, styles, and much more. In 2006, one of Platypus' most cherished productions *How* the Gimquat Found her Song was produced for TV and went on to win several awards including Best Children's Program at the prestigious Banff World Television Festival. In 1991, Platypus was the subject of a nationally broadcast documentary on CTV, followed by a PBS full-performance broadcast in 2000. During its 25th anniversary year, Platypus premiered its eighth original production, Presto, Mambo!, in partnership with four orchestras across Canada. Other Platypus Productions include Emily Saves the Orchestra, Rhythm in your Rubbish, Bach to the Future, Charlotte and the Music-Maker, Flicker of Light on a Winter's Night, and Peter and the Wolf.



Samantha
Bitonti
Actor
Samantha is thrilled to be joining the Platypus team for the 2022/23 season!
Combining

her love of clown, puppetry, music, and Theatre for Young Audiences, Samantha is eager to bring to life your favourite characters from How the Gimquat Found her Song, Presto, Mambo! and Rhythm in your Rubbish. Samantha calls Montréal home. and loves to spend her days playing Shakespeare with Repercussion Theatre, and cultivating creativity for kids ages four to 99 as a drama teacher with Geordie Theatre School, It's no wonder bringing something classical to the hearts and minds of young people is right up her alley! Asking questions and getting to the heart of a story is what she's all about: believing firmly that curiosity and connection lead to joy and abundance. Samantha loves acting, singing in the car, her friends and family, her cat Tilly, and ice cream. See you at the theatre!



Colin Heath Actor
Colin is from Victoria and he wears lots of hats. He has worn his Acting Hat since the late 70s

with companies like Kaleidoscope, Story Theatre and The Belfry, then in Toronto, Sydney, Tokyo, New York and all over, with shows like *The* Number 14, The Overcoat and Lord of the Rings. He wore his Acrobat Hat when he toured with Cirque du Soleil to Los Angeles and Paris and all over. Later, with Cirque he wore his Clown Hat at Royal Albert Hall in London and in Moscow, Buenos Aires and all over. He wore his Playwright Hat when he wrote For Art's Sake, Man From the Capital, Don Quixote (an adaptation with Peter Anderson) and The Apple Orchard, for which he also wore his Composing Hat. Lately he's been wearing his Painting Hat a lot in Magog, Quebec, where he lives. His Grumpy Hat is gathering cobwebs at the back of his closet, but his new Platypus Hat feels pretty good!



Peter
Duschenes
Artistic
Director and
Writer
Thousands
of young
classical
music fans
have Peter
to thank

for introducing them to symphonic music. He co-founded the Platypus Theatre touring company in 1989 to make orchestral music accessible for youth, and more than a million concert-goers have benefitted from his creativity. As an award-winning playwright, Peter's writing credits include all eight Platypus productions and the television adaptation of

How the Gimquat Found Her Song. In addition to his roles in Platypus shows, he has also acted and directed with companies across Canada and the United States. When Peter isn't busy helping the Gimquat find her song, he and his wife Sarah are helping their children, Magda and Theo, find their socks.



Wendy
Rockburn
Stage
Manager
Want to
know who
and what
goes where
and when
and how?
Wendy's the

one who has it well under control. Since 2005, Wendy has expertly juggled all of the details for Platypus Theatre productions, from monster's heads to lighting cues. Not only does she manage the Platypus touring company's stage, but she also works with theatres all over Eastern and Central Canada. And as often as possible, she jets off to far places to photograph the world, most recently in the far reaches of Mongolia. Wendy has also been known to skydive over the desert in Namibia or outrace a gaucho in Argentina. Her favorite part about Platypus shows is watching the kids follow every turn in the story in rapt attention. And the climax of the Gimquat still makes her cry, even after all of these years. No wonder we're wild about Wendy!



Giuseppe Pietraroia is Associate Conductor for both the Victoria Symphony and Pacific Opera. As a guest conductor

he has been engaged by l'Orchestre Métropolitain, Orchestra London, Vancouver Symphony, Toronto Symphony, Calgary Philharmonic, Hamilton Philharmonic, Okanagan Symphony, Regina Symphony, Kingston Symphony and Thunder Bay Symphony.

His extensive opera engagements with Pacific Opera include productions of *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, La traviata, La bohème, Lucia di Lammermoor, Norma, Rigoletto, Manon Lescaut, Madama Butterfly, La Cenerentola, Tosca, and Let's Make an Opera/The Little Sweep. In addition, he has conducted productions for l'Opéra de Montréal, l'Opéra de Québec, Opera Lyra Ottawa, Edmonton Opera, Opera New Brunswick, Calgary Opera's Emerging Artist Program, and l'Institut Canadien d'Art Vocal.

With Victoria Choral Society where he was Music Director for seven seasons, Maestro Pietraroia conducted performances of Handel's *Messiah* and Mozart's *Mass in C minor* with the Victoria Symphony, a choreographed production of Orff's *Carmina Burana* in collaboration with Ballet Victoria, Dvořák's *Stabat Mater*, David Fanshawe's *African Sanctus*, and the

Duruflé and Fauré requiems.

Maestro Pietraroia has recorded a CD with soprano Marie-Josée Lord and l'Orchestre Métropolitain for the ATMA label, which won a Felix award granted by l'ADISQ and was also nominated for a JUNO award.

Giuseppe Pietraroia is the recipient of the George and Jane Heffelfinger Pacific Opera Victoria Artist of the Year Award and the Canada Council's Jean-Marie Beaudet Award in Orchestral Conducting.

Associate Conductor Giuseppe Pietraroia is underwritten in part by generous gifts from

• Petra Janusas

This concert is underwritten in part by generous gifts from

• Sheridan Scott & David Zussman







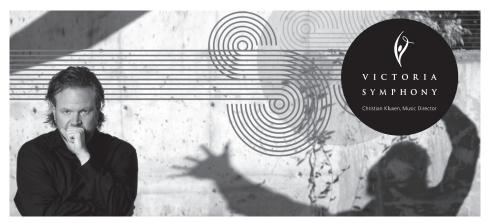
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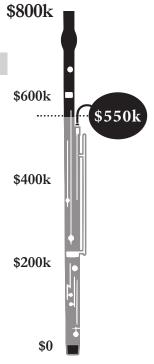
- Create a season full of brilliant music featuring gifted and inspiring artists that is shared with the whole music-loving community.
- Support our Youth Education Programs and Concerts for Kids that engage youth of all ages and deliver innovative, entertaining and educational programs. In some cases, these can be life changing. For example, previous vsNEW student Brooklyn Wood recently won recognition on the CBC's prestigious 30 Hot Canadian Classical Musicians Under 30 list.
- Provide income to our talented and hardworking **musicians.** Did you know that artistic expenses represent the largest part of our annual budget? I feel strongly about compensating our musicians as best we can.
- Plus, your charitable tax receipt keeps more **dollars** in your pocket!

THE GOAL?

We need to raise \$800,000 in individual donations to make sure we can return in 2023/24 with a strong Victoria Symphony. Your gift will make sure we get there.



Thank you!





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Deadline May 31, 2023