

*The University of Alberta Department of Music presents:*

***SERSE***  
by George Frideric Handel



University of Alberta Opera Workshop  
Brian McIntosh, Director  
with the University Symphony Orchestra  
Tanya Prochazka, Conductor  
Leanne Regehr, Head Coach/Accompanist

Thursday-Saturday, February 25-27, 2010 at 7:30 pm  
Sunday, February 28, 2010 at 2:00 pm  
Convocation Hall, Arts Building, University of Alberta



DEPARTMENT OF  
**MUSIC**  
UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

University of Alberta Opera Workshop

presents

**SERSE**

By George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)  
(In Italian with English Surtitles)

**Cast (in order of appearance)**

	February 25, 27	February 26, 28
Serse	Sarah Toane	Amanda Massey
Arsamene	Rebecca Claborn	Erin Passmore
Elviro	Jacques Arsenault	Jacques Arsenault
Romilda	Jodi Penner	Mary Ellen Rayner
Atalanta	Janice Marple	Nansee Hughes
Amastre	Krista Lessard	Abra Whitney
Ariodate	Jihwan Cho	Jihwan Cho

**Opera Workshop Chorus –**

**Sopranos**

Annette Martens  
Jessica Wagner  
Ashley Rees  
Laura Miller  
Alesha Bogdan  
Isabel Davis  
Kimberley Taylor

**Mezzo**

Michelle Stannard  
Olivia Garland  
Stephanie Bent  
Nevada Collins-Lee  
Elianna Lisan  
Tara Faria  
Mirjam Frank  
Ainslie Fowler

**Tenors**

Greg Trumble  
Darin Grant  
John Fedor

**Baritones**

Adam Arnold  
Scott Garland  
Adam Sartore

University Symphony Orchestra  
Tanya Prochazka, Conductor

February 25, 27

**Violin 1**

Wai Eng, Kim Bertsch, Lauren Tyrell

**Violin 2**

Marie Krejcar, Arlan Vriens

**Viola**

Ken Heise, Darrell, Soetaert

**Cello**

Kathleen de Caen

**Bass**

Blake Chartrand

**Harpichord**

Leanne Regehr

**Continuo Cello**

Amy McClary

**Flute**

Jessica MacMillan, Lara Milner

**Oboe**

Christa Eriksson

**Bassoon**

Matt Nickel

**Horn**

Ross McLean, Daniel Yarmon

**Trumpet**

Matthew Parsons

**Back Stage Team**

Stage Manager – Russell Ault  
Assistant Stage Manager – Michelle Stannard  
Technical Director/Deck Carpenter – Gerry Clarke  
Lighting – Jeff Osterlin  
Costumes – Betty Kolodziej  
Chorus Master – Maria Conkey  
Surtitles by Jodi Penner, Jihwan Cho, Karen Shelstad  
Surtitle Operation – Kyung-A Lee  
Audio/video Direction – Russ Baker, Pat Strain  
Set construction – Chris Kubash, Betty Kolodziej  
Equipment Tech – Graeme Peppink  
Repertoire Coaches – Jolaine Kerley, Leanne Regehr, Beth Turnbull  
Rehearsal pianists – Kyung-A Lee, Greg Trumble

February 26, 28

**Violin 1**

Emilie-Anne Neeland, Deborah Chang,  
Amanda Alstad

**Violin 2**

Grant Sigurdson, Misun Choi

**Viola**

Julia Hui, Alexandra Campbell

**Cello**

Julian Savaryn

**Bass**

Robyn Reekie

**Harpichord**

Leanne Regehr

**Continuo Cello**

Amy McClary

**Flute**

Adam Ferland, Mary Grace Johnstone

**Oboe**

Matt Jaffray

**Bassoon**

Emily Tam

**Horn**

Stephanie Wichuk, Zach Vogel

**Trumpet**

Sara Mills



## Synopsis

Serse, King of Persia, looking up from contemplation of his beloved plane tree, sees Romilda, the daughter of his General Ariodate, and decides to marry her. However Romilda and Serse's brother, Arsamene, love each other while Romilda's sister, Atalanta, is also determined to make Arsamene hers. Amastre, Serse's fiancée, forsaken by him for Romilda, disguises herself as a man to observe Serse.

Serse banishes Arsamene, who sends a note to Romilda through his servant Elviro, disguised as a flower vendor, pledging his eternal fidelity; Elviro gives it to Atalanta to pass on, who promptly hatches a plot. She tells Elviro that Romilda has given up on Arsamene and decided to be queen, and shows the note to Serse, claiming that it was addressed to herself. Serse determines to marry Arsamene off to Atalanta and shows the note to Romilda, who nevertheless decides to stay true to the man she loves.

Serse tells Ariodate that his daughter Romilda must wed, by the king's command, a member of Serse's family, equal in blood to himself. Serse pursues Romilda until Amastre-in-disguise starts a fight as a distraction. Romilda persuades Serse to let her deal with the problem, and is pleased and gratified to learn that Amastre started it to rescue her. Arsamene and Romilda meet again and fight until Elviro drags Atalanta on to explain matters, and she declares that she'll find someone else. Elviro remarks on a storm threatening the bridge, and sings of his dedication to Bacchus. Romilda and Arsamene are joyfully reunited, although she then has to hide him while his brother pursues her. Romilda tells Serse that he must have her father's consent before she can obey the king's command; Arsamene is displeased.

Serse reiterates to Ariodate that Romilda must wed a member of Serse's family, equal in blood to himself, who will appear at his home; Ariodate mistakenly thinks he is referring to his brother Arsamene rather than himself, and happily goes home to prepare the wedding. Serse then tells Romilda that she will marry him. Romilda reveals that Arsamene has kissed her; Serse declares that he will kill his own brother, and Romilda agrees to marry Serse to spare Arsamene's life.

Arsamene and Romilda arrive at Ariodate's place, where he happily announces that they are to marry by King Serse's command. Disbelieving, they joyfully do so. After Arsamene and Romilda wed, Serse arrives, ready for his wedding and not at all happy to learn that his General has just married his bride off to his brother. When Amastre-in-disguise appears, Serse is calling out for someone to avenge him and wants to know what Amastre-in-disguise has been doing popping in and out of the entire opera; Amastre asks whether he wants her to kill the traitor, the one who, having been so dearly loved, went off chasing another. When he demands that she do so, she reveals herself to Serse, who becomes ashamed of his faithlessness and tells her to go ahead and kill him. Amastre, still in love with him, refuses, and Serse offers her his queen's crown once more.

## Brian McIntosh, Bass-Baritone

Canadian Brian McIntosh has earned international acclaim with his full bass-baritone voice. He is a regular performer with North America's leading opera companies and orchestras as well as with opera-houses and festivals across Europe. His most recent work includes Banquo in **MacBeth** with Opera Montreal, Sacristan in **Tosca** with Calgary Opera, Bartolo in **Barbiere di Siviglia** with Schlosstheater Zwingenberg, Peneios in **Daphne** with Pacific Opera Victoria, Lodovico in **Otello** with Opera Lyra Ottawa and Manitoba Opera, Haly in **Italiana in Algeri** with Vancouver Opera, Luther and Crespel in **Tales of Hoffmann** with Virginia Opera, Bartolo in **Nozze di Figaro** with New Orleans Opera and Nourabad in **Pearl Fishers** with New York City Opera. In Alberta, he has performed the title role in **The Mikado**, Bailli in **Werther** and Capulet in **Romeo et Juliette** with Calgary Opera, as well as Truelove in **Rakes Progress** and Sam in **Un Ballo in Maschera** with Edmonton Opera. Upcoming engagements include Lodovico in **Otello** with Edmonton Opera. Brian McIntosh is Professor of Voice and Opera at the University of Alberta.

## Tanya Prochazka, Conductor

Born in Melbourne, Australia Tanya Prochazka studied at the Paris Conservatoire with Andre Navarra and in Bloomington, Indiana with Janos Starker, following which she has pursued a career of international performance and teaching. Ms. Prochazka moved to Edmonton from London, England with her family in 1986: she became Professor of Cello and Conductor of the University Symphony and Academy Strings Orchestras at the University of Alberta in 1998. One of Canada's leading cellists, Ms. Prochazka performs repertoire from the Baroque to the present day. Highlights of her recent career include world premiere performances of concertos by Alfred Fisher and Malcolm Forsyth, performing string quartets in the natural concert halls of the Grand Canyon and leading a very successful tour of Cuba with the Academy Strings Orchestra. Her CDs include the world premiere recording of the New Goldberg Variations with pianist Jacques Despres as well as several recordings with pianists Stephane Lemelin and Janet Scott Hoyt. As orchestral conductor Tanya conducts the main symphonic repertoire as well as opera and large choral and orchestral works. Tanya has recorded CDs with artists Stéphane Lemelin (French Cello and Piano Music, American Cello Masterpieces), Janet Scott Hoyt (The Passionate Englishman), Milton Schlosser (Grieg Sonata, Bohemian Woods), the University of Alberta's Madrigal Singers (Tavener's Svyati) and Jacques Després of The New Goldberg Variations. Most recently released is her performance of Dvorák's Cello Concerto with the University of Alberta Symphony Orchestra.

### Leanne Regehr, piano

Leanne Regehr is a versatile pianist who has worked in opera, choral, recital and symphonic settings across Canada and the United States. She received a Master of Music degree from the University of Alberta and explored further studies at the Banff School of Fine Arts, the Universitat Mozarteum in Salzburg, and the Aspen Music Festival where she performed in collaboration with the Aspen Santa Fe Ballet. Leanne is currently a doctoral candidate in piano performance at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. Her coaches and teachers have included Stéphane Lemelin, Janet Scott Hoyt, Julian Martin, Ann Schein, Alan Chow and Elizabeth Buccheri. Leanne participated in the inaugural season of Opera NUOVA in Edmonton in 1999 and continues to be actively involved in opera. She was a staff pianist for Sherrill Milnes' VoicExperience Program in Orlando and the Resident Pianist with Shreveport Opera in Louisiana for the 2005-2006 season. In addition to her position as the coach for the University of Alberta's Opera Workshop program, Leanne also teaches piano at The King's University College. She is the accompanist for the Richard Eaton Singers, and is in demand as a clinician, adjudicator and collaborative artist.

### Acknowledgements and Thanks

We thank Opera Nuova for some of our costumes, and Edmonton Opera Association and Brianna Wells for their continued support!

Thanks to: Megan Dart, Beth Lim, Tim Khaner, Laura Snyder, Betty Kolodziej, Chris Kubash, U of A Drama Department - Props department – Ron Lavoie

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Date:		Time	
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### 3 Where did you hear about this event?

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Too expensive		About right		I'd pay more	
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