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P R E S S R E L E A S E

Opera McGill presents

***L'Enfant et les sortilèges* by Ravel
and
Gianni Schicchi by Puccini**

January 31, February 1, 2 and 3, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in Pollack Hall

For immediate release

Montreal, January 26, 2007 – On January 31, February 1, 2 and 3, 2007 at 7:30 p.m. in Pollack Hall, Opera McGill presents *L'Enfant et les sortilèges* by Ravel and *Gianni Schicchi* by Puccini. Conducted by Julian Wachner, the works have been staged by Guillermo Silva-Marin in sets designed by Vincent Lefèvre, lighting designed by Serge Filiatrault, and costumes designed by Mireille Vachon. Tickets are \$25 and \$20 (students and seniors) and are available at the Pollack Hall Box Office, Monday through Friday, from 12:00 (noon) to 6:00 p.m. and one hour before each performance. Information and Box Office: (514) 398-4547.

Ravel's second and final opera, *L'Enfant et les sortilèges*, was first performed in an elaborate production at the Opéra de Monte-Carlo in Monaco on March 21, 1925. Collaborating with celebrity author Colette, Maurice Ravel had predicted a scandalous response to the work some five years previous. Writing to his friend, the composer and critic Alexis Roland-Manuel, Ravel wrote of the unfinished opera: *I can assure you that this work will be distinguished by a mixture of styles which will be severely criticized, which leaves Colette indifferent and me not caring a damn*. The score is a very smooth blending of all styles from all epochs, from Bach up to ... Ravel! It moves from opera to American operetta, with a touch of jazz.

Gianni Schicchi forms one part of Puccini's 1918 triptych. Written at the close of the "War to End all Wars", the unrelated narratives of the three operas tended to dissuade opera houses from putting the triptych into production, and increasingly, to the collective disappointment of composer and librettist, the single-act operas were presented individually, *Gianni Schicchi* in particular. At the Metropolitan Opera premiere in New York City, American crowds were delighted most of all with *Gianni Schicchi*. Puccini was not in attendance due to the difficulties in travelling across a war-ravaged Europe, but he soon read the glowing reviews, which lauded the *froth, spray and sparkle* of this one-act work.

(30)

Source:
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