



McGill



Schulich School of Music
École de musique Schulich

**Schulich School of Music of McGill University
Concerts and Publicity**

555 Sherbrooke Street West, Montreal, Quebec H3A 1E3

Phone: (514) 398-8101; Fax: (514) 398-5514

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

**Opera McGill presents
Thésée by Lully
November 14-16, Pollack Hall**

For immediate release

Montreal, November 3, 2008 – On November 14 and 15 at 7:30 p.m and November 16 at 2:30 p.m., in Pollack Hall, Opera McGill presents *Thésée*, by Lully. Tickets are \$17 and \$12 (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. Tickets are also available through ADMISSION outlets. The production will include a cast of over 30 students and the McGill Baroque Orchestra, conducted by Hank Knox and set designs by Vincent Lefèvre. Patrick Hansen, director of McGill Opera Studies is the stage director.

Thésée is Lully's third opera, and was written in 1675 for Louis XIV's court and it is a collaboration with the librettist Quinault. The opera demonstrates the establishment of the formal musical and literary characteristics of the *tragédie* genre, a term which refers to the noble and elevated atmosphere of the stories, rather than the outcome of the plot. This form dominated French opera for more than a hundred years after Lully's death. The plot is taken from a Greek myth told by Plutarch and Ovid. *Thésée* will be performed at the original A=392 pitch. The McGill Baroque Orchestra will be using three harpsichords, along with cellos to replicate the sound of the bass violins, as well as two sections of violins, two sections of violas, and modern replicas of period wind instruments. Lully's *Thésée*, here set entirely in the gardens of Versailles, and as presented by Opera McGill, marks the debut of the Opera McGill season.

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Source: Kate Herzberg, Concerts and Publicity
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