



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

L'incoronazione di Poppea
March 15, 16, 17, 18
Pollack Hall

For immediate release

Montreal, March 9, 2012 – **Opera McGill**, as part of *Schulich Year of Early Music 2011-2012*, presents three evenings of *L'incoronazione di Poppea*, by Claudio Monteverdi at 7:30 p.m. on March 15, 16 and 17. There is a matinee performance on Sunday, March 18 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$20 general admission, and \$15 for students and seniors, and are available at the Schulich School of Music Box Office. The production, sung in Italian and with one intermission, will be subtitled in both English and French.

Conducting the **McGill Baroque Orchestra** is **Hank Knox**, director of the Department of Early Music. **Patrick Hansen**, Director of Opera Studies, is the stage director. Costumes are signed Ginette Grenier, lighting by Serge Filiatrault, and sets by Vincent Lefèvre.

The opera first premiered in 1642 at the Teatro San Giovanni e Paolo in Venice, and was Monteverdi's last opera composed. The work, a drama musicale in three acts and one prologue, was based on a libretto by Giovanni Busenello, and tells a complicated tale of love and lust. Because of Monteverdi's distinctive and sensitive musical portrayal of the characters, *L'incoronazione di Poppea* is considered by many to be the first truly modern opera. Opera McGill's production, populated by gods, goddesses, emperors, philosophers, courtesans, soldiers and citizens takes inspiration from two sources: the HBO series "Rome" with its emphasis on political intrigue, episodic story telling, religion, sex and violence and also from a 1968 Star Trek episode called "Wink of an Eye." The lavish, period costumes are inspired by "Rome" while the stylized movements through time of the gods and goddesses take their inspiration from the Star Trek episode.

The Opera McGill version of *Poppea* is virtually uncut, giving the students the opportunity to learn the piece as it was performed in the original. The cast, a blend of undergraduate and graduate students, demonstrates the remarkable depth of the Opera McGill program. Indeed, some very experienced singers are performing minor roles, while some less experienced are admirably tackling major ones.

Pollack Hall is located at 555 Sherbrooke Street West.

Tickets can be purchased at the Pollack Hall Box Office, weekdays from noon to 6 p.m. or one hour prior to each concert. For box office information, please phone 514-398-4547. The Box office, located in the Pollack Hall lobby, is open from 12 noon to 6 pm Monday to Friday, and one hour before each performance. Tickets are also available by phone at 514.398.4547

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McGill Contact: Kate Herzberg, Concerts and Publicity: 514-398-8101