



McGill



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

**Concert in Honour of Edith and Luciano Della Pergola
Founders of Opera McGill
Saturday, May 8, 2010, Pollack Hall**

For immediate release

Montreal, Friday, April 23, 2010 – A concert honouring the late **Edith and Luciano Della Pergola** for their invaluable contributions to opera, education and cultural life in Canada will be held Saturday, May 8, 2010 at 2:30 p.m. in Pollack Concert Hall. Open admission, and the concert is general seating.

Vocalists on stage for an afternoon of opera excerpts by Puccini, Verdi, Bizet, and Mozart will include **Stefano Algieri, Gianna Corbisiero, Joseph Kaiser, Julie Nesrallah, Althea-Maria Papoulia, and Annamaria Popescu**. Pianists **Patrick Hansen**, Director of Opera McGill, **Michael McMahon** and **Paul Stewart** will be their artistic collaborators.

About the Della Pergolas:

Luciano Della Pergola was born in Bucharest in 1910 and was the son of a tenor, Alberto Della Pergola, one of the founders of the Bucharest Opera. Luciano studied with his father at the Bucharest Royal Academy of Music. He made his debut in 1931 as Spoletta in *Tosca*, and began to teach at the academy. Following leading roles across Europe at opera houses that included the Teatro alla Scala and the Teatro di San Carlo he immigrated to Canada in 1955, settling in Montreal. He founded the McGill Opera Studio in 1956 and co-directed it with his wife Edith until 1977. Luciano Della Pergola retired from McGill in 1989 and was named professor emeritus. He passed away in May of 1991.

Edith Della Pergola was born in Rumania in 1915. She studied voice at the Bucharest Royal Academy of Music with her future husband Luciano Della Pergola. The two were married in 1935. She made her Florentine debut in the role of Mimi in *La Bohème* at the Teatro Comunale. She performed for 11 years with the Bucharest Opera as the lead soprano before being engaged by the Vienna Staatsoper in 1947. She sang leading roles across Europe and in 1955 she and her husband moved to Montreal where they taught and lead jointly the McGill Opera Studio. After 1977 she continued alone until her retirement in 1989, when she was appointed professor emeritus. In 1994 she received the Order of Canada, and in 2002 she was named to the Canadian Opera Hall of Fame. Edith Della Pergola passed away in July of 2009.

Pollack Hall is located at 555 Sherbrooke St. West.

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