

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE** May 5, 2015

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## **Opera on the Avalon set to launch summer 2015 festival**

**ST. JOHN'S, NL (May 5, 2015) — Opera on the Avalon (OTA) has announced its five-week summer season for 2015. Now in its seventh season, OTA's annual festival is set to begin in just under two weeks time. The 2015 festival runs from May 18 to June 21 and will include a concert of Opera's Greatest Hits, debuts by major artists such as Christiaan Smith-Kotlarek and Claudia Rosenthal, and the combination of standard and adventurous programming that OTA is renowned for.**

Opera on the Avalon is Atlantic Canada's only professional opera company. Led by artistic director Cheryl Hickman, the company offers the world's most exciting young artists the opportunity to perform alongside distinguished and established guest artists. Each year, the festival runs for five weeks and brings in approximately 75 emerging artists and 10 guest artists.

This season's schedule includes two fully produced, costumed and staged performances with a full orchestra: Rodgers and Hammerstein's musical, *Carousel*, conducted by Judith Yan (June 11-13) and the Britten opera *The Turn of the Screw*, conducted by Vlad Iftinca (June 17-21). OTA will also present *Opera's Greatest Hits with Orchestra*, conducted by Judith Yan (May 30). Additional concerts include Ravel's *L'enfants et les sortilèges*, WWI memorial concert *We'll Meet Again*, and our first young artist competition recital *Catch a Rising Star*. Award winning directors Michael Cavanagh, Danielle Irvine, and Michael Waller will direct the productions. In the past, a hallmark of the festival has been a wide variety of lectures and enrichment events, which this year will include our school tour, as well as our collaboration with the Garrick Theatre in Bonavista. Distinguished guest artists for 2015 include Gerald Martin Moore, Judith Yan, Mark Morash, Olivier Godin, Michael Cavanagh, Michael Waller, Kevin Murphy, Glenn Lewis, Andy Jones, Vlad Iftinca, Tracy Cantin, Arnold Livingston Geis, Raymon Geis, Laura Brandt, John Boehr, Samantha Guevrekian, Eliza Bonet, and Craig Terry.

**"We are proud to present a new season filled with extraordinary young artists and performances. Opera on the Avalon is the only place in the country where you can find emerging artists who are on the cusp of major careers, sharing the stage with seasoned professionals. We are looking forward to sharing five exciting weeks of music with our audiences this spring,"** said artistic director Cheryl Hickman.

### **TICKETS AND INFORMATION**

Tickets for *Carousel* are available from Holy Heart Theatre: **holyhearttheatre.com**

Tickets for *The Turn of the Screw* are available from the Resource Centre for the Arts: **rca.nf.ca**

Tickets for the Garrick Theatre shows are available through: **garricktheatre.ca**

All other tickets are available through **Eventbrite.com**. For more information, email **rachelle@operaontheavalon.com** or **marelle@operaontheavalon.com** or call Opera on the Avalon at **709-738-1322**.