

TAPESTRY
OPERA

PHOTO: DAHLIA KATZ

af

Alliance Française

Toronto

Tapestry Opera and
Alliance Française de Toronto present

OUR SONG D'HIVER



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OUR SONG D'HIVER

Celebrated Canadian soprano **Mireille Asselin** and pianist **Frédéric Lacroix** showcase rich, diverse works from the Francophone world in this delightful bilingual fusion of recital and 'kitchen concert'.

Mireille Asselin *Performer and Curator*

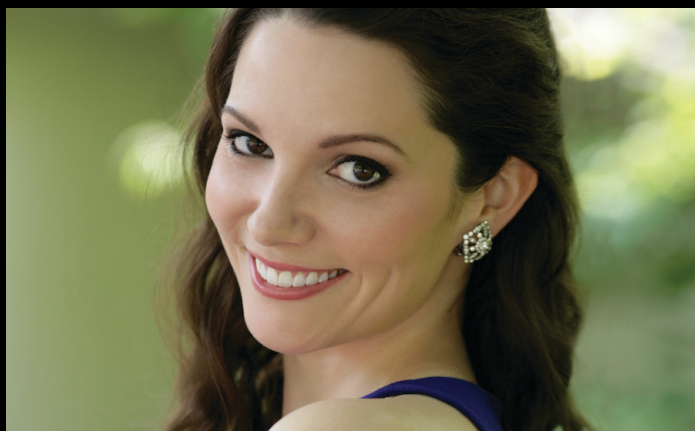
Hello and thanks for tuning into our concert celebrating the “messy middle” of being a bilingual/bicultural person in French Canada. I hope this program will offer a little glimpse into the lives and art of some exciting Francophone creators in our country while also bringing a smile of recognition to all those who sometimes feel like they exist between two worlds.

Michael Hidetoshi Mori *Director; General Director, Tapestry Opera*

In these cold months, I long to visit with friends, meet new people and share music and stories. *Our Song D'Hiver* was conceived in this warm spirit, bringing together the extraordinarily **Mireille Asselin** with special guests and the communities of Tapestry and Alliance Française de Toronto. I'm so delighted to work with Mireille and Frédéric and share some warm cheer with you!

Laetitia Delemarre *Cultural and Artistic Director, Alliance Française*

Hello everyone and welcome! The Alliance Française is delighted to collaborate with Tapestry Opera to offer you a moment of relaxation, beauty and music. What a pleasure to have with us the talented soprano Mireille Asselin accompanied by the pianist Frédéric Lacroix for a beautiful journey highlighting culture, bilingualism and the conviviality of artistic encounters.



MIREILLE ASSELIN

Performer and Curator

A singer deemed “superb” by the Los Angeles Times, and praised by Opera Canada for her “vivacious stage presence” and as a “soprano that charms and brightens a room”, Mireille Asselin enjoys a diverse, international career spanning concert, opera and recital work.

To date, Mireille has sung five seasons at the Metropolitan Opera, where she debuted as Poussette in *Manon*. She then made waves by jumping in as Adele for opening night of *Die Fledermaus* under the baton of **James Levine**, giving a performance that critics raved “stole the show”, hailing it as one of New York’s “most enchanting” of the season.

As a respected performer of early music she also appears regularly with Opera Atelier, the Boston Early Music Festival and other period ensembles. She made her European operatic debut in 2014 at the Royal Opera of the Palace of Versailles in Lully’s *Persee* and her Carnegie Hall concert debut in 2012.

In the 2018/19 season, Mireille made debuts with The Harris Theater in Chicago, with Garsington Opera in England, the Champs-Élysées in Paris, and with Odyssey Opera in Boston in addition to touring extensively with the Mirror Visions Ensemble in recital across North America and in Europe. Her most recent album “*Inspired by Canada – Notre Pays*” with the Amici Chamber Ensemble was released this year on Marquis Records to great acclaim.

Ms. Asselin is a graduate of the Canadian Opera Company Studio, Yale University and the Royal Conservatory of Music.



FRÉDÉRIC LACROIX

Pianist

Frédéric Lacroix has performed in Canada, the United States, Europe, and Asia as a soloist, chamber musician, and collaborative pianist. He has made regular radio appearances on the Canadian CBC and SRC or the American NPR. Frédéric has devoted part of his time to the study and performance of music on period keyboard instruments, for which he was recognized as the Westfield Center Performing Scholar for the 2008-09 and has presented numerous concerts (solo, chamber music, with orchestra) in Canada and the United States as harpsichordist and fortepianist. Recently, he curated, as fortepianist (and composer), the late night concerts of the National Arts Center Focus Beethoven Festival.

Frédéric is an active composer, composing for the Ottawa Chamber Music Festival, the Society of American Music, the Canadian University Music Society, and the Chœur Classique de l’Outaouais. One of his latest works, a sonatina for oboe and piano (2016) is featured on a collection of Canadian music for oboe and piano with Chip Hamann that was released in June 2017. He is also performing on two other discs released earlier this year featuring the works of Canadian composers Joanna Estelle and Victor Herbert.

Much in demand as a collaborative artist, teacher, adjudicator and composer, he currently teaches piano and composition at the University of Ottawa. He holds degrees from the University of Montreal, the University of Ottawa, and Cornell University, where he recently completed his Doctorate degree in keyboard performance practice with Malcolm Bilson.



MICHAEL HIDETOSHI MORI Director

An award-winning Canadian/American stage director, and the Artistic and General Director of Tapestry Opera, Michael Hidetoshi Mori is frequently sought as a director, dramaturge, producer and speaker. Michael's leadership at Tapestry Opera has led to the Globe and Mail naming Tapestry as the "Leader of the Canadian opera pack" (2019).

Michael is a versatile stage director, working both in site-specific settings and conventional theatres. Recent directing credits include *Jacqueline* and *TAP:EX Augmented Opera* with Tapestry Opera, *Maada'ookii Songlines* for The Luminato Festival, co-directing *Shanawdithit* for Tapestry Opera and *Opera on the Avalon*; *Pomegranate* at Buddies in Bad Times; Puccini's *Rigoletto* for Sacramento Opera; a new production of David T. Little and Royce Vavrek's *Vinkensport* for Opera Saratoga; and Puccini's *Il Trittico* for West Bay Opera in Palo Alto.

CREATIVES

A Tapestry Opera and Alliance Française de Toronto co-production

Performer and curator - **Mireille Asselin**

Pianist - **Frédéric Lacroix**

Director - **Michael Hidetoshi Mori**

PRODUCTION TEAM

Videographer - **Taylor Long**

Sound Engineer - **Dennis Patterson**

Production Manager - **Shawn Henry**

GUEST ARTISTS

My Ottawa À Moi

Performer: **Élise Gauthier**

Producer: **Bonnie Robinson, YOW Productions**

Video: **Timothy I. Smith**

Poems: **Élise Gauthier**

Music: **Marie-Claire Saindon**

Editor: **Timothy I. Smith**

Camera Assistant for Bi: **Pixie Cram**

Monday Morning Jig

Composed by **Scott MacMillan**

Morrison's Jig

Traditional

Performers: **Maxim and Gervais Cormier**

Videography: **Matthew Ingraham**

"Maxim and Gervais Cormier Live at the Fortress of Louisbourg" (EP) was released on October 9 2020. This project is a recording of Maxim and Gervais performing to a live audience at the Fortress of Louisbourg Chapel as part of Celtic Colours International Festival. Maxim is playing a custom archtop guitar made by **Wyatt Wilkie**.

REPERTOIRE

Anglicismes

Exercices de style: Récit

Composer: **Jose Evangelista**

Ah! Toi Belle Hirondelle

Composer: **Traditional**

Berceuses en 4 Cahiers Canada

Composer: **Félix-Antoine Coutu**

Librettist: **Félix-Antoine Coutu, Pascale Brigitte Boilard**

Wednesday Night Haiku

Composer: **Frédéric Lacroix** | Poems of **Ryokan**

Les Raftsmen

Arranger: **Frédéric Lacroix**

Do Not Go Gentle

Composer: **Marie-Claire Saindon** | Poems of **Dylan Thomas**

Le Récital des Anges

Composer: **Ian Cusson** | Poems of **Émile Nelligan**

Chants d'Auvergne

Composer: **Joseph Canteloube**



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PROGRAMME

Anglicismes

Exercices de style: Récit

José Evangélista

Ah toi belle hirondelle

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Morrison's Jig

Traditional

Berceuses en 4 cahiers Canada

Félix-Antoine Coutu

Wednesday night Haiku

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Les Raftsmen

Traditional, Arr. Frédéric Lacroix

My Ottawa et Moi

Élise Gauthier, Marie-Claire Saindon

Do Not Go Gentle

Marie-Claire Saindon

Le Récital des Anges

Ian Cusson

Chants du Québec

Mireille & Serouj Kradjian

Chants d'Auvergne

Joseph Canteloube

TAPESTRY OPERA

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Sign up today and explore our exclusive world of music and opera. Our brand new Tapestry Insider membership is completely free, or support our work with a Premium membership starting at \$20.

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Jaime Martino, Executive Director

Keith Fernandes, Manager of Sponsorships and Philanthropy

Georgie Sykes, Marketing and Communications Manager

Kate Croome, Artistic & Marketing Administrator

Andrew Adridge, Advancement Associate

Sheree Spencer, Metcalf Performing Arts Intern: Executive Management

Dona Arbabzadeh, Box Office Coordinator

Shawn Henry, Production Manager

Kinga Wnuk, Bookkeeper

ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE DE TORONTO

Sign up to our newsletter to be informed on our upcoming events.

Laetitia Delemarre, Artistic and Cultural Director

Mélissa Cuvilliez, Communications and Cultural Coordinator

Katia Valisolalao, Cultural Assistant

Marine Bigo, Communications Assistant

Alliance Française Toronto is proud to offer you more than 100 cultural events per year.

Learn more on our 2020-2021 Cultural Season on our website: www.alliance-francaise.ca

Tapestry Opera gratefully acknowledges the support of:

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FACTOR

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Tapestry Opera's Livestream Series generously supported in Memory of **Peter Longworth**.
We are eternally grateful for the incredible generosity of the late **Roger D Moore**.

**Alliance Française de Toronto gratefully acknowledges the support of our Season's Sponsor BMO,
as well as Canadian Heritage and the Toronto Arts Council.**