

For immediate release: December 9, 2025

## ***THE BARBER OF SEVILLE* AT THE CANADIAN OPERA COMPANY IS LARGER-THAN-LIFE AND PACKED WITH HITS**

**Toronto** – A perennial audience favourite for its effervescent score and fast-paced, fun-filled storyline, *The Barber of Seville* is an ideal introduction to the opera-going experience. In this larger-than-life production, comedy and colour collide as the title town barber, Figaro, aims to scheme his way into a happy ending for sweet young Rosina. *The Barber of Seville* runs for eight performances on **February 5, 7, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, and 21, 2026**, at the **Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts**, with an additional one-day-only performance on **February 20, 2026**, specially created for students in grades 6-12, and starring current and graduate artists of the COC's **Ensemble Studio**.

### **A BRIGHT AND COLOURFUL, FEEL-GOOD COMEDY**

Director **Joan Font** is the founding member of the Spanish street theatre troupe **Els Comediants** and leads this lively production. Inspired by the colourful geometric designs of the Bauhaus movement and Russian Constructivism, set and costume designer **Joan Guillén** has created bright, asymmetrical backdrops, exaggerated props, and colourful costumes that play up the comedy unfolding onstage. Eye-popping lighting designed by **Albert Faura** and playful choreography from **Xevi Dorca**, who also serves as Associate Director on the production, further enhance the opera's sense of fun.

### **ONE MUSICAL SHOW-STOPPER AFTER ANOTHER**

From the very first bars of its instantly recognizable overture, *The Barber of Seville* is a veritable hit parade of classical music that has permeated every area of popular culture. Having featured prominently across television (*Looney Tunes*, *Seinfeld*, *Family Guy*), film (*Mrs. Doubtfire*), and countless advertisements, the opera's inherent familiarity feels accessible from start to finish.

**Daniela Candillari** makes her much-anticipated COC debut leading the **COC Orchestra** through some of Rossini's most spirited work. **Candillari** has been the Principal Conductor at Opera Theatre of Saint Louis since 2022 and is regularly praised for her "confidence and apparently inexhaustible verve" (*The New York Times*) at the podium. **Price Family Chorus Master Sandra Horst** leads the **COC Chorus** through the opera's sparkling choral numbers, including the rousing finales to both Acts; **Horst** will then conduct the special student performance happening on February 20.

Four exciting international artists make their COC debut in *The Barber of Seville*: Omani-Canadian mezzo-soprano **Deepa Johnny** stars as the clever and vivacious Rosina, bringing her "light, luminous" (*The Guardian*) vocals to the stage, opposite Italian tenor **Dave Monaco**, who shares the role of Rosina's true love, Count Almaviva, with **Pietro Adaini** who performs on February 17, 19, and 21. American baritone **Luke Sutliff** also makes a COC debut in his signature role of Figaro, the opera's fast-talking, eponymous barber. Returning to Toronto are bass-baritone **Luca Pisaroni** as Rosina's music teacher, Basilio; baritone **Renato Girolami**, reprising his role from the COC's 2015 production as her plotting guardian, Bartolo; and, as Fiorello and Officer, baritone **Nathan Keoughan** who recently stepped in to cover the role of Karl Gustav in last winter's *La Reine-garçon* at the COC.

For the student performance on **February 20, 2026**, six current members of the COC's **Ensemble Studio** will step into the spotlight. In her COC mainstage debut, mezzo-soprano **Ariana Maubach** takes on the vocally demanding

role of Rosina, balancing this lead character with concurrent performances as Berta in the company's other performances of the opera; in 2024, **Maubach** took home both First Prize and Audience Choice Prize at the COC's Centre Stage: Ensemble Studio Competition. Tenor **Angelo Moretti** performs as Count Almaviva, following his COC debut this fall in Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette* alongside baritone **Ben Wallace**, who now takes on the dynamic role of Figaro. Bass **Duncan Stenhouse** will sing the role of Basilio, after recently placing second at Edmonton Opera's Rumbold Prize competition. Finally, two additional **Ensemble Studio** artists make their mainstage debut with the COC in this special student performance: bass-baritone **Nick Murphy** as possessive Dr. Bartolo and soprano **Emma Pennell** as Bartolo's maid, Berta.

## CAST INFORMATION

### For Performances on February 5, 7, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, and 21, 2026

<b>Count Almaviva</b>	Dave Monaco (Feb. 5-15) Pietro Adaini (Feb. 17,19, 21)
<b>Rosina</b>	Deepa Johnny
<b>Figaro</b>	Luke Sutliff
<b>Dr. Bartolo</b>	Renato Girolami
<b>Don Basilio</b>	Luca Pisaroni
<b>Fiorello</b>	Nathan Keoughan
<b>Berta</b>	Ariana Maubach**
<b>Officer</b>	Nathan Keoughan

### For Student Performance on February 20, 2026

<b>Count Almaviva</b>	Angelo Moretti**
<b>Rosina</b>	Ariana Maubach**
<b>Figaro</b>	Ben Wallace**
<b>Dr. Bartolo</b>	Nick Murphy**
<b>Don Basilio</b>	Duncan Stenhouse**
<b>Fiorello</b>	Nathan Keoughan
<b>Berta</b>	Emma Pennell**
<b>Officer</b>	Nathan Keoughan

## CREATIVE TEAM

<b>Conductor</b>	Daniela Candillari (Sandra Horst on Feb. 20)
<b>Assistant Conductor</b>	Jennifer Tung
<b>Director</b>	Joan Font (Anna Theodosakis on Feb. 20)
<b>Assistant Director</b>	Anna Theodosakis
<b>Set and Costume Designer</b>	Joan Font
<b>Lighting Designer</b>	Albert Faura
<b>Choreographer and Associate Director</b>	Xevi Dorca
<b>Price Family Chorus Master</b>	Sandra Horst*
<b>Stage Manager</b>	Stephanie Marrs
<b>Assistant Stage Manager</b>	Michal Lewandowski
<b>Assistant Stage Manager</b>	Kate Porter
<b>Apprentice Stage Manager</b>	Laura Lakatosh
<b>Fight and Intimacy Coordinator</b>	Siobhan Richardson
<b>Head Coach</b>	Christopher Bagan
<b>Répétiteur</b>	Timothy Cheung

**Ensemble Studio Coach**

Elisabeta Cojocaru

**With the COC Orchestra and COC Chorus**

\*Graduate Ensemble Studio artist

\*\*Current Ensemble Studio artist

## **TICKET INFORMATION**

*The Barber of Seville* runs for eight performances on **February 5, 7, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, and 21, 2026**, at the **Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts**, with an additional one-day-only performance, specially created for students and starring current and graduate artists of the COC's **Ensemble Studio** on **February 20, 2026**.

Single tickets for *The Barber of Seville* start at **\$45 for adults**, with **\$28 and \$35 tickets available for guests between the ages of 16 and 29** through the COC's **Opera Under 30** program. Tickets can be purchased online at [coc.ca](http://coc.ca) or by calling the Four Seasons Centre Box Office at **416-363-8231**.

Student group tickets for **the student performance of *The Barber of Seville*** are priced from **\$25-50** and can be purchased through contacting [groupsales@coc.ca](mailto:groupsales@coc.ca) or **Alfred Erickson, Patron Outreach Coordinator** at **416-306-2356**.

For more information on booking **standing room** and **rush tickets**, as well as other specially priced tickets available to **young people under the age of 15**, please visit [coc.ca](http://coc.ca).

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

**Season Sponsor:** BMO Financial Group

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**Sandra Horst** and the **COC Chorus** are generously underwritten by **Tim & Frances Price**.

The **COC Orchestra** is generously sponsored by **The Schulich Foundation** and **W. Bruce C. Bailey**.

Thank you to the entire COC community, including our [COC Board of Directors](#), our [Corporate Sponsors and Foundation Supporters](#), [generous public funders](#), [union partners](#), [individual donors](#), and — most critically — [our audience](#). Your inspiring support ensures that opera flourishes, uniting global audiences and paving the way for a vibrant future.

## **ABOUT THE CANADIAN OPERA COMPANY**

Based in Toronto, the Canadian Opera Company is the largest producer of opera in Canada and one of the largest in North America. General Director David C. Ferguson joined the company in 2024, forming a leadership team alongside Music Director Johannes Debus. The COC enjoys a loyal audience, including a dedicated base of subscribers, and has an international reputation for artistic excellence and creative innovation. Its diverse repertoire includes new commissions and productions, local and international collaborations with leading opera companies and festivals, and attracts the world's foremost Canadian and international artists. The company is an incubator for the future of the art form, nurturing Canada's new wave of opera performers and creators with customized training and support. The COC's purpose-built opera house, the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts, is hailed internationally as one of the finest in the world. For more information, visit [coc.ca](http://coc.ca).

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