VANCOUVER OPERA CELEBRATES RETIREMENT OF TWO ORCHESTRA MEMBERS FOLLOWING THE CLOSING PERFORMANCE OF *THE FLYING DUTCHMAN*

MAY 8, 2023, VANCOUVER, B.C. / Traditional territory of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations – The closing of Vancouver Opera's (VO) 2022-2023 season marked significant milestones for the company. Not only did all three full-scale productions perform to almost-capacity houses, but the company also celebrated the retirement of a Vancouver Opera Chorus member and two members of Vancouver Opera Orchestra.

The Sunday, May 7 performance of ***The Flying Dutchman*** was the final performance of Trombonist Sharman King and Principal Trumpet Tom Shorthouse. Both long-time members of VO Orchestra, they connected with their orchestra comrades for one last time.

A UBC alumnus, Sharman King joined VO Orchestra in 1977 and has continued to teach off and on at the UBC School of Music throughout his career. Company highlights include the VO production of *West Side Story,* for which he continues to praise his colleague Graham Boyle's drum set playing, and *Nixon in China* which went on to international success.

King adds, "my favourite aspect of being involved in the VO Orchestra is our continued collective success in establishing and maintaining the company's own dedicated orchestra."

As a freelance bass trombonist, King will continue to play, teach at UBC, and continue his volunteer work where he will remain active on various business, civic, and arts boards.

Tom Shorthouse spent six years with the National Symphony Orchestra of Taiwan before returning to his hometown to build a 30-year VO career. He began with VO Orchestra in 1992, before securing the position of Principal Trumpet in 1995. Memorable productions include *Three Penny Opera* and *Sweeney Todd* along with premiere performances of *Lillian Alling* and *The Overcoat* and the unusual but excellent productions of *Nixon in China* and *Of Mice and Men.*

Shorthouse adds, "the challenge presented by the score of Richard Strauss' *Der Rosencavalier*, conducted by Jonathan Darlington, continues to be my favourite and most satisfying VO production, and where I felt the orchestra achieved its greatest heights musically."

Although Shorthouse will be retiring from the orchestra, he will be on the other side of the orchestra pit supporting the vast assortment of live music in Vancouver, while continuing to refurbish rental and school-owned brass instruments through his association with Tapestry Music, owned by his good friend and long-time VO Principal Tuba David Salbourin.

On Sunday, Vancouver Opera also celebrated the retirement of VO Chorus member Bette Cosar, following her 50-year career with the company.

Vancouver Opera has the continuing support of The Canada Council for the Arts, Government of Canada, the BC Arts Council and BC Provincial Government, the City of Vancouver Cultural Services, and Vancouver Civic Theatres. Vancouver Opera's season sponsor is BMO. *The Flying Dutchman* production sponsor is Vancouver Opera Guild. Ticket Centre sponsor is Mission Hill Family Estate.

ABOUT VANCOUVER OPERA

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