



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE BICYCLE OPERA PROJECT ANNOUNCES 2015 NOVA SCOTIA TOUR

Nova Scotia- The Bicycle Opera Project announces the details of its ambitious summer East Coast tour, launching in Baddeck, Cape Breton. **Cycling their way from Baddeck to Halifax**, the artists will perform in **Baddeck, Port Hawkesbury, New Glasgow, Truro, and Halifax.**

The Bicycle Opera Project is the world's only pedal-powered opera company, founded in 2012 to present high-quality and accessible opera in unique venues via the bicycle. The company will be towing props, costumes, set and instruments all by bicycle trailer, a major challenge through the Nova Scotia terrain.

Larissa Koniuk, Artistic Director – *“We’re a group of opera singers who also happen to love cycling and adventure. We thrive on the challenge of getting there on our own steam.”*

The company is touring their 2015 summer production, ***shadow box***:

shadow box is a collection of eight contemporary opera scenes, but with one vision – exploring our mind's relationship to memory: what we treasure dearly and what haunts us in turn:

The Yellow Wallpaper by Cecilia Livingston and Nicolas Billon, *The Blind Woman* by James Rolfe and David Yee, *The Auction* by John Burge and Eugene Benson, *Dreaming Duet* from *The Bells of Baddeck* by Dean Burry and Lorna MacDonald; *Submission* by Dean Burry and David Yee; *What time is it now?* by Anna Höstman and P.K. Page, *Our Lady of Esquimalt Road* by Leila Lustig and Geoff Hargreaves, *Bianchi: a five-minute bicycle opera* by Tobin Stokes, and the company's first commission: a mini overture for 13 bicycle bells: *Ride of the Bicycle Bells* by Chris Thornborrow.

The carbon-free tour features Canada's emerging classical music stars: Larissa Koniuk, soprano; Stephanie Tritchew, mezzo; Christopher Enns, tenor; Geoffrey Sirett, baritone; Wesley Shen, piano; Ilana Waniuk, violin; Erika Nielsen, cello, as well as Sonja Rainey, set designer/projectionist, and Liza Balkan, stage director.

Liza Balkan, stage director - *“In many ways, I think of them as operatic improvisers- a rarity! They combine glorious musicianship with an impressive ability to embrace the material - and each and every new venue - with joy, truth, freedom and ingenuity. I applaud their desire to forward Canadian repertoire this way. And I haven't even mentioned the biking!”*

Tickets and information available at bicycleopera.com

AUGUST 3 – BADDECK

Alexander Graham Bell National Historic Site

7:30pm

AUGUST 10 – TRURO

Marigold Cultural Centre

7:30pm

AUGUST 5 – PORT HAWKESBURY

Port Hawkesbury Civic Centre – Shannon Studio

7:00pm

AUGUST 11 – HALIFAX

The Bus Stop Theatre

7:30pm

AUGUST 8 – NEW GLASGOW

The Celtic Circle

7:30pm

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