

For Immediate Release

Nov 14, 2019

Get in the Holiday Spirit with Opera Kelowna

(Kelowna, BC) With the holidays on the horizon, Opera Kelowna wants to help you get in the festive spirit. *Amahl and the Night Visitors* takes the stage at the Rotary Centre for the Arts tonight (November 14) and runs through to November 16.

A 45-minute opera, *Amahl* captures the essential spirit of Christmas in a unique retelling of the compassionate story of the Three Kings. The Kings stop for shelter at the home of Amahl, a crippled shepherd boy who lives with his poor widowed mother, and the miracle of Christmas culminates in the boy's healing and universal joy.

The production will be conducted by Vancouver Opera's Maestro Leslie Dala with his son Andreas Dala starring in the title role.

Originally created by Gian Carlo Menotti - *Amahl* was the first opera to appear on television back in 1951 - and it maintains its broad appeal today. *Amahl* is a show which can be enjoyed by all ages, as Menotti himself explains:

"This is an opera for children because it tries to recapture my own childhood. You see, when I was a child I lived in Italy, and in Italy we have no Santa Claus. I suppose that Santa Claus is much too busy with American children to be able to handle Italian children as well. Our gifts were brought to us by the Three Kings, instead.

I actually never met the Three Kings—it didn't matter how hard my little brother and I tried to keep awake at night to catch a glimpse of the Three Royal Visitors, we would always fall asleep just before they arrived. But I do remember hearing them. I remember the weird cadence of their song in the dark distance; I remember the brittle sound of the camel's hooves crushing the frozen snow; and I remember the mysterious tinkling of their silver bridles..."

In addition to *Amahl*, attendees will be treated to 'Act II' as Opera Kelowna's singers perform classic arias and carols to make sure you're fully in festive mood.

Performances will take place at the Mary Irwin Theatre inside the Rotary Centre for the Arts at 7 p.m. on November 14 and 15 and 1 p.m. on November 16. Tickets range from \$49.95 to \$79.95 for VIPs (VIPs get prime seating as well as admission to a pre-opera VIP reception). Tickets can be purchased [here](#).

You can learn more about Opera Kelowna [here](#).

You can find the Rotary Centre for the Arts online via their [official website](#). The Rotary Centre for the Arts respectfully acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded, traditional territory of the syilx (Okanagan) people.

-10-

About the Rotary Centre for the Arts

Located in the heart of Kelowna's Cultural District, the [Rotary Centre for the Arts](#) is a multidisciplinary visual and performing arts centre.

The RCA continually strives to improve the economic, cultural and social quality of life in the community by fostering the participation in, and appreciation of the arts.

As a world-class venue celebrating creative expression through diverse art forms and disciplines, the Rotary Centre for the Arts is a unique City of Kelowna facility in which individuals of all ages and backgrounds can come together to share in the excitement of strengthening art and culture in the Okanagan.

For more information about this show, please contact:

Karma Lacoﬀ Nieoczym, *Bookings Coordinator*

Rotary Centre for the Arts

Email: rentals@rotarycentreforthearts.com

Phone: 250-717-5304 ext.111

Website: <https://rotarycentreforthearts.com>