



ASSOCIATION FOR
OPERA IN CANADA

**Association posts operating surplus,
welcomes new board member Jennifer Szeto**

(November 25, 2020)

Toronto, ON – The Association for Opera in Canada held its Annual Meeting of Members today where it was announced that the association posted an operating surplus of \$10,162. The surplus is the association’s fourth consecutive surplus.

Elected at the meeting were new board member Jennifer Szeto, co-founder, Musique 3 Femmes. AOC bid adieu to retiring board member Kim Gaynor who stepped down on June 30, 2020.

Continuing members of the AOC board include:

Michael Mori, General Director, Tapestry Opera

Ian Rye, CEO, Pacific Opera Victoria

Tim Yakimec, General Director, Edmonton Opera

Cheryl Hickman, General Director, Opera on the Avalon

Patrick Hansen, Associate Prof, Director of Opera Studies, McGill University

Dean Burry, Assistant Professor and composer, Queens University

Marion Newman, Member at Large, Mezzo-Soprano and Independent Artist

Chantal Lambert, Directrice de l’ Atelier lyrique de l’ Opéra de Montréal

Amy Mushinski, Associate Director, Public Affairs, The Canadian Opera Company

Bruce Munro Wright, Member-at-Large, Vancouver, BC

Cont’d...

Jennifer Szeto



“Jennifer Szeto [...] continued to show why she is one of the most promising young collaborative pianists in Canada” (Scena Musicale).

Praised for her “immense sweetness and precision that seemed to be flawless” (L’Opéra revue québécoise), “rock-solid rhythm... a great variety of color” (Bachtrack) and “amazing versatility” (Opera Ramblings), Montreal-based pianist Jennifer Szeto is carving out a dynamic path as a performer, coach, educator, and arts administrator.

Jennifer is a graduate of San Francisco Opera’s Adler Fellowship, the Merola Opera Program, Canadian Opera Company’s Ensemble Studio, and Atelier Lyrique at Opéra de Montréal. Recent roles include music director in the world premiere of Laurence Jobidon and Pascale St-Onge’s *L’hiver attend beaucoup de moi* at Opéra de Montréal in a collaboration with Théâtre Espace GO with direction by Solène Paré, head coach in George Benjamin's *Written on Skin* at Opéra de Montréal with conductor Nicole Paiement (Canadian premiere production), and assistant conductor for John Estacio’s *Ours with Opera on the Avalon* with conductor Judith Yan. Elsewhere, she is a staff coach at Opera McGill, University of Ottawa, and Highlands Opera Studio in Haliburton, ON.

In her role as a co-founder of *Musique 3 Femmes*, she facilitates the *Mécénat Musica Prix 3 Femmes* – a \$50,000 biennial prize that supports the creation of operas by emerging female composers and librettists through seed funding for new operas, mentorship, and workshops. The award – now in its second edition – fosters the next generation of Canadian female opera creators and has enabled the creation of 8 new Canadian operas written by women composers and librettists.

Jennifer holds a M.Mus. in Piano Accompaniment from McGill University, a B.Mus Performance from University of Toronto, and has received additional training from SongFest and the Franz Schubert Institut in Baden-bei-Wien, Austria.

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