

# RACHMANINOFF

# oieko



NEW  
OPERA  
LYRA  
LIFE ON STAGE

Composer – Rachmaninoff

Orchestration – Andrew Ager

Directors – Suzanne Bassett and Andrew Ager

Conductor – Norman E. Brown

## Soloists

Aleko - \*Dylan Wright, Bass

Zemfira - Antonina Ermolenko, Soprano

Young Man - Adam Sperry, Tenor

Old Man - \*Gary Dahl, Bass

Old Woman - Mary Zborowski, Alto

Aleko Understudy - Alasdair Campbell

Zemfira Understudy - Carmen Harris

Young Man Understudy - Philip Klaassen

Old Woman Understudy - Caroline Johnston

\*The participation of these Artists is arranged by permission of Canadian Actors' Equity Association under the provisions of the **Dance Opera Theatre Policy (DOT)**.

## Chorus of Romany - Ewasko Singers

Chorusmaster -- Lawrence Ewashko

### Soprano

Donna Ager

Olivia Brandvold

Christine Hecker

Allison Kennedy

Christine Muggeridge

Josee Landry

### Alto

Katie Cruickshank

Rachel Hotte

Vickie Iles

Caroline Johnston

Chantal Pham

Mary Zborowski

### Tenor

Johnathan Bentley

Elizabeth Burbidge

Ilyas Jaffer

Andrew Jahn

David Lafranchise

Bryan Parker

### Bass

Wallace Beaton

Brian Butcher

Marc Andre Jobin

Terry Brynaert

Stephen Slessor

Rodney Williamson

Extra: Nancy Walkling

# Dancers

Choreographers

Women's Dance, Men's Dance - Tetiana Avramenko

Intermezzo - Clare Bassett

## Soloists

Clare Bassett

Caleb Butcher

Walter Sokyrko

Ella Duncliffe

## Kalinka Dance Group

Marina Batchourikhina

Alla Ouksousova

Elena Frolova

Elena Devdariani

Galina Gorokhovskaia

Irina Ribchinsky

## Children

Olha Avramenko

Raina Ayoun

Evelyn Barbour

Misha Lowergne

Sophia Lowergne

Alexander Reabov

Yaroslav Sudnitsyn

# Orchestra

Conductor - Norman E. Brown

Violin 1 – Jeffrey Dyrda (Concertmaster), Maria Nenoiu

Violin 2 – Jessy Kim, Adam Nelson

Viola – Paul Casey, Kevin James (Contractor)

Cello – Fanny Marks

Bass – Vincent Gendron

Flute – Lara Deutsch

Oboe – Marat Mulyukov

Clarinet – Roxanne Léveillé

Bassoon – Orlando Corabian

Horn I – Louis-Pierre Bergeron

Horn II – Roberto Rivera

Harp – Lucile Hildesheim

## **Production Team**

Stage Manager – Suzanne Bassett

Costumes – Kathryn Racine and Catherine Simons

Makeup – Heather Ingrams

Lighting – David Magladry

Set Design – Donna Ager

Set Construction – Donna Ager, Brian Hamilton,  
Suzanne Bassett, Keith MacLellan, Edward Franko

Production Consultant – Edward Franko

Surtile Operator – Francis Armour

Front of House – Merina Shulist

Graphic Design – John Scott

**New Opera Lyra is extremely grateful to the following  
for their generosity and assistance in the  
production of "Aleko"**

Eugene Oscapella

Elizabeth Burbidge

Valerie Douglas

Henry Kennedy, Resident Conductor –

National Arts Centre Orchestra

Stuart Mackninnon

Harold Young

Natalia Tarychkina, Director, Rodnik Russian Language School Ottawa

Oksana Frolova, Anna Frolova, Directors –

Uspekh Russian Language School Ottawa

Marina Kotchetova, Russian language coach, Ottawa

Alexey Alexeev, Russian language coach, Toronto

Larisa Evseeva, Russian language coach, Montreal

Tatiana Sitnikova, Director, Mehta Russian Children's Centre, Montreal

Anton Vladimirovitch Solovyov, First Secretary –

Embassy of the Russian Federation - Cultural contacts

St. Matthew's Anglican Church

Rev. Jim Baldwin, Rideau Park United Church

Brian Hamilton, Rideau Park United Church

Patricia Whitridge, Rideau Park United Church

Mark and Gretchen Shulist



# SYNOPSIS

## СИНОПСИС

A band of Romani has pitched its tents for the night on the bank of a river. Beneath a pale moon, they light campfires, prepare a meal and sing of the freedom of their nomadic existence.

The Old Man tells a story. Long ago, he loved Mariula who deserted him for another man, leaving behind Zemfira, their daughter. Zemfira is now grown up, has her own child, and lives with Aleko, a Russian minor aristocrat who has abandoned civilization for the Romani life.

Hearing this story, Aleko is outraged that Zemfira's father took no revenge on Mariula. But Zemfira disagrees. For her, as for her mother, love is free, and she herself has already tired of Aleko's possessiveness and now loves a younger Romani, one of her own people.

After dances for the women and the men, the Romani settle down to sleep. Zemfira appears with her young lover, whom she kisses passionately. Aleko enters and Zemfira taunts him, singing about her wild lover. Alone, Aleko broods on the catastrophe of his relationship with Zemfira and the failure of his attempt to flee the ordinary world.

As dawn comes, he surprises Zemfira and her lover together. In a torment of jealousy he kills them both. All the Romani gather, disturbed by the noise. Led by Zemfira's father, they spare Aleko's life but cast him out from them forever.

New Opera Lyra acknowledges that our performance this evening is on the unceded, unsurrendered Territory of the Anishinaabe Algonquin Nation whose presence here reaches back to time immemorial. We honour their long history of welcoming many Nations to this beautiful territory and uphold and uplift the voice and values of our Host Nation.