

Musicians of the World Symphony Orchestra

A concert of Opera, Operetta, and Broadway

By Janis Kirshner

The Musicians of the World Symphony Orchestra (MWSO), under the conductorship of Joseph Milo, will perform a concert titled, *Romantic Arias- Music for Lovers* – an evening of opera, operetta and Broadway, at the Oscar Peterson Concert Hall on Concordia University's Loyola Campus on Sunday, February 27 at 2 pm. The concert features soloists Sharon Azrieli, soprano; Jessica Bowes, mezzo; Hugues Saint-Gelais, tenor and Charles Prévost-Linton, baritone. Jordan Gasparik from the opera collective Liederwolfe is the emcee for the evening. The uplifting program, highlighting arias, duets and quartets in different styles, appeals to a broad audience.



Founder Maestro Joseph Milo

This program of love and music will present famous arias from well-known operas like *Carmen*, *Don Giovanni*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Fledermaus* and *La Traviata*, as well as endearing operettas such as *Tales of Hoffman* and *The Countess Maritza*. There will also be timeless melodies from Gershwin's opera *Porgy and Bess*, various popular Broadway song selections from Richard Rodgers, as well as from favourite musicals including Leonard Bernstein's *West Side Story* and Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Cats*.

The Musicians of the World Symphony Orchestra begins their sixth year by celebrating love musically, in the form of opera and musical theatre. According to Maestro Joseph Milo, there is often a lack of creativity in celebrating love, "Opera and musical theatre is the stage expression of what we all feel- there is nothing like going to a concert where the content addresses those sentiments in an artistic form."

Milo founded the MWSO to offer a platform for immigrant professional musicians in Montreal. Made up of over 50 musicians from all over the world, it is the first of its kind in Canada. For Milo, an important element of the orchestra is the actual concept of 'musicians of the world'. He adds, "The



The Musicians of the World Symphony Orchestra is celebrating its 6th Anniversary

versatility of our programming enhances our uniqueness as we often feature music from different ethnic cultures, as well as diverse styles including musicals, jazz and some pop too, while never abandoning classical music." The orchestra continues to offer a welcoming, creative environment; this is their 30th concert.

Orchestra Director Lucy Ravinsky has great admiration for the members, "They are warm friends who also work with each other outside the orchestra in smaller ensembles. It's exciting to see them doing what they want and need to do." The MWSO's nickname is *The People's Orchestra – people from around the world for the people of Montreal*. Their dream is to tour to the countries represented by members of the orchestra.

The Orchestra is also participating in the 8th edition of *Nuit Blanche*, part of

the Montreal High Lights Festival, on Saturday, February 26. Join them for a free concert, *From Bach to Broadway and all that Jazz...* at the Corridor Culture on Ottawa St. in Griffintown.

Musicians of the World Symphony Orchestra performance of *Romantic Arias – Music for Lovers* is a matinee performance on Sunday, February 27, at 2 pm; Oscar Peterson Concert Hall on Concordia University's Loyola Campus, 7141 Sherbrooke St. West. Tickets: \$30, \$25 for students and seniors. Group rates available. Tickets can be purchased directly from the Orchestra office: 514-484-7428 (no service charge), the Concert Hall: 514-848-4848, or from Admission, 514-790-1245, (services charge applies). For further information please visit: www.musiciansoftheworld.ca.