

# A musical world of love



PHOTOS COURTESY JANIS KIRSHNER



Led by Musicians of the World conductor Joseph Milo (left), the Music for Lovers show will also feature baritone Charles Prévost-Linton (right), well-known to Montreal hockey fans.

By Walter J. Lyng  
The Suburban

You will only have one chance to see the Musicians of the World Symphony Orchestra (MWSO) presenting their show *Romantic Arias - Music for Lovers*, on Sunday, Feb. 27 at 2 p.m. at the Oscar Peterson Concert Hall.

Under the guidance of conductor Joseph Milo, the MWSO will present various selections from operas, operetta and Broadway classics, featuring performances by Sharon Azrieli, Jessica Bowes, Hugues Saint-Gelais and Charles Prévost-Linton, better known as the man who sings the national anthem

before the start of every Habs game.

"I have done concerts with him before," says Milo of Prévost-Linton. "I know what he sounds like and I know how he would work and blend with the others. It's a bonus that he is know to people as Charles Prévost-Linton from the hockey games, who sings the national anthem. He does it so well, that's why they've kept him for so many years."

Milo says that one of the main ambitions of this show was to make the music being presented as accessible as possible. "First of all, we like the idea of bringing an opera to a larger audience," says Milo.

"Opera has always been viewed as

music for the elite, which is certainly not true. Little by little, as far as we can see, classical music in general and opera in particular is becoming a little bit more popular. We thought it was a good idea to do the concert now in February, close to Valentine's Day."

The program is truly varied and will feature famous arias from well-known operas like *Carmen*, *Don Giovanni*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Fledermaus* and *La Traviata*, as well as operettas such as *Tales of Hoffman* and *The Countess Maritza*. There will also be melodies from Gershwin's opera *Porgy and Bess*, various 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*.

"It was just a matter of putting together a program which is a little unusual," says Milo. "Our orchestra, besides being unique for what it is — an immigrant professional music ensemble — it is also unique in terms of trying to put together, in general, programs which are a little bit different than others. Otherwise we'd be just another orchestra and we're not just another orchestra."

We do a lot of classical stuff because this is the basic training of our musicians, including myself. So we should keep doing what we do best."

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 apply).

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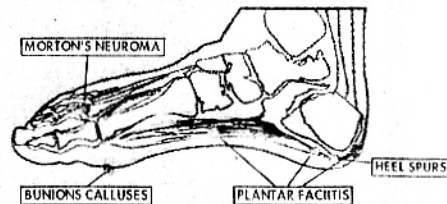
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