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Madonna

BLANK CELEBRITY NEWS

Madonna tops the rich list

Although her recent album *MDNA* was a commercial flop, Madonna has topped *Forbes* magazine's Highest Earn-

Get off the phone! I have an important question for you

■ Comic opera at Barachois Historic Church tells story of love triangle between a man, a woman and her telephone

BY BRETT ANNINGSOON
TIMES & TRANSCRIPT

The upcoming concert of the Barachois Summer Music Festival focuses on the opera. At the core of the program is the opera *The Telephone* (*L'amour à trois*).

"It is a very funny little one act opera for two singers," explains Julien LeBlanc, the musical director of the festival. "It focuses on the frustration of being interrupted."

The story has Ben visiting his girlfriend, Lucy, at her apartment. He wants to propose to her before he leaves on a trip. But despite his attempts to get her attention so he can ask his question, Lucy is constantly on the telephone.

Between her calls, when Lucy leaves the room, Ben even tries to cut the telephone cord. There is frustration, but also a surprise ending.

Show Facts

What: *The Telephone*, or *L'amour à trois*, a comic opera featuring Marianne Lambert (soprano), Jonathan Estabrooks (baritone), Steven Philcox, piano.
Where: Barachois Historic Church, Grand Barachois.
When: Thursday, Aug. 29, 6:45 p.m.
Tickets: are \$25 for adults, \$10 for students, free for 18 and under, available at Barachois Historic Church. For more information call 532-2976.

"The French title, love between three, describes what is going on much more clearly," says Julien. "It is really about the love between the girl and the guy and the telephone."

Julien says much of what the festival tries to do focuses on local talent. In this case, Jonathan Estabrooks, the baritone brought in for the production, has a strong New Brunswick connection. Much of his family is from here and he has sung a lot in the Maritimes. He

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Marianne Lambert

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Singer has Moncton roots

▶ Continued From D1

graduated from Julliard in New York City, where he now makes his home.

Jonathan, who plays the suitor, says he was performing in Montreal last summer when he was introduced to Julien by mutual friends. "When he spoke about the series in Barachois, it sounded like a really interesting project," Jonathan says. "The amazing thing about Canada is that we have support of the arts in all of its faculties. Plus there seems to be a real interest in diversity and it is nice to see. I am really happy to be coming there to perform."

Jonathan grew up in Ottawa and was involved musically there. His mother was from Edmonton and his father from Moncton.

"There is a huge musical side of my family that comes from the East Coast," Jonathan says. "Whenever we took trips down east to family reunions there would be Gould and Estabrooks with campfires and singing and music. I was exposed to all of these things from a very young age. It turned out that it was what I wanted to do. I took a shining to opera and what it offered as a whole theatrical experience."

Jonathan thinks *The Telephone* works well in the recital format. And this recital allows him and his partner, the young soprano Marianne Lambert, to also perform some arias and duets.

Marianne is out of Montreal and was the recipient of the Grand Prix of the 20th International Competition of Marmande.

She is also a former member of the Atelier Lyrique de l'Opéra de Montreal (2007-2009) and has sung in a lot of different productions, including *The Fairy Queen* by

Purcell, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by Britten, Mozart's *Coste fan tutte* (Despina), *Exercises de styles* by Jose Evangelista, *La Fille du tambour-major* (Stella) by Offenbach.

Marianne and Jonathan are going to be sharing quite a few varieties of operatic pieces.

"We are singing in French, Italian and English," says Jonathan. "Things like the 'Largo al factotum' from the *Barber of Seville*, which is perhaps the most famous opera out there. I mean you would have heard it in anything from the *Muppet Show* to *Bugs Bunny*."

They will also be reprising a piece from a Poulenc opera that they performed in Montreal. It is a funny vignette about a woman who decides to work instead of having children, and her husband, who decides to create a machine to make babies.

"I really see myself as a freelance opera singer," explains Jonathan. "And back in 2010 I travelled with Jeunesse Musicale du Canada, going all through the Maritime region and did some medium to larger theatres. It was wonderful to get to see a part of Canada I had not seen in that detail."

"Now I am excited about seeing old friends, and having some lobster. Also the singing — that is the important part. This is going to be a really fun show to sing and a fun show to watch. People should take advantage of it and come out."

If you are interested in another facet of his work, Jonathan is releasing a debut album, a crossover album with everything from John Denver to Neil Diamond as well as modern pop tunes. All performed with a full classical orchestra.