



CHARLOTTE AND THE MUSIC-MAKER

PROGRAM INFORMATION

(August 2014 – please destroy all previous versions)

The following text must be included in the concert program:

Platypus Theatre's
Charlotte and the Music-maker

Written and performed by Peter Duschenes

Original Music and Musical Direction by Alain Trudel

Stage Direction by Janet Irwin

Stage Manager: Wendy Rockburn

(N.B. Logo must be included in program and is available on the Platypus website at <http://www.platypustheatre.com>)

Platypus Theatre wants to hear from you! Leave a comment at platypustheatre.com or follow us on Twitter or YouTube.

REPERTOIRE

Includes excerpts from:
Trudel, Alain

Handel, George Frideric
Traditional (arr. Trudel)

Handel, George Frideric

Abreu, Zequina (arr. Trudel)
Grieg, Edvard

Mozart, W.A. (arr. Trudel)

Original Music for Charlotte
and the Music-Maker
Water Music (Hornpipe)
When the Saints Come
Marching In
Arrival of the Queen of
Sheba (From Solomon)
Tico-tico
Holberg Suite – Slow
Movement #4 "Air"
Variations on "Twinkle,
Twinkle Little star"

BIOGRAPHIES

N.B: Photographs of the actors and Stage Manager must be included. High-resolution photographs of the artists are available on the Platypus website at: platypustheatre.com

Platypus Theatre

Since 1989, almost one million young audience members have been introduced to classical music through Platypus Theatre. After more than 500 performances with more than 60 orchestras worldwide, Platypus has established itself as one of North America's premiere music education theatre companies. Original and engaging storylines are presented in an intelligent and interactive way, with music always taking the lead role. Children laugh, sing and empathize with the characters while learning musical concepts, styles, and much more. In 2006, one of Platypus' most cherished productions *How the Gimquat Found her Song* was produced for TV and went on to win several awards including Best Children's Program at the prestigious Banff World Television Festival. In 1991, Platypus was the subject of a nationally broadcast documentary on CTV, followed by a PBS full-performance broadcast in 2000. During its 25th anniversary year, Platypus will premiere its eighth original production, *Latin Beats, Heroic Feats*, in partnership with four orchestras across Canada. Other Platypus Productions include *Emily Saves the Orchestra*, *Rhythm in your Rubbish*, *Bach to the Future*, *Charlotte and the Music-Maker*, *Flicker of Light on a Winter's Night*, and *Peter and the Wolf*.

Biographies continue on the next page...

Peter Duschenes, Artistic Director and Writer

Thousands of young classical music fans have Peter to thank for introducing them to symphonic music. He co-founded the Platypus Theatre touring company in 1989 to make orchestral music accessible for youth, and more than half a million concert-goers have benefitted from his creativity. As an award-winning playwright, Peter's writing credits include - among others - all eight Platypus productions, the television adaptation of *How the Gimquat Found Her Song* which won Best Children's Program at the prestigious Banff World Television Festival in 2008. In addition to his roles in Platypus shows, he has also acted and directed with companies across Canada and the United States. When Peter isn't busy helping the Gimquat find her song, he and his wife Sarah are helping their children, Magda and Theo, find their socks.

Alain Trudel – Composer

Montreal native Alain Trudel has distinguished himself as a conductor and soloist, but has also used his creative genius as a composer and arranger. Many of his works have been performed by orchestras and chamber ensembles throughout the Americas and in Europe and Japan. In 1997, the CBC commissioned the work "Passage", a small ensemble piece written for trombone, trumpet, accordion and piano. This piece has been played more than fifty times, including at the Winnipeg New Music Festival and in the United States, and rebroadcast nationally on Radio Canada and the CBC. In 1992 he composed "Vision" which was broadcast on the radio and performed more than fifteen times across Canada. Alain has also written many times for his instrument, the trombone, including "Grand Louis", which was premiered at the International Trombone Congress of 1991 and two pieces for trombone and tape: "Yo" and "Vital" which premiered at the Festival de Strasbourg in 1993 and 1995 respectively. "Charlotte and the Music-Maker" is not Alain's first collaboration with a theatre company. He recently composed the music for a musical puppet play created by Productions Felix Mirbt. As an arranger, Alain Trudel has adapted an almost incalculable number of works for both choir and orchestra. Of special interest is his fifteen year engagement with the CBC radio and television sing-in for which he arranged Christmas pieces from all genres and eras. Alain Trudel is recipient of the Virginia Parker Prize, The Prix du Président de la République of the Académie du disque Charles Cros (France), an Opus Prize and a Juno Award.

Janet Irwin - Director

Janet Irwin has over thirty years experience in the theatre, working as director, playwright/librettist, producer, dramaturge, consultant and teacher. She has great affection for the classics, political theatre, large casts, plays for family audiences, spectacle, outdoor theatre, stories about Ottawa, new work, opera and other theatre forms wherein music is integral. Her work has been described variously as "an audacious triumph" (Blue Window), "advocacy theatre of intelligence, imagination, precision and stunning effectiveness" (Side Effects), "le courage et la grace" (Dialogues des Carmélites), "many parts great theatre" and "a production that soars" (Medea). She has directed for Great Canadian Theatre Company, National Arts Centre's English Theatre and Orchestra, Upper Canada Playhouse, Easy Street Productions, Opera Lyra Ottawa, Deluxe Hot Sauce, and Third Wall Theatre. She is thrilled to be a part of Platypus Theatre.

Wendy Rockburn – Stage Manager

Want to know who and what goes where and when and how? Wendy's the one who has it well under control. Since 2005, Wendy has expertly juggled all of the details for Platypus Theatre productions, from monster's heads to lighting cues. Not only does she manage the Platypus touring company's stage, but she also works with theatres all over Eastern and Central Canada. And as often as possible, she jets off to far places to photograph the world, and has been known to skydive over the desert in Namibia or outrace a gaucho in Argentina. Her favorite part about Platypus shows is watching the kids follow every turn in the story in rapt attention. And the climax of the Gimquat still makes her cry, even after all of these years. No wonder we're wild about Wendy!