



THE CHILDREN'S CRUSADE Press Kit

The Children's Crusade.....	2
Historical Note by R. Murray Schafer.....	5
Director's Vision by Tim Albery.....	5
 <u>Cast Biographies</u>	
Jacob Abrahamse – Stephen, the Holy Child.....	6
Diego Matamoros - Magus/King Phillip of France/Moloch/William Porcus.....	7
Maryem Tollar – Ariana.....	8
Christopher Sawchyn - Doctor Grosstête/Iron Hugh.....	9
Scott Belluz - Damien.....	9
Sonya Gosse – Old Hag.....	9
David Houle – David.....	10
 <u>Creative Team Biographies</u>	
R. Murray Schafer, Composer/Librettist.....	11
Tim Albery, Director.....	12
David Fallis, Music Director.....	13
Rebecca Hope Terry, Choreographer/Assistant Director.....	13
Leslie Travers, Set & Costume Design.....	14
Thomas C. Hase, Lighting Design.....	14
 Canadian Children's Opera Company.....	 16
Toronto Consort.....	16
 Some Fact & Figures.....	 17

The Children's Crusade was co-commissioned and co-produced by
 Soundstreams Canada – Artistic Director Lawrence Cherney and
 Luminato Festival of Arts + Creativity - Chris Lorway.

**World Premiere of R. Murray Schafer's *The Children's Crusade*
Directed by Tim Albery Opening Night of Luminato – June 5**

Compelling and haunting. *The Children's Crusade*, a magnificent 90-minute opera, written by **R. Murray Schafer** and directed by Tim Albery, premieres on June 5, 2009.

Featuring the Canadian Children's Opera Company, The Toronto Consort, and over 100 performers and musicians, the spectacle stars award-winning actor **Diego Matamoros**, 12 year-old boy soprano **Jacob Abrahamse** and JUNO nominee **Maryem Tollar**. Led by the cast, audiences will journey – both physically and spiritually - through a post modern vision of 13th century France encapsulated in a 65,000 square foot industrial warehouse in the heart of Toronto's Parkdale. The opera was commissioned by Soundstreams with the support of the Koerner Foundation, the Laidlaw Foundation, Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council and Luminato: Festival of Arts & Creativity.

"With *The Children's Crusade*, **R. Murray Schafer** has created his most compelling work yet," comments **Lawrence Cherney** artistic director of Soundstreams. "Though set in the Middle Ages, the opera has great resonance for our time. This is the story of children determined to create a world of peace. Had these children lived today, their cause might have been Darfur."

"Youth are struggling to find a place for hope in their lives," notes director **Tim Albery** who recently directed the Canadian Opera Company's acclaimed production of *War and Peace*. "The Holy Child in this opera is not a boy rooted in religious dogma but a child whose idealism transcends conflict. With his clear voice and direct, open personality, Jacob Abrahamse captures this innocence and this passion."

"We are extremely excited to be working with Tim Albery and his creative team," says Chris Lorway, Luminato's Artistic Director. "His vision of how to create a unique audience experience in this non-traditional venue combined with Schafer's music will truly make this one of the highlights of this year's festival."

R. Murray Schafer, recently honoured with the Governor General's Performing Arts Award, has an international reputation as a composer, educator and scholar. The creator of *The Princess and the Stars*, Schafer was the first recipient of the Glenn Gould Prize (1987) and in 2005 his contribution to Canadian and international art was recognized by the Canada Council for the Arts with the Walter Carson Prize.

A founding member and currently an Associate Artist with Soulpepper Theatre, **Diego Matamoros** has been nominated twelve times for acting awards and has

been honoured with four Dora Mavor Moore Theatre Awards for Best Performance including his role as Clov in Samuel Beckett's *Endgame*. In 1997, he received a Gemini award for Best Performance in the mini series *The Sleep Room*. He recently appeared in Toronto as Satan in the acclaimed production of *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*.

Jacob Abrahamse, who makes his professional debut in the groundbreaking opera, is familiar with standing ovations. He placed first in Peterborough's Kiwanis Music Festival – piano and voice – each year from 2002 to 2008 and won the Kiwanis' Potten Rose Bowl Award five consecutive years (2004-2008). He is also an award-winning downhill skier.

Applauded for her unique ability to blend and harmonize the music of many cultures, **Maryem Tollar** was a 2009 JUNO nominee for her album *Cairo to Toronto*.

Director **Tim Albery** leads a powerhouse creative team. After a critically acclaimed production of *War and Peace* for the Canadian Opera Company, and a lauded run of the *Flying Dutchman* at Covent Garden, Albery takes on *The Children's Crusade* with costume and set designer **Leslie Travers**, lighting designer **Thomas Hase**, choreographer and assistant director **Rebecca Hope Terry**, and music director **David Fallis**.

David Fallis steps into his role fresh from his critical triumph with Opera Atelier's *The Coronation of Poppea*. "The score of *The Children's Crusade* is richly layered, drawing influence from early medieval scale, and the haunting melodies of traditional Middle Eastern music, blended with contemporary sound," says Fallis.

Performances

Friday June 5th & Saturday June 6th
Monday June 8th – Thursday June 11th

153 Dufferin Street (Parking available)

Tickets \$40, on sale April 16th through www.luminato.com or 1-866-577-4277

The Children's Crusade was commissioned with the support of the Koerner Foundation, the Laidlaw Foundation, the Canada Council for the Arts, the Ontario Arts Council and Luminato: Festival of Arts & Creativity.

Soundstreams thanks the generous supporters of *The Children's Crusade*: the McLean Foundation, the Hal Jackman Foundation, Opera.ca, and the Julie Jiggs Foundation. Soundstreams' Premiere Circle: Andrea and Bruce Alexander, James C. Baillie, Linda and Lawrence Cherney, Jim and Barb Doherty, Margaret and Jim Fleck, Alison Girling and Paul Schabas, Michael and Sonja Koerner,

Murray and Marvelle Koffler, John Lawson, In memory of Ernest Lilienstein, Roger D. Moore, Hy and Judy Sarick, Gissa and Bernard Schiff, Lawrence and Donna Smith, Ann Southam, Daniel Weinzweig and Nancy Nightingale, Ros and Stan Witkin.

About Soundstreams

Powered by a bold and adventurous imagination, Soundstreams programs culturally provocative concerts and festivals by weaving together music and ideas from globally diverse genres, artists and eras. Founded in 1982 by oboist Lawrence Cherney, Soundstreams generates dynamic encounters among creators, performers and audiences. International festivals, intimate chamber music, new opera and multi-choral spectacles - Soundstreams ignites audiences with compelling live music experiences. An international centre for new directions in music, Soundstreams is a driving force in creating the future of music.

Historical Note by R. Murray Schafer

There were two Children's Crusades, one originating in Germany and the other in France; both took place during the year 1212. They were both dedicated to liberating the Holy Land with love rather than force. I have based my text on the French story, which tells how a young boy named Stephen had a vision about leading a crusade, went to see King Phillip at his court at Saint-Denis and, although he was rebuffed by the king (I've changed the story here), managed to raise a multitude of children and young people on a march towards Marseilles, where they expected the seas to part so they could walk across to Jerusalem. Of course the waters did not part, the crusade ended in disaster. Many of the children drowned; others were sold into slavery, and many starved to death as they attempted to return home.

The Children's Crusade - The Director's Vision by Tim Albery

A Muslim woman, a Jewish boy, a Christian child breaking bread together round the flames of a fire in a ruined city called Jerusalem.

This is the dream.

A child, lost at night in a storm, sitting wrapped in the coat of a dark stranger. The man offers the child food and wine and a mission to save the world.

This is the beginning.

In a cold, early dawn, children standing shivering on the shoreline. Slowly they walk into the waves that they know will part to lead them to the Promised Land.

This is the end.

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

Jacob Abrahamse Stephen, The Holy Child

Twelve year-old Jacob Abrahamse is an extraordinary young artist. The third generation of boy sopranos, Jacob was not quite three when he first performed at his church as a vocal soloist. His selection was the children's Bible song *Zaccheus*. Although the Peterborough native has been singing publicly ever since, *The Children's Crusade* is Jacob's first professional performance.

But Jacob is familiar with standing ovations. He placed first in Peterborough's Kiwanis Music Festival – piano and voice – each year from 2002 to 2008; won the Kiwanis' Potten Rose Bowl Award six consecutive years (2004-2009). Last year, with a mark of 95%, the Abrahamse Family - Jacob, his brother Noah (7), his sister Hannah (9), accompanied on the piano by their father Vincent won the Family Class in the Peterborough Kiwanis Festival.

"Murray Schafer is one Canada's greatest composers," says the very composed Jacob. "I'm very excited to be performing in his opera. The story of the Children's Crusade is so touching. This boy truly believed that he could bring peace to the world. We could all learn a lot from his compassion."

Jacob, who plans to become a pediatric respirologist, starred in *You Don't Know the Half of It* and *Hungry – A Musical Hansel and Gretel*, both directed by Susan Spicer at Peterborough's Market Hall Theatre. He also played the lead role in *Amahl and the Night Visitors* at the Lyric Stage directed by Eleanor James.

A featured soloist with groups such as the Cellar Singers and Peterborough Singers (2009) and the Royal Regiment of Canada (2005), Jacob also sang the National Anthem at the NHL Alumni games in Peterborough each year from 2002 to 2006.

As a member of the Devil's Elbow Ski Area traveling team, Jacob is also an award-winning downhill ski racer.

"They are very similar," Jacob explains. "When I'm racing and when I'm singing, everything is a blur. I'm not thinking about what I'm doing because I've already practiced, so then I just become a part of what I'm doing. Afterwards, I look back and say 'Wow. I did that'."

Diego Matamoros Magus/King Phillip of France/Moloch/William Porcus

A founding member of Soulpepper Theatre, Mr. Matamoros is currently an Associate Artist with the Toronto-based theatre company. He has been nominated twelve times for acting awards and has been honoured with four Dora Mavor Moore Theatre Awards for Best Performance including his role as Clov in Samuel Beckett's "Endgame".

Born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Mr. Matamoros is tri-lingual, speaking French, Spanish and English fluently. At age two, he moved with his family to Antwerp, Belgium, where he lived until immigrating to Toronto, Canada at the age of nine. Upon completion of his education in Canada, he studied theatre for two years at LAMDA: the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art, in London, England.

Theatre

Returning to Canada, he spent five seasons with the Stratford Theatre Festival, performing leading roles in numerous Shakespeare productions including "A Midsummer Night's Dream", "Love's Labour's Lost", "King John", and in the premiere of Robertson Davies' play "World of Wonders". Over the years, he has worked with many acclaimed directors including John Hirsch, Michael Langham, Robert Kalfin, Mike Alfreds, Robin Phillips, Laszlo Marton, Daniel Brooks, and Denys Arcand. Since 1982 he has performed leading roles in theatres across Canada and in the United States, over seventy productions in all. For the Soulpepper Theatre Company he has performed major roles in nearly thirty productions since 1998, including the title role in "Uncle Vanya", Halmar in Ibsen's "The Wild Duck", Khlestakov in "The Government Inspector", Chandebise in Feydeau's "A Flea In Her Ear"(co-produced with Mirvish productions), Davies in Pinter's "The Caretaker", Robert in "Betrayal", Theseus in "Phedre", Sandor Turai in "The Play's The Thing" and most recently the role of Henry Carr in Tom Stoppard's "Travesties." In Chicago he performed the title role of Figaro in "The Barber of Seville", in Cincinnati, the role of Mozart in "Amadeus", and in New York, the title role in "Spinoza", Off- Broadway.

Film and Television

Mr. Matamoros has played principal roles in over fifty guest appearances in both American and Canadian film and television productions including "The Best Years", "The Gospel of John", "Deliberate Intent" (starring Timothy Hutton and Ron Rifkin) and most recently in Jeremy Podeswa's film "Fugitive Pieces" (starring Stephen Dillane and Rosamund Pike). In 1997 he won a Gemini award for Best Performance in the mini series "The Sleep Room".

Maryem Tollar Ariana

With a rich and haunting voice, Maryem Tollar blends the textures of many cultures into both her singing and her composing. In 2004, she received Dora Award nominations for two different works: Outstanding Sound Design/Composition for *Le Collier d'Helene*, music composed by Maryem and her husband Ernie Tollar, and Outstanding Performance in Opera for *Constantinople* written by Christos Hatzis.

Maryem is dedicated to the creation of an original Arabic-Canadian repertoire, drawing from the tradition but incorporating an almost endless palette of musical colours taken from diverse sources.

In 2006, Maryem performed at Vancouver's World Peace Forum with her uncle, poet Ehab Lotayef; at opening night of Montreal's Festival du Monde Arabe, broadcast nationally; her first collaboration with Evergreen Gamelan Club in a performance of Indonesian songs in Toronto; and the premiere *Mystical Visitations*, written for her by Christos Hatzis, at Toronto's Isabel Bader Theatre.

The following year she performed at the Winnipeg New Music Festival and the Ottawa Chamber Music Festival with the Gryphon Trio and Arabic music legend Simon Shaheen. And, she starred at London, England's renowned Covent Garden, where *Constantinople* ran for five performances. She also received the prestigious K.M. Hunter Award from the Ontario Arts Council.

In 2008 Maryem received a JUNO nomination for the *Constantinople* (Classical Album of the Year, Vocal or Choral Performance). Her voice also reached millions of listeners on the vocal track on the credits of *Little Mosque on the Prairie* and *Mayya Mayya*, a featured song in the Bollywood hit film, *Guru*.

Most recently, Maryem has collaborated with diverse ensembles of national and international renown including Evergreen Gamelan, Lata Pada's Bharata Natyam Dance Company, The Gryphon Trio and Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra and Choir.

This past summer, she brought her ensemble and special guests Egyptian violinist Alfred Gamil and Egyptian *oud* player and singer Mohamed Aly to the Toronto Jazz Festival, the Ottawa Chamber Music Festival and the Calgary Folk Music Festival—an example of the genre bending nature and audience for her work. These performances were accompanied by the release of the CD *Cairo to Toronto*.

Christopher Sawchyn Doctor Grossetête/Iron Hugh

With *The Children's Crusade*, Christopher Sawchyn makes his debut with Soundstreams. The singer/actor was recently directed by Anita La Selva as "The Devil" (Flaming Mamie Productions). Prior to, he assumed the title role in *Tom*, David Sereda's musical about Tom Thomson's final days (Sheatre). Other selections include: *The House Of The Dead* (Canadian Opera Company), *Amadeus* (CanStage), *The Hollow* (Berkley Street Theatre), *Duel At Dawn* (Lorraine Kisma Theatre for Young People), *The Hobbit* (Globe), *Silverwing* (Manitoba Theatre for Young People).

Scott Belluz Damien

The Canadian countertenor Scott Belluz is rapidly gaining recognition as an engaging vocal artist. Praised for his "warm, rich voice and impeccable coloratura," (La Marseillaise) Scott brings his committed artistry to repertoire ranging from 17th century to newly composed works.

Highlights of the 2008-2009 season include Handel's *Semele* (Athamas) with Pacific Opera Victoria as well as several projects with Tapestry New Opera in Toronto, including performances in Opera Briefs, Opera to Go and the title role in Omar Daniel's *The Shadow*. Recent engagements have included Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Oberon) at the Banff Centre for the Arts, Bach's *Magnificat* with the Ottawa Choral Society and Handel's *Tamerlano* (Andronicus) for Opera in Concert in Toronto. Mr. Belluz made his American debut in Chicago Opera Theatre's production of *Il Ritorno d'Ulisse in Patria* conducted by Jane Glover and reprised the role of Medoro in Handel's *Orlando* in the Festival de Chartres, France.

Upcoming engagements include the world premiere of *'Opéra Féerie'* by Gilles Tremblay with Chants Libres in Montreal.

Sonya Gosse The Old Hag

Mezzo-soprano Sonya Gosse makes her Soundstreams Canada debut in this role. Ms. Gosse recently appeared with Edmonton Opera as the Marquise of Berkenfield in *Daughter of the Regiment*. Prior to this, Ms. Gosse appeared with the Canadian Opera Company as Madame Akhrossimova in *War and Peace*. Other roles with the COC include the Second Maid in *Elektra*, Mrs. Herring in *Albert Herring*, Rita in *The Handmaid's Tale*, Giovanna in *Rigoletto*, Grandmother Buryjovka in *Jenůfa*, and the Governess in *The Queen of Spades*. As a graduate of the COC Ensemble Studio her credits include the title role in *Red Emma*,

Tatyana in *Eugene Onegin*, Maddalena in *Il viaggio a Reims*, the Hostess of the Inn in *Boris Godunov*, Háta in *The Bartered Bride*, Soeur Mathilde in *Dialogues des Carmélites*, Nella in *Gianni Schicchi*, Barena in *Jenůfa*, and Glasha in *Kát'a Kabanová*. Ms. Gosse is also a member of the Canadian Opera Company Chorus and has been heard in recitals with the CBC and the Aldeburgh Connection.

David Houle David

Born in Lorretteville, Quebec, David Houle began his dance training in Nova Scotia at the Coastal Dance Studio. After leaving Nova Scotia he danced at l'École de danse de Québec for 1 year. From 1996 to 2004, Houle dedicated himself to Men's Artistic Gymnastics, and in 2005 represented Canada, traveling and competing internationally, with the Track & Field Senior Team. The following year, Houle moved to Toronto to continue his dance training at The School of Toronto Dance Theatre from which he graduated last May. In the summer of 2008, he took workshops at ImpulsTanz, Vienna's International Dance Festival. In September, Houle will join the Toronto Dance Theater as an intern under the artistic direction of Christopher House.

CREATIVE TEAM BIOGRAPHIES

R. Murray Schafer Composer - Music and Libretto

R. Murray Schafer is an internationally lauded composer, educator, environmentalist, scholar and visual artist. Schafer's compositional work could best be described as a synthesis of 20th century avant-garde techniques with a 19th century romantic spirit.

Beginning in the 1990s, Schafer was honoured in other forums for his innovations and commitment. He won the Canada Council Molson Prize for the Arts (1993), the first Louis Applebaum Composers Award (1999), and the SOCAN Jan V. Matejcek Concert Music Award (2001), and the Canada Council's Walter Carsen Prize (2005). Schafer's *Princess of the Stars*, as recorded by CBC radio in 1997, placed at both the 1999 International Festival of New York and the 2000 Prix Italia Broadcasting Competition. Recordings of Schafer's works received Juno awards in 1980, 1991, 1993, and 2004. *Carnival of Shadows*, a film adaption of *Patria 3*, won a Gemini award for best sound in 1990.

More recently, he received the Molson Award and the Glenn Gould Prize. Yehudi Menuhin, who presented the Glenn Gould Award to Schafer, praised the composer far beyond his work in music, stating that "his is a strong, benevolent, and highly original imagination and intellect, a dynamic power whose manifold personal expressions and aspirations are in total accord with the urgent needs and dreams of humanity today."

Schafer holds honorary doctorates from universities in Canada, France and Argentina. In 2009, he was presented with the Governor General's Performing Arts Award.

Dissatisfied with the limitations of concert hall early in his career, Schafer began to radically transform audience experience and expectations in his work. His *Patria Cycle* of musical theatre pieces take place in a variety of mostly outdoor settings often at dawn or overnight. Audience participation is usually required. *The Princess of the Stars* is perhaps the best known of his pieces.

As critic William Little wrote in the Toronto Star: "*There is nothing like Patria in the history of Canadian musical theatre, either in ambition, scope or mythmaking potency*"

Tim Albery Director,

Toronto resident Tim Albery has worked with some of the finest opera companies in the world.

For the Canadian Opera Company, he directed *War and Peace*, *Götterdämmerung*, *Rodelinda* and *Peter Grimes*.

For the English National Opera he directed *Boris Godunov*, *War and Peace*, *Billy Budd*, *Peter Grimes*, *Lohengrin*, and *From the House of the Dead*.

He created much lighter moods for the Metropolitan Opera with *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *The Merry Widow*. For the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, he directed *The Flying Dutchman* and *Chérubin*.

For England's award-winning Opera North, Albery directed *The Midsummer Marriage*, *The Trojans*, *Don Carlos*, *La finta giardiniera*, *Luisa Miller*, *Idomeneo*, *Così fan tutte*, *One Touch of Venus*, *Kát'a Kabanová*, *Madama Butterfly*, *The Fortunes of King Croesus* and *Macbeth*.

He directed *The Magic Flute* with Santa Fe Opera and *Béatrice et Bénédict* with Santa Fe Opera and Netherlands Opera. For the Scottish Opera presented his vision of *Don Giovanni*, *Fidelio* and *The Midsummer Marriage*. For the Netherlands Opera Zuid, Albery directed *Madama Butterfly*.

The Minnesota Opera showcased his productions of *Don Carlos*, *Passion*, and *The Fortunes of King Croesus*. He has also directed *Simon Boccanegra* and *Ariadne auf Naxos* with Bayerische Staatsoper and *Nabucco* with Nationale Reisopera, Holland.

His theatre credits include *Wallenstein* and *Macbeth* with Royal Shakespeare Company, *Berenice* with National Theatre, *Attempts on her Life* with Royal Court Theatre, *Mary Stuart* with Greenwich Theatre, and *Nathan the Wise* with Souleppper Theatre.

David Fallis Music Director

David Fallis has been a member of the Toronto Consort since 1979 and its Artistic Director since 1990.

He has led the ensemble in many critically-acclaimed programs, including *The Praetorius Christmas Vespers*, *The Play of Daniel*, all three of Monteverdi's operas in concert, Cavalli's *La Calisto* and Carissimi's *Jephte*, among many others. He has directed the group in its many recordings and tours, and has conceived and scripted many of their most popular programs, such as *The Marco Polo Project*, *The Queen*, and *The Real Man of La Mancha*.

He is also one of Canada's leading interpreters of operatic and choral/orchestral repertoire, especially from the Baroque and Classical periods. He is Music Director for Opera Atelier and has conducted major operatic works by Mozart, Monteverdi, Purcell and Handel in Toronto and on tour to Japan, Korea and Singapore. He has conducted for Houston Grand Opera, Cleveland Opera, Wolf Trap Theatre, Utah Opera, Orchestra London, Symphony Nova Scotia, the Windsor Symphony, Festival Vancouver, the Singapore Festival, the Seoul Arts Centre (Korea), the Elora Festival, the Guelph Spring Festival and the Elmer Iseler Singers.

Currently he teaches in the Graduate Department at the Faculty of Music at the University of Toronto.

Rebecca Hope Terry Choreographer & Assistant Director

A versatile and respected artist, Ms. Terry has performed in over 65 theatres internationally and with many Canadian contemporary dance companies - 100 shows with Dancemakers alone. She has danced for many prominent companies and choreographers including Serge Bennathan, Lola MacLaughlin, Denise Fujiwara, Julia Sasso, Judith Marcuse, Cornelius Fischer-Credo and Learie McNicholls.

A multi-disciplinary performer, dancer, actress, writer, singer and choreographer, Terry is the founder of *The Moving Company* whose principal activities involve the research, creation and performance of dance and multi-disciplinary theatre on a national and international scale. *The Moving Company* explores new ways of reaching isolated communities – whether they are isolated by distance or by situation. Workshops are devised and taught for marginalized groups and communities. The work of *The Moving Company* encompasses many priorities and serves diverse communities such as people who are blind, adults with developmental delays and mental illness.

Her work has been presented in Vancouver, Toronto, Ottawa, Calgary, Edinburgh and rural England.

Leslie Travers Set & Costume Designer

Award-winning Leslie Travers has designed extensively for opera, ballet and theatre in North America, Europe and Asia. His designs for opera include: *I Capuleti E I Montecchi* directed by Orpha Phelan for Opera North, Opera Australia & Opera Ireland, *The Fortunes Of King Croesus* directed by Tim Albery for Opera North and Opera Minnesota.

For director Orpha Phelan, Travers designed *Le Nozze Di Figaro* at the Graz Opera (Ring Award Finalist & Prize Winner, Wagner Forum Graz Opera Audience Award) as well as *Hans Heiling* at Wiesbaden / Strasbourg Opera (European Opera Production Prize, Strasbourg) and *Iolanta & Gianni Schicchi* at the Royal Academy Opera

Travers designs for ballet include the Japan tours for three works choreographed by Tetsuya Kumakawa: *Le Corsaire*, *Swan Lake* (Japan Asahi Award For Best Overall Theatrical Production Of The Year) and *The Nutcracker*. He also designed the world tour of *Veriété* for choreographer Lindsey Kemp, *Some?* For choreographer Martin Megar at the Turin Ballet Theatre and *The Lark Ascending* for choreographer Patrick Lewis at the English National Ballet

For theatre director Mehrdad Seyf, Travers has designed *The Persian Revolution* at Lyric Hammersmith Theatre and *Plastic* (costumes only) at the Edinburgh Festival – Fringe 2008. For Phillip Franks, he designed *Twelfth Night* at the Chichester Theatre Festival and *The Duchess Of Malfi* at the West Yorkshire Playhouse.

Thomas C. Hase Lighting Designer

His work in the United States includes: Los Angeles Opera; New York City Opera; BAM, Seattle Opera; The Minnesota Opera; Dallas Opera, Florida Grand Opera, The Goodspeed Opera, The Portland Opera, New Orleans Opera, Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park; Center Stage Theatre, Alliance Theatre, The Dallas Theater Center, The Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, The Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Maine State Music Theater. Recently he designed John Doyle's *Company* on Broadway and *The Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny* at Los Angeles Opera both to international critical acclaim and released on DVD.

Internationally his work includes: The Barbican in London, The Abbey Theatre; The Finish, Columbian, Dutch National Operas; Opera North, UK; The Canadian

Opera Company; The Luminato Festival Toronto; Opera de Marseille; Staatstheater Kassel; Theater Erfurt; The Bavarian State Opera; The Vancouver Opera; The Singapore Arts Festival; Tokyo Metro Arts Center; and over one hundred designs for theater, opera and ballet at the Stadttheater Giessen, Germany. As Ping Chong's lighting designer his work was seen worldwide. He recently premiered Riverdance's new production *Magik Macabre* in Dublin as well as the blockbuster European revival of *The Wiz* for Stage Holdings in Holland.

Concurrent with his many freelance projects, Mr. Hase is the resident lighting designer & director for the Cincinnati Opera.

The Canadian Children's Opera Company (CCOC)

The CCOC is the only permanent children's opera company in Canada that commissions and produces operas for children on a regular basis. Having commissioned and premiered half a dozen children's operas in the first 25 years of its existence, the CCOC has redoubled its determination to create a viable canon of children's opera in recent years. Two fully staged premieres and a workshop in the past four seasons complement plans for two more fully-staged new works in the next three years. Children are involved every year in a production with high-profile professional directors, designers, singers and coaches drawn from the Canadian and international opera community.

The company regularly collaborates and performs with other leading arts organizations, such as the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. Five commercial recordings have been released including the 2006 recording of *A Midwinter Night's Dream* that garnered a Juno nomination in 2007. The CCOC's second European tour, to Central Europe in summer 2007, was met with critical acclaim.

The Toronto Consort

The Toronto Consort is Canada's leading chamber ensemble specializing in the music of the Middle Ages and Renaissance. Formed in 1972, the Consort presents an annual series of concerts in Toronto, and performs throughout Canada, the United States, Great Britain and Europe. It has performed and collaborated with many leading early music specialists, including Paul O'Dette, Julianne Baird, Colin Tilney, Paul Agnew, Ann Monoyios, Suzie LeBlanc, The King's Noyse, La Nef and Les Sonneurs de Montréal. The Toronto Consort has appeared with the Toronto Symphony under Andrew Davis, the Montreal Symphony under Charles Dutoit, and the North German Radio Orchestra.

In its Toronto series, the Consort is constantly exploring new repertoires and new ways to bring early music to the modern audience. The Consort often works in collaboration with other artists, such as actors, dancers and visual artists, to produce concerts which have dramatic as well as musical appeal. Recent projects have included all three Monteverdi operas performed in concert; a fully-staged production of a new transcription of *The Play of Daniel*; *A Celtic Christmas with Puirt a Baroque*; evenings of Renaissance dance with the Ken Pierce Dance Company; *From Medieval to Millennial*, a multi-media evening with video projections and Inuit throat-singers; *An Elizabethan Entertainment* with Veronica Tennant. The Toronto Consort has also recorded music for film, most recently the sound track for Academy Award-nominated *The Sweet Hereafter* directed by Atom Egoyan.

The Children's Crusade Fact Sheet

Cast of over 100 artists including:

- Seven soloists and two dancers
- 76 singers in four choirs including 44 members of the Canadian Children's Opera Chorus aged 8-14
- 17 musicians playing 37 instruments including a hurdy gurdy, a nyckelharpa, a water gong and a tom-tom
 - four musicians from the Toronto Consort,
 - brass quintet
 - three percussionists
 - one musician dedicated to each of the Middle Eastern qanun, the musical saw, the hurdy gurdy and the cello

153 Dufferin Street

- 65,000 square feet
- built in 1930's as part of General Electric complex. Light bulbs were once made at this location
- a dedicated crew of five technicians have used 4000 feet of 2"x4" boards and five lifts of plywood to create the four "worlds" of the opera