

*Raminsh*

# LAKE OF TEARS

IMANT RAMINSH | COMPOSER

LESLEY-ANNE EVANS | LIBRETTIST

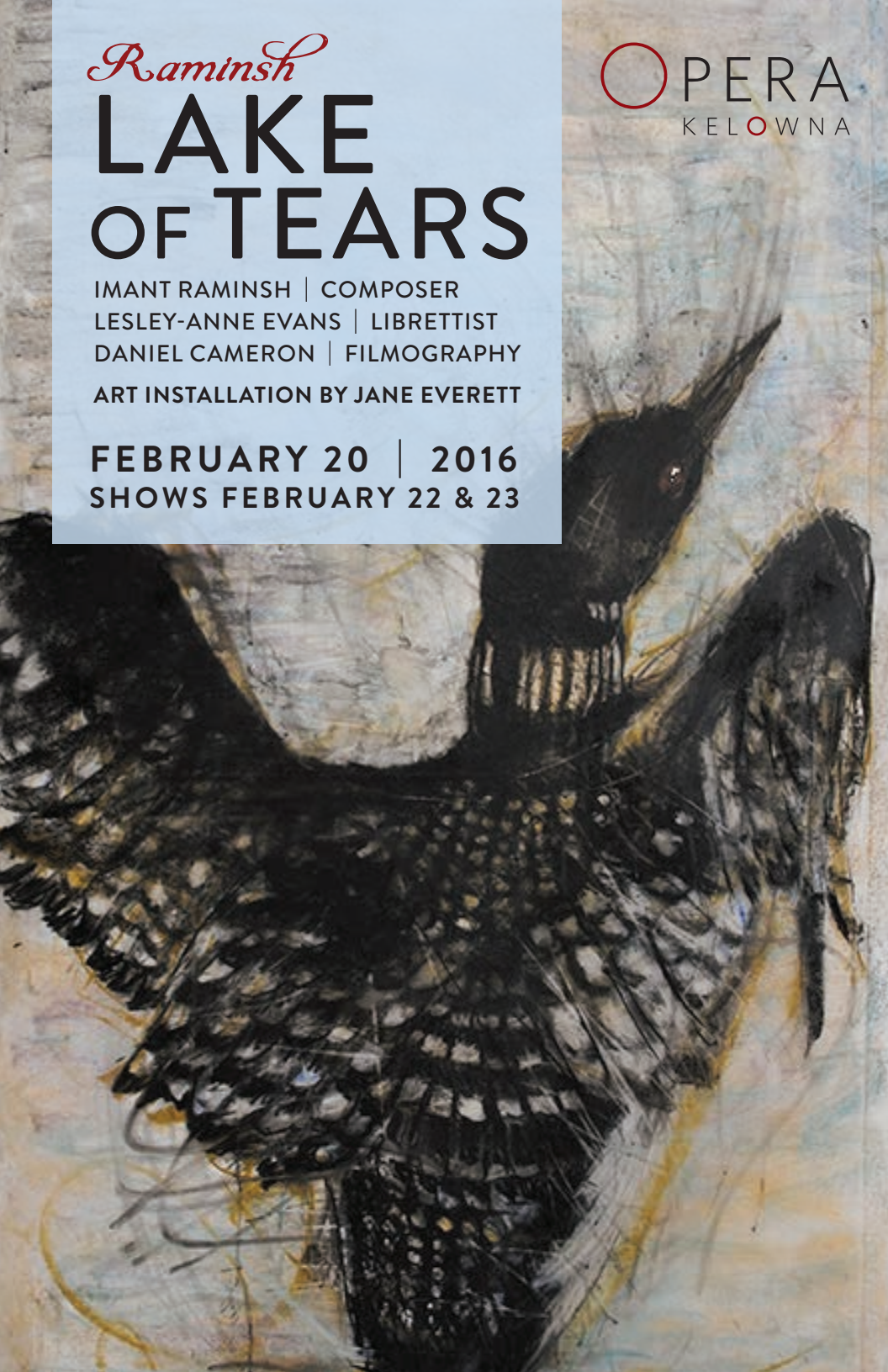
DANIEL CAMERON | FILMOGRAPHY

ART INSTALLATION BY JANE EVERETT

**FEBRUARY 20 | 2016**

**SHOWS FEBRUARY 22 & 23**

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# Welcome,

Thank you for joining us for Opera Kelowna's first commissioned opera in one act by Imant Raminsh, Librettist Lesley-Anne Evans and Artist Jane Everett.

While Opera Kelowna offers a summer intensive training program and presents one full-main-stage opera per year, the society's vision is to bring opera from the theatre to a diverse and inclusive audience with unique and accessible expression. This production is in keeping with that initiative.

Your support means we can continue to share this beautiful genre both in the theatre and in unique spaces in our city and across the valley. Thank you for supporting what you love.

On a high note,



Alexandra Babbel  
Artistic Director | Opera Kelowna

*Lyric Soprano Alexandra Kosachukova Babbel has enjoyed an Operatic career in Chicago and Concert Solo performances throughout North America and Europe.*

*She holds degrees from the University of Michigan, the University of Alberta and Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. She held the faculty position of Voice Department Head at Trinity International University in Deerfield, Illinois before relocating to Canada. As the Founding Artistic Director of Opera Kelowna, Alexandra strives to bring various artists and art forms together. She envisions building an opera company that will cross-pollinate with other classical art-forms in hopes of presenting peerless performances for the community.*



# LAKE OF TEARS

Opera in one act, four scenes.

## LEAD CAST

in order of appearance:

**Masika** (Daughter to Viviana and Gavia and the chosen one)

*Elizabeth Harris*

**Viviana** (Gavia's lover. Masika's mother)

*Mia Harris*

**Gavia** (Viviana's lover, Masika's father)

*Andrew Stewart*

**Turmoil** (Estranged brother to Gavia)

*Tony Bittar*

## CHORUS

**Sopranos:**

*Tiffany Cook*

*Caroline Craig*

*Haley Porter*

*Elizabeth Tribe*

**Second Sopranos:**

*Lauren Hughes*

*Laura Mireau*

*Angelika Walter*

**Altos:**

*Helena Liegmann*

*Kathryn Lockhart*

*Sarah Markson*

**Second Altos:**

*Selena Aarsen*

*Kayla Bazanna*

*Heidi Raichelle Smith*

## MUSICIANS

**Piano**

*Arnold Draper*

**Flute**

*Christina Moore*

**Clarinet:**

*Mary Norby*

# PRODUCTION

**Director**

*Rob Mason-Brown*

**Lighting**

*TTM Events*

**Production Manager**

*Richard Potts, Dore Blais*



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# SCENE DESCRIPTIONS

## **SCENE 1: Masika's home in the Okanagan Highlands**

Masika and Viviana wake on Masika's 16th birthday to gather water from a well. Viviana shares secrets about Masika's father Gavia, the great loon on the lake, and the enchantment that allowed her people to transform into loons. Viviana tells Masika about her friendships with brothers Gavia and Turmoil, and Turmoil's jealous desire for her. Turmoil discovers Gavia and Viviana are lovers, and curses them to eternal separation. Turmoil's curse also removes the transforming power of the loon people. Viviana shares a prophecy of a chosen one who will break Turmoil's curse and restore their people to the lake. Masika learns she is the chosen one. Viviana presents Masika with a vial of tears, which Masika must pour into the lake estuary before sunset. Masika follows Gavia's song and begins a journey toward her destiny.

## **SCENE 2: The Pool**

Gavia's mystical song leads Masika along a stream. Viviana follows her in secret. Masika is delighted with the sparkling water, wild creatures, and landscape lush with the influence of water. Masika begins to sing a song that is new and curiously familiar. Masika arrives at a tranquil pool. She sees her reflection, and lingers. She discovers the qualities of deep water, and longs to stay in the pool forever. Masika hears Gavia's song and a sudden revelation of great love overtakes her as she recognizes her song is part of his melody. With resolve, Masika overcomes her fears, and continues her vital quest.

## **SCENE 3: The Lake Estuary**

Turmoil obsesses over a worthless trinket he finds in the polluted estuary. Water flow is impeded by a dam of his hoarded garbage. Turmoil hears Masika singing close by. Masika sounds like Viviana, whom he blames for his loveless, and solitary life. Turmoil knows the ancient prophecy and senses Masika is the one who will break his curse and reunite Gavia and Viviana. Turmoil attempts to seduce Masika with



his charms and tainted treasures. Masika is distracted momentarily then moves toward the water to do what she must do. Viviana confronts Turmoil, then rushes into the estuary to tear open the dam. Chaos ensues. The vial breaks and enchanted tears spill over Masika. Masika plunges into the estuary. Masika, Viviana and Turmoil are swept away as the dam breaks and water floods from the estuary into the lake.

#### **SCENE 4: The Lake**

The lake is wide and glistening as sun sets over distant mountains. Gavia and Masika, who has transformed into a loon, float elegantly on the lake surface in golden light. They rejoice that Turmoil's curse is broken. They share their grief over Viviana's death. Gavia tells Masika of her destiny to become a rain caller. They begin to sing and call their people back to the lake. The people arrive, and transform into loons. Together they call the rain to the arid land. It begins to rain.

*Lesley-Anne Evans, SDG*

# PROFILES



## **IMANT RAMINSH, Composer**

Born in 1943 in Ventspils, Latvia, Imant Raminsh came to Canada in 1948. After completing an ARCT diploma in violin at the Royal Conservatory of Toronto and a Bachelor of Music programme at the University of Toronto, he spent two years at the Akademie "Mozarteum" in Salzburg, Austria, studying composition, fugue, violin and conducting, and playing in the professional Camerata Academica orchestra. He is a two-time winner of the biennial Canadian National Choral Awards in the category of "Outstanding Choral Work", first in 1990 for his Magnificat and again in 1994 for his Veni Sancte Spiritus. His music has been heard on 6 continents, and performed in such renowned halls as Carnegie Hall and Notre Dame.



## **JANE EVERETT, Artist**

Jane Everett grew up in Winnipeg and did her Fine Arts degree at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. Her work has been exhibited across the country in both private and public galleries, from one of her first solo exhibitions at St. Francis Xavier University Art Gallery in Antigonish, Nova Scotia in 1992 to her exhibition of Port Mann drawings at The Reach Gallery, Abbotsford in 2015. The artist divides her time between her home in Kelowna and her cottage on the north shore of Shuswap Lake.

Whatever the particular subject her practice is essentially a study of light as it elucidates or obscures form. Her work is represented in Edmonton by Bugera Matheson Gallery and in Kelowna by Arte Funktional.





### **LESLEY-ANNE EVANS, Librettist**

Lesley-Anne Evans is a Belfast born poet. She holds a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture from University of Guelph, and is an RCM taught pianist. Lesley-Anne engages with street poets and artists in her position as Creative Curator at Metro Community, Kelowna. Her poetry is published in Can Lit. journals, collections, and shared widely. LAKE of TEARS is Lesley-Anne's first libretto. You may contact her at [laevans.ca](http://laevans.ca) or [mygracenotes@gmail.com](mailto:mygracenotes@gmail.com).



### **ROB MASON-BROWN, Director**

Rob Mason-Brown is a graduate of the Theatre program at Trinity St David University in South Wales. He has professional credits to his name working on theatre projects for the National Museum of Welsh Life and The National Botanical Gardens of Wales, as well as touring shows around schools in the UK. In 2012, Rob founded the current incarnation of the Fred Skeleton Theatre Company, providing the strange and the wonderful to theatre audiences throughout the Okanagan. Rob has won the Best Director and Best Production awards at the Okanagan Theatre Festival for the last two years, and took home the same awards from the BC Mainstage festival in 2014. This is his first foray into the staging of opera, and he would like to thank all involved for the opportunity and their patience.



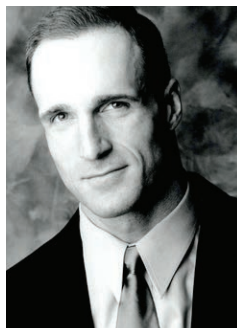
### **ELIZABETH HARRIS, Soprano, *Masika***

Elizabeth Harris, soprano, is currently finishing the fourth year of her BMus in Opera Performance at UBC, studying with Marisa Gaetanne. Under the direction of Nancy Hermiston, UBC Opera has allowed her many exciting performance opportunities, including Ludmilla (*Prodaná nevěsta*), Annina (*La Traviata*) and Contessa Almaviva (*Le Nozze di Figaro*), which she performed as a part of UBC's summer program in the Czech Republic. This spring, she is engaged to perform Cleopatra (*Giulio Cesare*) and will return to the Czech Republic to perform Queen of the Night (*The Magic Flute*) in July. Originally from Penticton, BC, Elizabeth is thrilled to return to the Okanagan to premiere the role of Masika with Opera Kelowna.



### **MIA HARRIS, Mezzo-Soprano, *Viviana***

Mia Harris, mezzo-soprano (no relation to Elizabeth) has enjoyed working as a guest soloist with the Okanagan Symphony Orchestra, Aura Chamber Choir in Vernon, Vivace Chorale of Kamloops and Opera Kelowna. Mia has earned a Bachelor of Music from UBC, an Artist Diploma from the Vancouver Academy of Music and an Opera Diploma from the University of Toronto. In addition, she has participated in some of Canada's most prestigious summer training programs for young singers and worked with top teachers and coaches from Canada and the United States. She has been the recipient of many scholarships and bursaries and won an opportunity to sing as guest soloist in the Orpheum Theatre with the Vancouver Academy Orchestra. Mia also teaches voice at the Penticton Academy of Music.



### **ANDREW STEWART, Bass, *Gavia***

Andrew Stewart is becoming known in the opera world for his “powerful voice” and “formidable stage presence.” An alumnus of the Canadian Opera Company Ensemble Studio, Andrew began his formal operatic training and career after practicing as a lawyer in Vancouver, BC. A versatile voice and dramatic performer, Andrew has performed a wide range of bass and bass-baritone repertoire including the role of The Bonze in Puccini’s *Madama Butterfly*, Antonio in Mozart’s *Le nozze di Figaro* for Vancouver Opera, Comte de Grioux in Massenet’s *Manon* with Calgary Opera, as well as multiple roles with the Canadian Opera Company. Andrew will return to the Okanagan in August, 2016 to appear as Sarastro in Opera Kelowna’s production of Mozart’s *Magic Flute*.



### **TONY BITTAR, Tenor, *Turmoil***

Venezuelan-born tenor Tony Bittar-Sayegh started his voice training at the Superior School of Music José Ángel Lamas in Caracas parallel to his studies of business administration and marketing at the Catholic University Andrés Bello. In 2011 he moved to Canada and graduated with honors from the University of Ottawa, where he studied voice performance, art song and oratorio with the internationally-acclaimed soprano Donna Brown. Tony has worked as a soloist conducted by Rodolfo Saglimbeni, Jordan de Souza, Gordon Gerrard, Jonathan Girard, David Agler, Bramwell Tovey, and Norbert Baxa. Tony is currently pursuing a Master’s degree in Opera at the UBC under the guidance of Tenor J. Patrick Raftery and is one of the recipients of the UBC International Fellowship Bursary.



### **ARNOLD DRAPER, Piano**

In the course of a multi-faceted career, Arnold Draper gave solo recitals and chamber music concerts throughout Britain, and performed for BBC Radio/TV and British Commercial Television. From 1974-1989 he was a teaching and performing member of the music faculty at Cardiff University, Wales. He has performed with the OSO, Chamber Music Kelowna, Ballet Kelowna, the Borealis String Quartet and Vancouver's Trio Accord, and has earned the Scorpion Award for classical musician of the year and the Okanagan Arts "Lifetime Achievement Award."



### **CHRISTINE MOORE, Flute**

Christine Moore began studying flute performance at the age of 12. Christine studied flute performance, psychology and history at Vancouver Community College and the University of Victoria, where she received her Bachelor of Arts. She also studied Orff-Schulwerk Music for Children at the UBC and apprenticed in Early Childhood Music at the Victoria Conservatory of Music. She continues to explore flute technique through masterclasses with world renowned flutists such as William Bennett and Lorna McGhee. Christine also enjoys working as a chamber musician and soloist.



### **MARY NORBY, Clarinet**

Mary Norby moved to West Kelowna from the Phoenix area in 2009. The retired computer software specialist is a long-time music enthusiast, having studied clarinet while at university in California and in Bordeaux, France. She currently plays with the Kelowna City Band and sings with the Khoros women's choir at St. Michael's Cathedral in Kelowna.

# PRODUCTION STAFF

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Scenic Artist

*Jane Everett*

Head of Wardrobe,

Master Cutter

*Nicole Brown*

Lead Hand Wardrobe

*Sandra Pearson*

Head Make-up Artist and  
Hair Stylist

*Missy MacKintosh*

Assistant Make-up Artists  
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*Laurie Freitas*

Assistant Make-up Artists  
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