

Opera de Québec - Cavalleria rusticana and I Pagliacci

A night at the [Opéra de Québec](#) in [Canada](#) for the emotionally charged performances of **Cavalleria rusticana** and **I Pagliacci** at the **Grand Théâtre de Québec** proved to be a most memorable evening.

We had the splendid fortune of being in the right place at the right time during a trip to Québec, Canada, where we had the opportunity to obtain tickets to the **Opéra de Québec** to see a double performance of the two famous Italian operas, **Cavalleria rusticana** and **I Pagliacci**.



Cavalleria rusticana at Opera de Québec

Seeing **Cavalleria rusticana** by **Pietro Mascagni** in May 2009, 119 years after its debut performance in Rome, Italy, was indeed an exhilarating rush of adrenaline as we tried to imagine how the first audience to view Mascagni's work must have felt. The opera, beautifully sung in the original Italian with French subtitles by the stellar cast of the Opéra de Québec, is described as a peasant tragedy, realistic and violent in its telling, an ill-fated love story that takes place in the Sicilian countryside on a Sunday in 1890. It is a tale of love, betrayal, jealousy, and in the end, vengeance; it is a strong story of loss that tears at the heart with the thought of what might have been.



Cavalleria rusticana at Opera de Québec

The cast is spectacular from the very beginning with **Geneviève Lévesque** in the role of Lola, **Lori Phillips** as Santuzza, **Rosalind Elias** as Mamma Lucia, **Marc Hervieux** as Turiddu, and **Gaétan Laperrière** as Alfio, taking the audience on a wild ride through life's various twists and turns all the way to the final note sung, leaving the audience feeling as emotionally bereft at the end as the title characters.



Cavalleria rusticana at Opera de Québec

Combined with the talents of Guest Conductor **Daniel Lipton**, L'Orchestre symphonique de Québec, and **Le Choeur de l'Opéra de Québec**, with beautiful costumes by **Judith Fortin**, accessories by **Annabelle Roy**, lighting by **Serge Gingras**, sets by **Michel Baker and Élène Pearson**, and managed by **Jacqueline Langlais**, it was no surprise that the cast received a rousing standing ovation from the appreciative audience where there was not a dry eye in the house, and more than a few "Bravos" called out.

Cast of Cavalleria rusticana:

Santuzza

Lori Phillips, soprano

Lola

Geneviève Lévesque

Mamma Lucia

Rosalind Elias

Turiddu

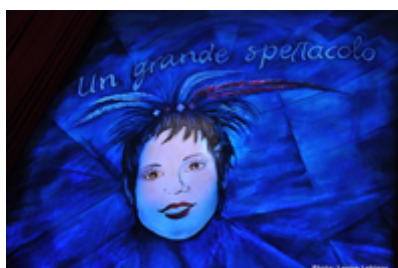
Marc Hervieux, tenor

Alfio

Gaétan Laperrière, baritone

Le Choeur de l'Opéra de Québec

L'Orchestre symphonique de Québec



After a much needed intermission to recover our collective breaths after the intense performance of **Cavalleria rusticana**, we returned to the Grand Theatre for **Ruggero Leoncavallo's** opera, **I Pagliacci**, which debuted in Milan in 1892, and consists of a prologue and two acts, and was sung in the original

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Italian with French subtitles. Frequently performed with *Cavalleria rusticana*, Ruggero Leoncavallo wrote the opera, *I Pagliacci*, based on an actual case that his father, a magistrate had judged.



I Pagliacci at Opera de Québec

Like *Cavalleria rusticana*, *I Pagliacci* is another powerful story of love. Art imitates life when a touring troupe of actors travels to a small village to present their play. However, life and art become dangerously intertwined with love and jealousy rearing its ugly head and ultimately and sadly taking its toll. The cast was magnificent with **Gaétan Laperrière** in the role of Tonio, with **Gianna Corbisiero** as Nedda, **Tonio DiPaolo** as Canio, **Alexander Dobson** as Silvio, and **Antonio Figueroa** as Peppe.



I Pagliacci at Opera de Québec

Once again, the gifted cast took the audience on an emotional roller coaster ride as they told this intriguing tale, and like the performance of *Cavalleria rusticana*, also received such a prolonged standing ovation that it seemed the audience was reluctant to end such a remarkable and memorable evening at the Opéra de Québec.



I Pagliacci at Opera de Québec

Cast of I Pagliacci:

Canio

Tonio DiPaolo, tenor

Nedda

Gianna Corbisiero, soprano

Tonio

Gaétan Laperrière, baritone

Silvio

Alexander Dobson, tenor

Peppe

Antonio Figueroa, tenor

Le Choeur de l'Opéra de Québec

L'Orchestre symphonique de Québec

The **Opéra de Québec Box Office** is open during the year from Monday - Friday from 9:00 am until 12:00 pm, and from 1:30 pm until 5 pm; and from May 25th until September 4, 2009 it is open from 9:00 am until 12 pm, and from 1:30 pm until 4:00 pm. Check their website for upcoming their upcoming performance schedule.



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For more information on **Québec**, please visit the websites: www.QuebecRegion.com, and

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www.bonjourQuebec.com.

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For weather information in Canada, please visit the websites: www.Weather.EC.gc.ca and www.TheWeatherNetwork.com.

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