



For Immediate Release: October 19, 2016

Tickets on Sale Now for the Toronto Premiere of *Naomi's Road*

Based on a best-selling novel by Joy Kogawa, this opera is a moving account of a definitive moment in Canada's history

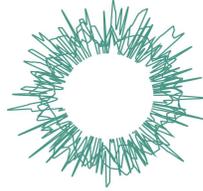
Toronto, ON: Canada's leading contemporary opera company, **Tapestry Opera**, launches its ground-breaking **37th season** with the Toronto premiere of ***Naomi's Road***. Set in Vancouver during the Second World War, *Naomi's Road* follows a young Japanese-Canadian girl's journey from Vancouver to an internment camp in the BC interior. Performances run from **Nov. 16 – 20, 2016** at **St. David's Anglican Church**, a location of deep cultural significance, as it is the home of the last Japanese-Canadian Anglican parish in Toronto located at 49 Donlands Ave.

Naomi's Road was adapted in 2004 from a novel by **Joy Kogawa**, accomplished librettist and director **Ann Hodges** along with acclaimed composer **Ramona Luengen**. Drawing from Kogawa's own harrowing experience. Featuring an all-Canadian cast and creative team, *Naomi's Road* premiered with the Vancouver Opera over a decade ago and has toured British Columbia and Alberta, championing a generation of Asian-Canadian operatic talent.

Directed by Tapestry Opera's Artistic Director **Michael Hidetoshi Mori** (the opera's first Japanese-Canadian director), the cast features two performers from the original cast, including tenor **Sam Chung** as Stephen, Naomi's musical younger brother, and baritone **Sung Taek Chung** as Daddy, along with soprano **Hiather Darnel-Kadonaga** as 9-year-old Naomi and mezzo-soprano **Erica Iris Huang** as Mother/Obasan.

"It is a true honour to have worked with Joy to bring this important story to Toronto for the first time ever," says Mori. "In a time when certain factions in Canada and the US are reacting to the fear of terrorism with xenophobia and the call for exclusionary and divisive laws, ***Naomi's Road*** is a keen reminder of the human impact of these biases and policies. We must learn from the mistakes of internment camps and ensure this history does not repeat itself. As always, it is the braveness of children, in this case Naomi, that reminds us of our universal humanity."

Tickets are now available online at [Tapestry Opera's](http://TapestryOpera.com) official website or by calling DeeAnn Sagar at (416) 537-6066, ext. 243. Tickets - \$35, Student & Youth Tickets - \$25.



TAPESTRY
OPERA

ABOUT NAOMI'S ROAD

Librettist Ann Hodges and composer Ramona Luengen wrote the piece in 2004. In September 2004, the libretto was read at an event at the Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historical Site in Steveston, the site of the 1942 seizure of hundreds of fishing boats owned by Japanese Canadians. Workshops followed, with a May 2005 excerpt performance at the annual OPERA America conference and at the 2005 UBC-Laurier Institution Multiculturalism Lecture in Vancouver. This work has gone on to tour with Vancouver Opera to schools throughout British Columbia and with Opera Nuova to schools and communities throughout Alberta.

ABOUT TAPESTRY OPERA

[Tapestry Opera](http://www.tapestryopera.com) is a Toronto-based company that creates and produces opera from the heart of here and now. For over 36 years, the company has presented award-winning works by preeminent artists, brought to life by some of the most talented and versatile performers of the contemporary stage. As Canada's leader in opera development, Tapestry Opera is committed to cultivating new creators and performers to serve the evolution of the art form and build a lasting Canadian repertoire. Tapestry Opera alumni include Ann-Marie MacDonald, Atom Egoyan, James Rolfe, Marjorie Chan and Nic Gotham.

Tapestry Opera continues to drive the evolution of opera with an innovative 37th season, which includes the world premiere of *Oksana G.*, May 24 – 30, 2017 at the Imperial Oil Opera Theatre; and the annual *Songbook VII* on Feb 23 & 24, 2017 at the Ernest Balmer Studio.

www.tapestryopera.com
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