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Toronto Operetta Theatre

Announces Final Casting for the Professional World Premiere of

TAPTOO!

by John Beckwith, C.M. and James Reaney, C.M.

Toronto, 03 February 2012... **Toronto Operetta Theatre's** production of the Beckwith/Reaney musical **TAPTOO!** will be first out of the gate among the many 1812 Bicentennial Commemoration events in the Greater Toronto Area, setting a high standard with this celebration in music and drama of the founding of York in the early 1800's.

Taking a break from rehearsal at the Edward Jackman Centre, TOT's General Director **Guillermo Silva-Marin** announced final casting for **TAPTOO!** "Toronto is blessed with a wealth of talent and I am happy to welcome two outstanding young singers to our remarkable cast," said Silva-Marin. "**Daniel Bedrossian** sings the role of *Seth, Junior* and **Teddy Perdikoulias** will be *Ebenezer*, two youngsters on opposing sides of the conflict between Loyalists and Revolutionaries." Teddy is a member of the Canadian Children's Opera Company and Daniel sings with the Toronto Children's Choir. With these two roles for children Beckwith and Reaney have added another dramatic layer to a story of human struggle and the search for happiness.

TAPTOO! performances are on **February 24, 25, 26, 2012** at the **St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts** conducted by the composer's son, **Larry Beckwith** making his TOT debut. **Guillermo Silva-Marin** will be the stage director. "This is a very exciting moment for our company", says Silva-Marin. "Not only can we contribute to the national celebrations during this bicentennial year, we do so with a work composed and written by Canadians, performed by Canadians, built on a significant moment in Canadian history"

TAPTOO!, in two acts, features two leading figures of the time, Major (later Lieutenant-General) John Graves Simcoe and Colonel (later General) "Mad Anthony" Wayne. The story stretches from 1780 to 1812, with a mix of historic and imaginary characters in pursuit of a new, free and better life on the shores of Lake Ontario. Original music is woven throughout with hymn tunes, folksongs, verse ballads and marches plus a heady helping of jigs and reels for moments of joy and celebration.

In addition to **Bedrossian** and **Perdikoulias**, the cast includes **Michael Barrett** as *Seth Senior*, **Robert Longo** as *Wayne*, **Todd Delaney** as *Simcoe*, **Allison Angelo** as *Atahentsic*, with **Mark Petracchi** and **Sarah Hicks** as *Mr. & Mrs. Harple*, **Gregory Finney** as *Ebenezer Senior* and **Eugenia Dermentzis** as *Mrs. Simcoe*.

TAPTOO! is generously supported by grants from the **Canada Council**, **Jackman Foundation**, the **Bedolfe Foundation** and **Desjardins**. Additional support has been received from **Scotiabank**, **RBC Dominion Securities**, **Barrick**, **KPMG**, **Roger Moore**, the **Michael and Sonja Koerner Foundation**, the **Good Foundation**, the **George Lunan Foundation**, **Toronto Arts Council**, and the **Ontario Arts Council**. Media sponsors: **Deutsche Presse** and **MZ Media**.

For Tickets, call **416-366-7723**, **1-800-708-6754**, online www.stlc.com or in person at the St. Lawrence Centre Box Office, 27 Front Street East. Discounts are available for groups of 20 or more. The theatre is wheelchair accessible and close to municipal parking and public transit.