



Tenor Richard Margison joins Verdi celebration

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If he were alive today, Italian opera composer Giuseppe Verdi would be celebrating his 200th birthday. Obviously unable to do that, Cambridge Symphony Orchestra (CSO) and special guest tenor Richard Margison are doing it for him.

They're set to come together on Friday at Forward Church, 455 Myers, for a performance dubbed Viva Verdi, starting at 8 p.m.

"Certainly given the fact it's a big Verdi anniversary this year, I think it's a terrific thing to do," Margison said of the evening's theme. "He was so instrumental in the popularity of opera over the last couple of hundred years, so really, it's fantastic to be doing that."

The Canadian opera singer will present a programme of many of Verdi's most famous arias. He will be joined on stage by Albanian soprano Mirela Tafaj and baritone Nicolai Raiciu.

"I've done Verdi, pretty much, in every major opera house in the world – all over Canada and the United States, Europe, Australia," Margison said, noting he's not been to Cambridge for about 14 years.

At that time, his visit to the city was as a tourist.

CSO board member Bill Roberts believes having Margison join them for the show is a "tremendous opportunity" for local residents to hear a recital by one of "Canada's greatest" tenors.

"It also speaks eloquently for the progress we have made as a maturing orchestra and the recognition we are receiving in musical circles," he added in a news release.

Margison has performed at the Metropolitan Opera, La Scala, the Canadian Opera Company, the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, the San Francisco Opera, the Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie in Brussels, the Sydney Opera and the Grand Teatro del Liceu in Barcelona.

As is tradition with Cambridge Symphony Orchestra, admission is on a "pay as you can" basis.

