

MUCH ADO SIDE-BY-SIDE BY SHAKESPEARE

Green College, University of British Columbia
Tuesday 27 February 2018

Much Ado: Side-by-Side by Shakespeare is a one-day workshop that will bring together scholars, singers, musicians, actors, opera director and librettist Patrick Hansen, and composer James Garner (joining the workshop by Skype from London).

The members of the workshop will spend most of the day behind closed doors. With two scenes from Shakespeare's *Much Ado about Nothing* and a single composite scene from a *Much Ado* opera-in-progress as their double centerpiece, they will blend scholarship and artistic practice. They will prepare the theatrical and operatic scenes for performance. And they will engage with Shakespeare's play and the new opera as their principal conversation partners as they consider how music and poetry can transform individuals and recreate the world.

At 2:30 in the afternoon, we will open the doors and the artists and scholars will stage a workshop performance for the public. The performance will weave research insights and questions together with performances of the scenes from *Much Ado* side-by-side with a performance of the single parallel scene from the *Much Ado* opera-in-progress.

The scholars, artists, and members of the audience will not only be taking part in a creative experiment in music, theatre, and scholarship, they will also be contributing to the creation of the full new *Much Ado* opera, which will have its world debut in 2020.

Much Ado: Side-by-Side by Shakespeare is a collaboration of Green College at the University of British Columbia, the Early Modern Conversions Project, and Opera McGill (Schulich School of Music, McGill University).

