

Tenor releases debut album

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Staff

MN June 14, 2013

Former Meadowvale resident and celebrated tenor Emilio Fina will release his debut album, *O Sole Mio*, on June 18.

The album pays homage to Fina's Italian roots with the lead track, *O Sole Mio*, as well as the Neapolitan classics *Torna A Surriento*, *Santa Lucia* and *Mattinata*.

"My father was born very close to Naples, so *O Sole Mio* is very dear to me," he said.

Produced by Gemini Award-winning composer, producer and musical director Glenn Morley (Amy Sky, Gino Vannelli) with help from internationally-acclaimed vocal coach Elaine Overholt (Chicago, Hairspray), *O Sole Mio* features an array of tracks that reflects Fina's vocal diversity and range.

The album, released by Sony Music Entertainment Canada Inc., also features Airborne 11, a group of Fina's Air Canada colleagues from Pearson International Airport who appeared with him on the reality show Canada Sings. The group joins Fina on two of the album's 15 tracks.

A few years ago, Fina appeared on *Canada's Got Talent*, where he was instantly dubbed Canada's Paul Potts, in reference to the cell phone salesperson who wowed everyone with his big voice and won the 2007 *Britain's Got Talent* show.

Mississauga holds a special place in Fina's heart. At 13, while performing at the Peel Music Festival, he was scouted by Opera Mississauga's founding director Eleanor Calbes, who asked Fina to audition for a role

in Gian-Carlo Menotti's Christmas piece, *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. He was offered the title role and made his stage debut with the troupe.

At 18, Fina was admitted into The Royal Conservatory of Music Professional School (now The Glenn Gould School), where he studied the works of Mozart and Schubert.

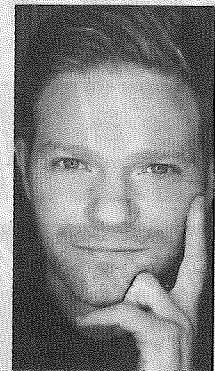
Although he now lives in Toronto, Fina, 40, retains Mississauga ties. He was the artistic director in Giacomo Puccini's *La Bohème*, presented by Opera Kitchener at the Living Arts Centre in 2010.

"Emilio deserves to be heard by the world. His deep passion and soulfulness in each song is paired with a very fine, natural voice and his commitment, and stamina, in the recording studio was incredible," said Overholt.

Growing up in Brampton, Fina first learned to sing in the choir at church. It was there he fell in love with the beautiful melodies and emotive lyrics in spiritual hymns. For this debut album, Fina selected two of his favourites, *Ave Maria* and *Panis Angelicus*.

The album is available on Amazon, and can be ordered in advance.

Fina will perform June 23, starting at 8 p.m., at Toronto's Hugh's Room.



Emilio Fina

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