

News Release

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Project Opera Announces Upcoming Concert and Commission

Winter Concert to be held on February 3 at Ordway

Minnesota premiere of *The Giver* April 27–29

Minneapolis – Project Opera, Minnesota Opera’s co-ed youth opera training program, will perform a winter concert at 7pm on February 3 at Ordway (345 Washington Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102) featuring: excerpts from Victor Hubert’s *Babes in Toyland* and Susan Kander’s *The Giver*. Both the *Ragazzi* (grades 4–8) and *Giovani* (grades 9–12) ensembles will join forces for this exciting concert, which is free and open to the public.

Project Opera, a training program for students in grades 4–12, is an important component of Minnesota Opera’s expanding education program for young singers. The program features two ensembles – Ragazzi and Giovani. In addition to their own concert schedule, Ragazzi and Giovani participants perform in the Ordway lobby prior to each of the Opera’s Sunday matinee performances. Led by Music Director Dale Kruse, Project Opera students learn healthy vocal technique, perform repertoire in the major operatic languages and study the fundamentals of acting technique throughout the year-long program. As enrichment activities, participants are also invited to attend the Opera’s student matinees, its intensive Day at the Opera training program and a summer Opera Camp. Project Opera’s most talented singers are invited to participate in the High School Apprentice Program, which includes individualized training and performance opportunities in main stage productions.

Project Opera’s first commissioned opera, *The Giver*, will have its Minnesota premiere April 27–29, 2012, in a fully staged production at the Minnesota Opera Center in Minneapolis. This new opera by Susan Kander is based on the popular novel by Lois Lowry, and was a co-commission with the Lyric Opera of Kansas City.

The Giver is a science fiction novel about a utopian community where there are no choices and where everyone has his or her place in the world assigned according to gifts and interests. The time has come for 12-year-old Jonas to become the new Receiver of Memory. He will be the one to bear the collective memories of a society that lives only in the present where “Sameness” is the rule. But Jonas soon recognizes

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the losses and discovers the lie that supports his community. He decides to change his world, but he cannot predict how that change will come about, or what that change will mean for himself and the “new child” Gabriel, whom he has resolved to protect. *The Giver* won the Newbery Medal, an award for children’s literature, in 1994.

For more information on Project Opera, please call Education Director Jamie Andrews at 612.342.9573. You can also look up more information online at mnopera.org/learn or on the education website at imagineopera.org.

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at the highest artistic level that inspire and entertain our audiences
and enrich the cultural life of our community.

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