

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Eric Broker, Communications Manager, 612-342-1612, [ebroker@mnopera.org](mailto:ebroker@mnopera.org)

## POWERHOUSE CAST STARS IN A NEW PRODUCTION OF MOZART'S THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO

**MINNEAPOLIS (October 17, 2017)** - Minnesota Opera continues its 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary season with Mozart's masterpiece, *The Marriage of Figaro*, November 11, 12, 14, 16, 17, 18 and 19 at the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts. Considered by many to be the most perfect opera ever written, *The Marriage of Figaro* is a comedy of class warfare and love. After a day of chaos and confusion, love is restored, families are reunited and Figaro finally gets his bride.

"Based on the French play *La folle journée, ou Le mariage de Figaro* by Pierre Beaumarchais, Mozart has taken this story and added music of great wit and profound beauty," said Artistic Director Dale Johnson. "Stage Director Stephen, who was last at Minnesota Opera for *La clemenza di Tito* in 2001, has chosen to stage the opera in a rather traditional setting while bringing boldly composed drama to the fore. This production, beautifully designed by Leslie Travers, moves quickly from scene to scene, always keeping our attention to the drama's swift pace."

This new staging, which premiered in 2016 and was co-produced by Lyric Opera of Kansas City, Opera Philadelphia, San Diego Opera and Palm Beach Opera, was hailed by *The Kansas City Star* for being "as beautiful as it is humorous, as sophisticated as it is raunchy."

The production boasts a cadre of impressive voices, including South African singers Jacques Imbrailo and Johanni van Oostrom. Described as "a lyric baritone of considerable elegance" by *Classical Source*, Imbrailo has recently performed at many of the most prestigious opera houses throughout the world, and is widely recognized for his acclaimed portrayal of Britten's *Billy Budd*. Johanni van Oostrom, lauded by *Kronen Zeitung* as an "effortlessly blossoming, gleaming, precisely pitched soprano," joins Imbrailo in their company debuts as the bickering Count and Countess Almaviva.

Former Resident Artists Richard Ollarsaba, Angela Mortellaro and Adriana Zabala round out the principal cast as Susanna, Figaro and Cherubino, respectively. Current Resident Artists Christian Thurston and Mary Evelyn Hanglely perform the Count and Countess on November 12 and 18, with rising stars Donovan Singletary and Jeni Houser stepping into the roles of Figaro and Susannah.

**What:** Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*  
Sung in Italian with English translations projected above the stage.

**Where:** Ordway Music Theater, 345 Washington St., Saint Paul, MN 55102

**When:** Saturday, November 11, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.  
Sunday, November 12, 2017 at 2 p.m.

Tuesday, November 14, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.  
 Thursday, November 16, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.  
 Friday, November 17, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.  
 Saturday, November 18, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.  
 Sunday, November 19, 2017 at 2 p.m.

**Tickets:** \$25-200. Call Minnesota Opera Patron Services at 612-333-6669, Monday – Friday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., or purchase online at [mnopera.org](http://mnopera.org).

**Media:** Press information and digital assets are available at our [Online Press Room](#). Check back for updated resources and information.

### The Creative Team

Conductor . . . . . Michael Christie  
 Stage Director . . . . . Stephen Lawless  
 Choreographer . . . . . Eric Sean Fogel  
 Set and Costume Design . . . . . Leslie Travers  
 Lighting Design . . . . . Thomas C. Hase  
 Wig and Makeup Design . . . . . David Zimmerman

### The Cast

Count Almaviva . . . . . Jacques Imbrailo (November 11, 14, 16, 18, 19)  
 . . . . . Christian Thurston\* (November 12, 17)  
 Countess Almaviva . . . . . Johanni van Oostrom (November 11, 14, 16, 18, 19)  
 . . . . . Mary Evelyn Hangle\* (November 12, 17)  
 Figaro . . . . . Richard Ollarsaba\*\* (November 11, 14, 16, 18, 19)  
 . . . . . Donovan Singletary (November 12, 17)  
 Susanna . . . . . Angela Mortellaro\*\* (November 11, 14, 16, 18, 19)  
 . . . . . Jeni Houser\*\* (November 12, 17)  
 Cherubino . . . . . Adriana Zabala\*\*  
 Doctor Bartolo . . . . . Matt Boehler\*\*  
 Marcellina . . . . . Nadia Fayad\*  
 Don Basilio . . . . . Andres Acosta\*  
 Don Curzio . . . . . Andres Acosta\*  
 Barbarina . . . . . Christina Christensen  
 Antonio . . . . . Wm. Clay Thompson\*

\*Minnesota Opera Resident Artist

\*\*Minnesota Opera Resident Artist Alum

To learn more about *The Marriage of Figaro*, please visit [mnopera.org/figaro](http://mnopera.org/figaro). There you will find a full synopsis, artist biographies, audio clips, set and costume renderings, ticketing services and other company information.

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