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MINNESOTA OPERA PRESENTS MCCARTHY-ERA GAY LOVE STORY *FELLOW TRAVELERS*

Coinciding with Twin Cities Pride, the staging marks the first full-scale MN Opera production in Minneapolis since 1993.

MINNEAPOLIS (May 29, 2018) – Minnesota Opera concludes its season with *Fellow Travelers*, a sixth opera presented at The Cowles Center in honor of MN Opera’s 55th anniversary. The production runs from June 16-26, 2018 and overlaps with Twin Cities Pride, which takes place June 23-24, 2018.

Fellow Travelers is the story of a forbidden love affair between two men in 1950s McCarthy-era Washington, D.C. A chance encounter between recent college graduate Timothy Laughlin and handsome State Department official Hawkins Fuller results in Tim’s first job—and his first love affair with a man. As McCarthy mounts a desperate bid for power and internal investigations focus on removing “sexual subversives” in the government, Tim and Hawkins find it increasingly dangerous to navigate their double lives. *Fellow Travelers* is a searing opera infused with political drama, unexpected humor and sincere heartbreak. The work premiered at Cincinnati Opera in 2016 to critical acclaim, praised for its “subtle, lyrical music” (*The Wall Street Journal*) and *The New York Times* describing the score as “daring to envelop these men in rapturous music of almost cinematic lushness, with opulent chords and fidgety inner voices.”

“Despite the historical setting of *Fellow Travelers*, the opera is both timely and enormously relevant today,” said Artistic Director Dale Johnson. “There are some similarities between the McCarthy period and the current rise of nationalism across the world. Telling a story that is relatable to contemporary audiences in this way makes *Fellow Travelers* compelling to people of all ages, including younger audiences. At its core, the opera is about the bravery it takes to stand up to political oppression and the importance of being one’s self. These themes are universal, and make for a powerful operatic experience.”

“As a gay man living in the 21st century, I have a profound gratitude for the homosexual people who came before me,” said stage director Peter Rothstein. “Too many of them were forced to live their lives in the shadows, where too many of their stories have remained. It is an honor to shed light on the victims and the heroes of the Lavender Scare—may we do their story justice.”

Tenor Andres Acosta and baritone Hadleigh Adams will sing the lead roles of Timothy Laughlin and Hawkins Fuller. Mezzo-soprano Adriana Zabala will sing the role of Mary Johnson, Hawkins’ assistant and Timothy’s confidante. The Minnesota premiere of *Fellow Travelers* will also feature soprano Hye Jung Lee as Miss Lightfoot, baritone Andrew Wilkowske as Senator McCarthy, soprano Jasmine Habersham as Lucy, baritone Sidney Outlaw as Tommy McIntyre, baritone Nicholas Davis as Senator Potter and bass-baritone Calvin Griffin as Senator Potter’s assistant.

mnopera.org

620 North First Street, Minneapolis, MN 55401

What: *Fellow Travelers*
 An opera by Gregory Spears
 Libretto by Greg Pierce
 Based on the novel *Fellow Travelers* by Thomas Mallon
 Developed and co-commissioned by G. Sterling Zinsmeyer and Cincinnati Opera
 Sung in English with English captions projected above the stage.

Where: The Cowles Center, 528 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55403

When: Saturday, June 16, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.
 Sunday, June 17, 2018 at 2 p.m.
 Tuesday, June 19, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.
 Thursday, June 21, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.
 Saturday, June 23, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.
 Tuesday, June 26, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$25-\$100. Call Minnesota Opera Patron Services at 612-333-6669, Monday – Friday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., or purchase online at mnoopera.org/fellow.

The Creative Team

Conductor Daniela Candillari
 Stage Director Peter Rothstein
 Scenic Design Sara Brown
 Costume Design Trevor Bowen
 Lighting Design Mary Shabatura
 Hair and Makeup Design Priscilla Bruce

The Cast

Timothy Laughlin Andres Acosta*
 Hawkins Fuller Hadleigh Adams
 Mary Johnson Adriana Zabala*
 Miss Lightfoot Hye Jung Lee
 Estonian Frank Interrogator, Senator McCarthy Andrew Wilkowske*
 Lucy Jasmine Habersham
 Tommy McIntyre Sidney Outlaw
 Senator Potter, General Arlie, Bartender Nicholas Davis
 Potter's Assistant, Bookseller, Party Guest, Technician, French Priest Calvin Griffin

*Minnesota Opera Resident Artist Alum

To learn more about *Fellow Travelers*, please visit mnoopera.org/fellow. There you will find a full synopsis, artist biographies, audio clips, full director's notes, ticketing services and other company information.

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