

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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MINNESOTA OPERA OPENS ITS SEASON WITH *LA RONDINE*, PUCCINI'S CROSSOVER INTO OPERETTA

Irish soprano Celine Byrne and Italian-American tenor Leonardo Capalbo star in a new production of this wistful and nostalgic gem.

MINNEAPOLIS (August 30, 2018) – Minnesota Opera kicks off its 2018-2019 season at the Ordway on October 6, 2018 with a new production of Giacomo Puccini's *La Rondine*.

Puccini's goal for this project was to write a romantic comedy in the style of Strauss' operetta *Der Rosenkavalier*, which premiered in 1911 and was enormously successful. While Puccini's score does reflect the high gloss of *Der Rosenkavalier*—as well as its waltzes, humorous theme and conversational moments characteristic of operetta—what impresses is Puccini's unmistakable musical language that is unabashedly influenced by the French impressionists, the oriental gestures of *Madama Butterfly* and the mayhem of the Café Momus scene in *La bohème*.

The opera tells the story of an unlikely relationship between Magda, a high-society woman and a naïve, handsome poet. The fate of their courtship is uncertain as Magda is torn between the life she wants and the life she knows. Puccini's achingly beautiful score charmingly conveys the romantic bliss and irrational desires of unexpected lovers, reveling in the gaiety of Paris, the stinging sorrow of regret and the sensual richness of love.

"In this production we focus on two main themes: the ability of regret to shape our lives, and its power over the human spirit," said Stage Director Octavio Cardenas. "Magda, in her desire to pursue a reckless, passionate love affair, finds herself inadvertently learning that true love requires self-sacrifice and honesty. Our telling strives to express the power of what could have been."

Irish soprano Celine Byrne sings the role of Magda, the jaded Parisian courtesan who longs for real love with the respectable country boy Ruggero, sung by Italian-American tenor Leonardo Capalbo (*Tosca*, 2016). Two new Minnesota Opera Resident Artists star as the second couple: Lisa Marie Rogali sings Lisette, Magda's flirty maid, and tenor Christian Sanders sings Lisette's poet lover Prunier.

What: Giacomo Puccini's *La Rondine*
Sung in Italian with English translations projected above the stage.

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

When: Saturday, October 6, 2018 at 8 p.m.
Tuesday, October 9, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, October 11, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, October 13, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, October 14, 2018 at 2 p.m.



Administrative: 612-333-2700
Patron Services: 612-333-6669
Fax: 612-333-0869

Tickets: \$25-\$200. Call the Minnesota Opera Ticket Office at 612-333-6669, Monday – Friday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., or purchase online at mnopera.org/rondine.

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

Creative Team

Conductor Sergio Alapont
Stage Director Octavio Cardenas*
Choreographer Heidi Spesard-Noble
Scenic Design Sara Brown
Costume Design Montana Blanco
Lighting Design Jesse Cogswell
Projections Design Joshua Higgason
Hair and Makeup Design David Zimmerman

Cast

Magda Celine Byrne
Ruggero Leonardo Capalbo
Rambaldo Levi Hernandez
Lisette Lisa Marie Rogali+
Prunier Christian Sanders+
Yvette/Georgette Michelle Liebl
Bianca/Gabriella/Singer Danielle Beckvermit+
Suzy/Lolette Christina Christensen
Périchaud/Rabonnier Nicholas Davis+
Gobin/Adolfo/Tenor Stephen Martin+
Crebillon Wm. Clay Thompson+
Major Domo Christian Thurston+

+Minnesota Opera Resident Artist
*Minnesota Opera Resident Artist Alum

To learn more about *La Rondine*, please visit mnopera.org/rondine.

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