



Administrative: 612-333-2700

Patron Services: 612-333-6669

Fax: 612-333-0869

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Eric Broker, Associate Communications Director, 612-342-1612, ebroker@mnopera.org

SILENT NIGHT, MN OPERA'S INTERNATIONAL SENSATION, MAKES ITS HOMECOMING

Kevin Puts and Mark Campbell's Pulitzer Prize-winning opera is performed by nine companies this season in commemoration of the centennial of the signing of the armistice of WWI.

MINNEAPOLIS (October 11, 2018) – Minnesota Opera continues its 2018-19 season with *Silent Night*, running from November 10-18 at the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts.

Commissioned by Minnesota Opera with co-producer Opera Philadelphia, *Silent Night* premiered in 2011 and received widespread critical acclaim and sold-out performances throughout its original run. It went on to win composer Kevin Puts the Pulitzer Prize in Music in 2012 and has since been performed at 12 different opera companies around the world. The opera is based on the true story of a momentary, holiday peace on Christmas Eve between Scottish, French and German soldiers, and includes songs in English, German, French, Italian and Latin.

The opera has already been performed throughout July and August at The Glimmerglass Festival in Cooperstown, New York, and eight other leading opera companies across three different countries are scheduled to perform *Silent Night* in the coming year, including San Francisco Symphony, University of British Columbia Opera, University of Kentucky Opera Theatre, Washington National Opera, Opera North, Buffalo Opera Unlimited, Austin Opera, Arizona Opera, Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra and Minnesota Opera. A new orchestral suite, commissioned by the San Francisco Symphony and co-commissioned by the Indianapolis and St. Louis Symphonies, will be premiered in October of 2018 and performed again in May of 2019.

Composer Kevin Puts' love of cinema affected the rhythm of his opera. "I didn't want to let go of the audience," said Puts. "I wanted to keep a grip on them for the entire duration. Some scenes overlap. I wanted to create a sense of dreamlike continuity as you move from bunker to bunker. And that is a sort of cinematic influence."

Librettist Mark Campbell remarked that the core message of the opera is that "war is not sustainable when you come to know your enemy as a person. When you see that the person you might be shooting has a child or a wife or has this life at home and they're just not the enemy, then it becomes very difficult, if not impossible, to sustain war."

Renowned tenor Miles Mykkanen stars as the soldier whose voice inspires peace among adversaries. Soprano Karin Wolverson returns to the role she created in 2011: Anna Sørensen, the Danish opera singer. The rest of the German contingent includes baritone Joshua Jeremiah as Lieutenant Horstmayer and tenor Stephen Martin as the Kronprinz. The French contingent is made up of local favorite baritone Andrew Wilkowske (who reprises the role of Ponchel), bass Wm. Clay Thompson as the French General, Edward Parks as Lieutenant Audebert and soprano Danielle Beckvermit as his wife, Madeleine. The Scottish contingent consists of baritones Troy Cook as



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

Father Palmer and Charles Eaton as William Dale, tenor Christian Sanders as Jonathan Dale, baritone Christian Thurston as Lieutenant Gordon and baritone Nicholas Davis as the British Major.

What: *Silent Night*
Based on the screenplay by Christian Carion for the motion picture *Joyeux Noël* produced by Nord-Ouest

Commissioned by Minnesota Opera
A Minnesota Opera New Works Initiative Production

Music by Kevin Puts
Libretto by Mark Campbell

By arrangement with Aperto Press, publisher
Bill Holab Music: Sole Agent

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

When: Saturday, November 10, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, November 11, 2018 at 2 p.m.
Tuesday, November 13, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, November 15, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, November 15, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, November 17, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, November 18, 2018 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/silent.

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

Creative Team

Conductor Courtney Lewis
Stage Director Eric Simonson
Scenic Design Francis O’Connor
Costume Design Kärin Kopischke
Lighting Design Marcus Dilliard
Projections Design Andrzej Goulding
Sound Design C. Andrew Mayer
Hair and Makeup Design David Zimmerman

Cast

The German Side
Anna Sørensen Karin Wolverton*
Nikolaus Sprink Miles Mykkanen



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

Lr. Horstmayer Joshua Jeremiah
Kronprinz Stephen Martin+

The French Side

Lt. Audebert Edward Parks
Ponchel Andrew Wilkowske*
The French General Wm. Clay Thompson+
Madeleine Audebert Danielle Beckvermit+

The Scottish Side

Lt. Gordon Christian Thurston+
Father Palmer Troy Cook
Jonathan Dale Christian Sanders+
William Dale Charles Eaton
British Major Nicholas Davis+

+Minnesota Opera Resident Artist
*Minnesota Opera Resident Artist Alum

To learn more about *Silent Night*, please visit mnoopera.org/silent.

###

Minnesota Opera changes lives by bringing together artists, audiences and community, advancing the art of opera for today and for future generations.