



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

MINNESOTA OPERA RINGS IN 2019 WITH *THE ITALIAN STRAW HAT*

This 1950s comedy by Nino Rota, best known for his film music for Italian directors, comes to the Ordway for the first time.

MINNEAPOLIS (January 2, 2019) – Minnesota Opera’s 2018-2019 season continues at the Ordway Music Theater on January 26, 2019 with Nino Rota’s *The Italian Straw Hat*. In this absurdist farce by the composer of the music for *The Godfather* films, groom-to-be Fadinard gallops around Paris on his wedding day in search of a straw hat to replace the one his horse has inadvertently eaten. The bright and breezy score captures the increasingly ridiculous situation that rides on the edge of chaos.

This production marks the returns of celebrated Italian Stage Director Andrea Cigni and award-winning Set and Costume Designer Lorenzo Cutùli, who made their America debuts with Minnesota Opera’s new production of *Tosca* in 2016 and subsequently created the visually vibrant production of *Thaïs* in 2018. Their production of *The Italian Straw Hat* premiered at the Teatro del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino in 2011 and was restaged by Wexford Festival Opera in 2013.

“This production transfers the action to what has become, in the contemporary imagination, a nostalgic era of lost innocence,” said Cigni. “Costumes, sets and props evoke a sentimental, picture-postcard image of 1950s Paris, a concept that is encapsulated by the fact that the stage itself is an enormous postcard. Characters take on the guise of actors in a film, an intertextual reference to Rota’s day job.”

Rochester, Minnesota native Andrew Stenson makes his Minnesota Opera debut in the role of Fadinard, the bridegroom in search of a replacement straw hat. Dale Travis (*Ariadne auf Naxos*, 2015) and Pietro Di Bianco (debut) fill out the lead cast as Nonancourt and Beaupertuis, respectively. Former Resident Artist Jonathan Brandani conducts.

What: Nino Rota’s *The Italian Straw Hat*
Sung in Italian with English translations projected above the stage.

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

When: Saturday, January 26, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, January 29, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, January 31, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, February 2, 2019 at 8 p.m.
Sunday, February 3, 2019 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/straw-hat.



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

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

Creative Team

Conductor Jonathan Brandani*
Stage Director Andrea Cigni
Choreographer Heidi Spesard-Noble
Set & Costume Design Lorenzo Cutùli
Lighting Design Marcus Dilliard

Cast

Fadinard Andrew Stenson
Nonancourt Dale Travis
Beaupertuis Pietro Di Bianco
Vézinet Dennis Petersen
Emilio Christian Thurston+
Felice Stephen Martin+
Elena Lisa Marie Rogali+
Anaide Danielle Beckvermit+
Baronessa di Champigny Victoria Vargas*
Viscount Achille de Rosalba/Guardsman Christian Sanders+
Milliner Siena Forest*
Corporal Nicholas Davis+

+Minnesota Opera Resident Artist
*Minnesota Opera Resident Artist Alum

To learn more about *The Italian Straw Hat*, please visit mnoopera.org/straw-hat.

###

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