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MN OPERA PRESENTS THE WORLD PREMIERE OF *THE FIX*

One of the most notorious chapters in American history comes to life in this new major league opera based on the 1919 “Black Sox” scandal.

MINNEAPOLIS (February 7, 2018) – *The Fix*, a new opera by composer Joel Puckett and librettist Eric Simonson, premieres on Saturday, March 16 at 7:30 p.m. at the Music Theater at the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts. The opera is based on the true story of the “Black Sox” scandal in which the Chicago White Sox were accused of intentionally losing the 1919 World Series.

The Chicago White Sox were arguably the best team in the game, but they were also the most poorly paid, always at odds with their penny-pinching owner. Resentment, revenge and ambition gone awry motivate eight players to conspire with gamblers to throw the World Series to the Cincinnati Reds. Rich with characters such as “Shoeless” Joe Jackson, Ring Lardner and Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis, *The Fix* is a tragic tale of epic proportions about disenfranchised and exploited players betting against the establishment.

Composer Joel Puckett said, “I am thrilled to tell this incredible American story of deception, heartbreak and disillusionment. I am even more thrilled to be bringing this story to life with the amazingly supportive team at Minnesota Opera.”

Academy Award-winning director and long-time Minnesota Opera collaborator Eric Simonson leads a world-class design team as stage director and has crafted his first-ever libretto for *The Fix*.

World-renowned conductor Timothy Myers makes his Minnesota Opera debut. “It is an honor to make my Minnesota Opera debut conducting the world premiere of *The Fix*. A uniquely American story, this opera is a beautifully constructed and captivating piece of theater that will inspire audiences,” said Meyers.

Joshua Dennis (*Rigoletto*, *Roméo et Juliette*) sings the lead role of “Shoeless” Joe Jackson. Former Minnesota Resident Artists Kelly Markgraf and Andrew Wilkowske star as news reporter Ring Lardner and former baseball player Bill “Sleepy” Burns, respectfully. Wei Wu, recently seen as Kobun in the world premiere production of *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs* at the Santa Fe Opera, makes his Minnesota Opera debut as Arnold “Chick” Gandil. Northfield, Minnesota resident and international opera star Dennis Petersen (*The Italian Straw Hat*, *Dead Man Walking*, *Das Rheingold*) returns to the Ordway stage as sportswriter Hugh Fullerton. Jasmine Habersham (*Fellow Travelers*) creates the role of Katie Jackson.

What: *The Fix*
Music by Joel Puckett
Libretto by Eric Simonson
Commissioned by Minnesota Opera as part of its New Works Initiative



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Sung in English with English supertitles projected above the stage.

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

When: Saturday, March 16, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, March 21, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 23, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, March 24, 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/the-fix.

Media: Press information and digital assets are available at our [Online Press Room](#).

Creative Team

Composer – Joel Puckett
Librettist – Eric Simonson
Conductor – Timothy Myers
Stage Director – Eric Simonson
Choreographer – Heidi Spesard-Noble
Scenic Design – Walt Spangler
Costume Design – Trevor Bowen
Lighting Design – Robert Wierzel

Cast

“Shoeless” Joe Jackson – Joshua Dennis
Ring Lardner – Kelly Markgraf*
Arnold “Chick” Gandil – Wei Wu
Hugh Fullerton – Dennis Petersen
Bill “Sleepy” Burns – Andrew Wilkowske*
Katie Jackson – Jasmine Habersham
Alfred Austrian, Esq. – Benjamin Sieverding*
Sidney Stajer / Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis – Christian Zaremba*
Oscar “Happy” Felsch – David Walton*
Eddie Cicotte – Calvin Griffin
Claude “Lefty” Williams – Sidney Outlaw
George “Buck” Weaver – Christian Thurston+
Charles “Swede” Risberg – Christian Sanders+
Fred McMullin – Nicholas Davis+
Ray “Cracker” Schalk – Stephen Martin+
Bodyguard / Charles Comiskey – Wm. Clay Thompson+
Abe Atell / Judge Hugo Friend – Brian Wallin



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Arnold Rothstein / George Gorman – Charles Eaton
Bernice – Danielle Beckvermit*

*Minnesota Opera Resident Artist

*Minnesota Opera Resident Artist Alum

To learn more about *The Fix*, please visit mnopera.org/the-fix.

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