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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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## MN OPERA PRESENTS THE CO-COMMISSION OF *NOOMA*, A NEW OPERA FOR BABIES

**MINNEAPOLIS (May 6, 2019)** – May 30–June 1 at 10 and 11:15 a.m., Minnesota Opera presents *NOOMA*, a new work co-commissioned by Carnegie Hall, San Francisco Opera and Minnesota Opera. The work received its world premiere at Carnegie Hall on Friday, April 26 and receives its Midwest premiere as part of the Ordway’s Flint Hills Family Festival.

This new opera, composed specifically with children ages 0-2 in mind, uses parachutes to create an intimate world of wonder and interaction. Designed and initially performed by Moving Star Vocal Ensemble in Carnegie Hall’s Resnick Education Wing, the performance invites audiences into an expanding and contracting world and immerses them in parachutes’ movements as they become metaphors for breathing (‘*NOOMA*’ is a play on the ancient Greek word *pneuma*, meaning both breath and spirit or soul). Admission is \$8 a person for 50 babies and their parents or guardians.

*NOOMA* was designed and first performed by Moving Star Vocal Ensemble in Carnegie Hall’s Resnick Education Wing. Moving Star is a vocal ensemble that creates original music for a cappella voices infused with a wide variety of improvisational techniques. Improvisation is the lifeblood that runs throughout Moving Star’s experimental rehearsal process, compositions and on-the-spot improvisations. Minnesota Opera’s staging of the piece will feature Rebecca Blackwell, Sara Sawyer and Ivory Doublette. Bergen Baker will provide theatrical support.

To better understand the effect of music in early childhood development, Carnegie Hall commissioned a research paper in concert with this new initiative from Dr. Dennie Palmer Wolf, an expert in the field. Entitled *Why Making Music Matters: Singing, Playing, Moving, and Sharing in the Early Years*, the paper points to several key reasons why investing in children early and often is critical to healthy development and a successful future—and demonstrates that music can play a powerful role in everyday interactions that support our next generation.

*NOOMA* is a part of Minnesota Opera’s expanding Opera for All Ages initiatives. Find out more at [mnopera.org/learn](http://mnopera.org/learn).

What: *NOOMA*  
Music by Saskia Lane, Emily Eagen and Morning Star Ensemble  
Libretto by Zoë Palmer

Where: Drake Room at the Ordway, 345 Washington St., Saint Paul, MN 55102



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When: Thursday, May 30, 2019 at 10 a.m.  
Thursday, May 30, 2019 at 11:15 a.m.  
Friday, May 31, 2019 at 10 a.m.  
Friday, May 31, 2019 at 11:15 a.m.  
Saturday, June 1, 2019 at 10 a.m.  
Saturday, June 1, 2019 at 11:15 a.m.

Tickets: \$8. Call the Ordway Ticket Office at 651-224-4222, Monday – Friday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., or purchase online at [ordway.org/nooma](http://ordway.org/nooma).

#### Cast & Creative Team

Rebecca Blackwell, Performer  
Ivory Doublette, Performer  
Sara Sawyer, Performer  
Amy Carrigan, Designer

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