



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Eric Broker, 612-342-1612, ebroker@mnopera.org

MINNESOTA OPERA OPENS ITS SEASON WITH STRAUSS'S SEARING *ELEKTRA*

From the same creative team that brought us 2016's *Das Rheingold*, this new production of *Elektra* comes to the Ordway for the first time ever.

MINNEAPOLIS (August 28, 2019) – Minnesota Opera kicks off its 2019-2020 season at the Ordway on October 5, 2019 with a new production of Richard Strauss's 1 hour and 40 minute *Elektra*.

Vengeful, implacable, pathological—the character of Elektra has gripped writers for nearly 2,500 years. This mesmerizing protagonist, with her notorious lust for revenge and morbid father fixation, has appeared in places as diverse as Greek tragedy, Expressionist opera, contemporary theater and film, Marvel comics and Jungian psychology. Richard Strauss's *Elektra* is a masterpiece of early 20th-century opera that sets the title character on an inexorable path leading to a final cataclysm of violence, accompanied by a revolutionary score that is, in the words of one critic, “the color of blood.”

The title role of *Elektra* demands a great singing actress and Minnesota Opera is fortunate enough to have found two: German soprano Sabine Hogrefe—who performed the role of Elektra at the Metropolitan Opera in 2018—and Alexandra Loutsion.

This ancient family drama requires powerful performances by its supporting characters. Portraying Elektra's emotionally tortured mother Klytaemnestra is mezzo-soprano Jill Grove, and soprano Marcy Stonikas plays Elektra's conflicted sister Chrysothemis. Klytaemnestra's creepy lover Aegisth is sung by tenor Dennis Petersen and baritone Craig Irvin plays Orest, Elektra's long-lost brother.

Audiences will not only be thrilled by the herculean singing but also by the visuals of the new production by stage director Brian Staufenbiel, the mastermind behind Minnesota Opera's hit *Das Rheingold* in 2016. Reimagined on the set of a 1920s German film studio, the mental state of an actress playing Elektra unravels as she slowly believes herself to be the real Elektra of ancient Greece, her quest for the perfect performance quickly igniting an authentic lust for blood. Like *Das Rheingold*, the production's large orchestra—numbering more than 80 players—is integrated into the set onstage. Additionally, the orchestra pit is covered and turned into a thrust stage.

Esteemed German conductor Elias Grandy will make his highly-anticipated Minnesota Opera debut leading the Minnesota Opera Orchestra through Strauss's thrillingly intense score.

What: *Elektra*



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Music by Richard Strauss
Libretto by Hugo van Hofmannsthal
Performed in German with English translations projected above the stage.

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

When: Saturday, October 5, 2019 at 8 p.m.
Tuesday, October 8, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, October 10, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, October 12, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, October 13, 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/elektra.

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

Creative Team

Conductor – Elias Grandy
Stage Director/Production Design – Brian Staufenbiel
Costume Design – Mathew LeFebvre
Lighting Design – Nicole Pearce
Video & Projection Design – David Murakami
Hair & Makeup Design – Priscilla Bruce

Cast

Elektra – Sabine Hogrefe*, Alexandra Loutsion**
Klytaemnestra – Jill Grove
Chrysothemis – Marcy Stonikas
Orest – Craig Irvin
Aegisth – Dennis Petersen
Guardian of Orestia – Andrew Gilstrap+
Overseer – Karin Wolverton*
Maid servant 1 – Nadia Benavidez*
Maid servant 2 – Mia Athey+
Maid servant 3 – Victoria Vargas*
Maid servant 4 – Lisa Marie Rogali+
Maid servant 5 – Danielle Beckvermit+
Old Servant – Nicholas Davis+
Young Servant – Christian Sanders+
Fritz – Justin Cooke
Camera Operator – Berit Ahlgren

*Performing October 5, 10 and 12

**Performing October 8 and 13



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To learn more about *Elektra*, please visit mnopera.org/elektra.

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