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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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## MINNESOTA OPERA CLOSES ITS SEASON WITH VERDI'S MASTERPIECE, *LA TRAVIATA*

**MINNEAPOLIS (April 12, 2018)** – Minnesota Opera concludes its 2018-19 season with Verdi's *La Traviata*, running at the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts from May 4-19, 2019.

Violetta Valéry is a courtesan who can have anything she desires—except lasting happiness. Love is found, lost and reclaimed too late in Verdi's most cherished opera.

An excellent first-time opera, *La Traviata* has moved audiences around the world with its captivating story of conflicted love, its passionate protagonists and its gorgeous music. *La Traviata* is a quintessential Italian opera and an immensely popular work.

The music of *La Traviata* includes some of the composer's most well-crafted arias, orchestral passages and rousing choruses. From the invigorating "Libiamo" drinking song to the tender love duet "Un dì felice" to Violetta's show-stopping aria "Sempre libera," this opera has familiar melodies that are sure to have audiences humming long after they leave the theater.

*La Traviata's* influence on pop culture has spread from stage to screen. The 1990 hit movie *Pretty Woman* and the 2001 Oscar-nominated musical *Moulin Rouge!* both have plots inspired by Verdi's masterpiece.

The production features a top-tier international cast. African-American soprano and Cardiff Singer of the World winner Nicole Cabell and soprano Cecilia Violetta López portray the deeply affecting heroine, Violetta. Her impetuous lover, Alfredo, is played by Mexican tenor Jesús León and Resident Artist Stephen Martin, while Alfredo's stern father, Giorgio Germont, is sung by Joo Won Kang and Youngjoo An.

Louisa Muller makes her Minnesota Opera directorial debut and Christopher Franklin returns to conduct (*Thaïs*, 2017) in this production that originated at The Glimmerglass Festival.

What: *La Traviata*  
Music by Giuseppe Verdi  
Libretto by Francesco Maria Piave

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

When: Saturday, May 4, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.  
Thursday, May 9, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.



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Saturday, May 11, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 12, 2019 at 2 p.m.

Tuesday, May 14, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 16, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 18, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 19, 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/traviata](http://mnopera.org/traviata).

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

### **Creative Team**

Conductor – Christopher Franklin\*, Andrew Whitfield\*\*

Stage Director – Louisa Muller

Scenic & Costume Design – Isabella Bywater

Lighting Design – Marcus Doshi

Hair & Makeup Design – David Zimmerman

Choreographer – Heidi Spesard-Noble

### **Cast**

Violetta Valéry – Nicole Cabell\*, Cecilia Violetta López\*\*

Alfredo Germont – Jesús León\*, Stephen Martin\*\*\*

Giorgio Germont – Joo Won Kang\*, Youngjoo An\*\*

Gastone – Christian Sanders<sup>†</sup>

Baron Douphol – Nicholas Davis<sup>†</sup>

Marchese D'Obigny – Christian Thurston<sup>†</sup>

Doctor Grenville – Wm. Clay Thompson<sup>†</sup>

Flora Bervoix – Bergen Baker

Annina – Danielle Beckvermit<sup>†</sup>

Giuseppe – Darrius Morton

Messenger – Tony Potts

Flora's Servant – Joel Mathias

\*Appears May 4, 9, 11, 14 and 19

\*\*Appears May 12, 16 and 18

<sup>†</sup>Minnesota Opera Resident Artist

To learn more about *La Traviata*, please visit [mnopera.org/traviata](http://mnopera.org/traviata).

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