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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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THE BARBER OF SEVILLE OPENS NOV. 9 AT MINNESOTA OPERA

Real-life married couple Daniela Mack and Alek Shrader star as the romantic leads in Rossini's irresistible rom-com.

MINNEAPOLIS (October 18, 2019) – Minnesota Opera continues its 2019-2020 season at the Ordway on November 9, 2019 with *The Barber of Seville*, opera's most popular comedy.

Figaro, Seville's quick-witted barber, helps a young woman flee an unsuitable suitor and find true love. Naturally, nothing goes according to plan, and Figaro must think on his feet to save the day. The instantly recognizable music sparkles in this razor-sharp, comedic masterpiece.

With so much to laugh and smile at, the opera is perfect for first-time opera goers. The charming rom-com includes secrets, silly ruses, outlandish plot twists and sparkling melodies—all in the name of love. The inspiration for the brilliant Bugs Bunny-Elmer Fudd cartoon "The Rabbit of Seville", the show's music is familiar, including an exuberant overture that's become pop culture's go-to operatic shorthand and the exultant crowing of the title character: "Figaro! Figaro! Figaro!".

The production includes playful, virtuosic performances. Rodion Pagossov is clever Figaro, the wily barber at the center of the plot. Argentinian mezzo-soprano Daniela Mack is the lovely and spirited Rosina, with her real-life husband Alek Shrader starring opposite her as her sweetheart Count Almaviva, who dons multiple disguises throughout the show. Patrick Carfizzi plays Rosina's guardian Bartolo, and Resident Artist Andrew Gilstrap is her hypocritical music teacher Basilio.

Internationally-acclaimed stage director Francesca Zambello, the general director of The Glimmerglass Festival and the artistic director of The Washington National Opera at the Kennedy Center, leads this colorful production that premiered at The Glimmerglass Festival in 2018. The ebullient music is led by conductor Joseph Mechavich.

What: *The Barber of Seville*
Music by Gioachino Rossini
Libretto by Cesare Sterbini
Performed in Italian with English translations projected above the stage.

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

When: Saturday, November 9, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, November 10, 2019 at 2 p.m.
Tuesday, November 12, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.



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Thursday, November 14, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 16, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, November 17, 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 mnopea.org/barber.

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

Creative Team

Conductor – Joseph Mechavich*, Andrew Whitfield**

Stage Director – Francesca Zambello

Associate Stage Director – Joshua Horowitz

Choreographer – Heidi Spesard-Noble

Scenic Design – John Conklin

Costume Design – Lynly Saunders

Lighting Design – Robert Wierzel

Lighting Design Re-creation – Laura Bickford

Hair & Makeup Design – David Zimmerman

Intimacy Director – Doug Scholz-Carlson

Cast

Rosina – Daniela Mack

Count Almaviva – Alek Shrader

Figaro – Rodion Pagossov

Doctor Bartolo – Patrick Carfizzi

Don Basilio – Andrew Gilstrap⁺

Berta – Danielle Beckvermit⁺

Fiorello – Nicholas Davis⁺

Figaro's Assistant – Liam Beck-O'Sullivan

*Performs November 9, 10, 12, 14 and 16

**Performs November 17

⁺MN Opera Resident Artist

To learn more about *The Barber of Seville*, please visit mnopea.org/barber.

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