MINNESOTA OPERA ANNOUNCES ITS 2020-2021 SEASON

The much-anticipated return of *The Shining* and the Minnesota Opera premiere of *Blue*, by composer Jeanine Tesori and librettist Tazewell Thompson, round out a season that also includes three opera classics.

MINNEAPOLIS (February 18, 2020) - Minnesota Opera today announced its 2020-2021 Season with a broad repertoire of operas, including revived productions of *The Abduction of the Seraglio* and *The Shining*, a new production of *Cinderella* and Minnesota Opera’s first-ever presentations of *Eugene Onegin* and *Blue*.

The season begins in September with Mozart’s comedy *The Abduction from the Seraglio*, reimagined as a stylish, madcap caper aboard the Orient Express. In November comes Tchaikovsky’s epic romance *Eugene Onegin*, a tale of love and loss set in the palatial estates and grand ballrooms of 19th-century Russia. February brings the Minnesota Opera premiere of *Blue*, a new opera that premiered in 2019 and grapples with the killing of an unarmed Black man at the hands of a police officer and the aftermath of that traumatic event. Next up in March comes a dreamy and glamorous new production of Rossini’s sparkling *Cinderella*. Finally next May brings the return of Minnesota Opera’s original production of *The Shining*, back by popular demand. Based on the novel by Stephen King, this hit opera is sure to be one of the hottest tickets in town.

“All of us at Minnesota Opera are excited to continue our commitment to cultivating and enriching our culture of creativity by telling new stories in new ways and expanding the definition of opera to include a myriad of diverse viewpoints and ideas,” said President and General Director Ryan Taylor. “This season, we’re proud to present an exciting and eclectic collection of stories that includes crowd-pleasing audience favorites as well as breathtaking operas coming to Minnesota Opera for the very first time. We hope you’ll join us this season for a thrilling musical adventure.”

The 2020-2021 Season marks the return of several artists familiar to Minnesota Opera audiences, in addition to noteworthy debuts. Tenor Andrew Stenson (*The Italian Straw Hat*, 2019) returns to the Ordway as Belmonte and Irish soprano Claudia Boyle makes her house debut in James Robinson’s popular production of *The Abduction from the Seraglio*, an original co-production by Minnesota Opera last seen here in 2008. Soprano Corinne Winters makes her Minnesota Opera debut as Tatyana in *Eugene Onegin*. Former Minnesota Resident Artist baritone John Moore (*Casanova’s Homecoming*, 2009), Minnesota-based tenor David Portillo (*Anna Bolena*, 2012) and bass Wei Wu (*The Fix*, 2019) return to Minnesota Opera alongside her. *Blue* brings the work of composer Jeanine Tesori, the most prolific and honored female theatrical composer in history with
five Broadway musicals to her credit and five Tony Award® nominations including one win (among other awards), to Minnesota Opera for the first time. With her comes Tazewell Thompson, an internationally acclaimed director, playwright and actor, who is the librettist of Blue and serves as its stage director as well. Cinderella welcomes back the widely celebrated stage director Matthew Ozawa, last engaged at Minnesota Opera for Romeo and Juliet in 2016. Former Resident Artist baritone Thomas Glass steps into the leading role of Jack Torrance in The Shining, returning to Minnesota Opera after being named a Grand Prize winner of the 2019 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. British lyric soprano Nadine Benjamin, currently a Harewood Artist at English National Opera, makes her U.S. debut in the role of Wendy Torrance.

The conductors for the 2020-2021 Season will be announced in June 2020 and will include the finalists for the principal conductor position at Minnesota Opera.

**2020-2021 Season**

**THE ABDUCTION FROM THE SERAGLIO**

Music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Libretto by Christoph Friedrich Bretzner, adapted and enlarged by Johann Gottlieb Stephanie

Last seen at Minnesota Opera in 2008
A revival of a co-production between Minnesota Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Boston Lyric Opera, Opera Colorado, Lyric Opera of Kansas City and Opera Pacific

September 26, 29, October 1, 3 and 4, 2020
Sung in German with English translations and English dialogue

**All aboard!** This stylish production of Mozart’s caper is a madcap, cross-continent al adventure set aboard the glamorous Art Deco railcars of the Orient Express. While traveling from Istanbul to Paris at the height of the Roaring ’20s, two noblemen attempt to rescue their captured lovers from the private cars of a powerful baron and his fearsome henchman. Cultures clash in a series of hilarious episodes as our heroines and heroes outwit their captors and reunite with their true loves. Featuring unforgettable characters, sublime showstoppers and decadent sets and costumes, this ritzy comedy stands tall as a testament to the power of forgiveness and love.

**Cast**
Konstanze – Claudia Boyle
Belmonte – Andrew Stenson
Osmín – Kenneth Kellogg

**Creative Team**
Original Director – James Robinson
Stage Director – Omer Ben Seadia
Scenic Design – Allen Moyer
Costume Design – Anna R. Oliver
Lighting Design – Paul Palazzo
Projections Design – Wendall K. Harrington
EUGENE ONEGIN

Music and libretto by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

First time at Minnesota Opera
A co-production between Lyric Opera of Kansas City, Hawaii Opera Theatre, Seattle Opera and Michigan Opera Theatre

October 31, November 3, 5, 7 and 8, 2020
Sung in Russian with English translations

There are no simple love stories. This sweeping epic charts the downfall of the brooding and disaffected Onegin who coldly spurns the love of young, shy Tatyana. Years later, realizing his mistake and finally returning her affections, will it be too little, too late? With breathtaking music by Tchaikovsky (The Nutcracker, Swan Lake), this striking production’s elegant ballroom dances, magnificent sets and elaborate period costumes bring the grandeur of 19th-century Russia to life. Looking back with a haunting melancholy, Eugene Onegin captures the power of Pushkin’s masterpiece novel, illustrating the deadly inhumanity of social convention and the tragedy of love unfulfilled.

Cast
Tatyana – Corinne Winters
Eugene Onegin – John Moore*
Lensky – David Portillo
Prince Gremin – Wei Wu

Creative Team
Original Director – Tomer Zvulun
Associate Director – Stephanie Havey
Choreographer – Logan Pachciarz
Scenic Design – Erhard Rom
Costume Design – Isabella Bywater
Lighting Design – Robert Wierzel

BLUE

Music by Jeanine Tesori
Libretto by Tazewell Thompson

First time at Minnesota Opera
A co-production between The Glimmerglass Festival, Washington National Opera and Lyric Opera of Chicago

February 13, 14, 18, 20 and 21, 2021
Sung in English with English captions
**A devastating story, a heartbreaking reality.** Reflective of an all-too-familiar American headline, this new opera by Tony Award®-winning composer Jeanine Tesori and internationally acclaimed director and librettist Tazewell Thompson centers on the hopes and fears of a young Black couple as they raise their son in Harlem. In this story of heartbreak and resilience, a police officer and his wife are supported by a loving community of fellow law enforcement, churchgoers and friends after the killing of their son. Having recently premiered in the summer of 2019, *Blue* is an intimate opera about picking up the pieces in the wake of a tragic injustice and the uplifting power of community.

**Cast**
The Mother – Deborah Nansteel
The Son – Aaron Crouch
The Reverend – Nicholas Davis*

**Creative Team**
Stage Director – Tazewell Thompson
Scenic Design – Donald Eastman
Costume Design – Jessica Jahn
Lighting Design – Robert Wierzel

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**CINDERELLA**

Music by Gioachino Rossini
Libretto by Jacopo Ferretti

Last seen at Minnesota Opera in 2010
A newly created Minnesota Opera production

March 27, 28, April 3, 6, 8, 10 and 11, 2021
Sung in Italian with English translations

**Dare to dream.** You don’t need magic to get a fairy-tale ending, just a true heart. A kind, young maid, who’s belittled and cast aside by her family, gets a new lease on life when she’s romanced by a charming prince who loves her for her goodness and sincerity. Rossini’s triumphant music and dazzling vocal writing help transcend the story’s roots as a familiar favorite along with stunning sets and fashionable costumes, showing that amazing things that can happen when you dare to dream.

**Cast**
Angelina – Hongni Wu (March 27, 28, April 3 and 10), Taylor Raven (April 6, 8 and 11)
Don Ramiro – Jack Swanson* (March 27, 28, April 3 and 10), Carlos Enrique Santelli (April 6, 8 and 11)
Dandini – Andrew Wilkowske*
Don Magnifico – Ashraf Sewailam

**Creative Team**
Stage Director – Matthew Ozawa
Scenic Design – Victoria Tzykun
THE SHINING

Music by Paul Moravec
Libretto by Mark Campbell
Based on the novel by Stephen King
A Minnesota Opera New Works Initiative Production

Last seen at Minnesota Opera in 2016
A revival of a Minnesota Opera production

May 15, 16, 18, 20, 22 and 23, 2021
Sung in English with English captions

One hell of a ride. Inspired by Stephen King's best-selling novel, this Minnesota Opera original is back by popular demand. As the Torrance family settles in at the infamous Overlook Hotel, the caretaker Jack comes face to face with his own demons—real and imagined. Will he be able to protect his wife and son from the evil forces within the hotel? This supernatural thrill ride keeps you on the edge of your seat with dynamic music befitting King's page-turner. After its sold-out, critically acclaimed world premiere, this sensational production is sure to be the hottest ticket in town.

Cast
Jack Torrance – Thomas Glass*
Wendy Torrance – Nadine Benjamin
Dick Hallorann – Aubrey Allicock
Delbert Grady – David Walton*
Lloyd – Christian Sanders*

Creative Team
Stage Director – Eric Simonson
Scenic Design – Erhard Rom
Costume Design – Käri Kopischke
Lighting Design – Robert Wierzel
Projections Design – 59 Productions

*Minnesota Opera Resident Artist Alum
*Minnesota Opera Project Opera Alum

TICKETS
Season ticket packages ($54-$821) for the 2020-2021 Season are available now online at mnopera.org or by calling or visiting Minnesota Opera Patron Services at 612-333-6669 or 620 N. 1st St., Minneapolis (open Monday – Friday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.). Individual tickets go on sale July 2020.

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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.