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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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A STATEMENT FROM PRESIDENT AND GENERAL DIRECTOR RYAN TAYLOR

Minnesota Opera cancels all performances and events and postpones productions of *Edward Tulane* and *Don Giovanni* to a future season as part of a community-wide effort to slow the transmission of COVID-19.

MINNEAPOLIS (March 13, 2020):

In the face of this unprecedented and uncertain public health epidemic, Minnesota Opera has made the difficult decision to postpone our upcoming productions of *Edward Tulane* and *Don Giovanni* to a future season and cancel all ancillary events.

Our decision was solidified today given the impending guidance from state officials to cancel or postpone all events of 250 people or more. As we would care for members of our family at a time of crisis, we are diligently trying to care for not only our audiences, but also our family of creators, ensuring that we are not putting the health of anyone at risk. We must not only balance the well-being of our community's health, but also take care of our artists, dozens of whom have been actively working for several years to create a beautiful world premiere performance for you to have enjoyed next weekend and a stunning reimaged Mozart classic in a few weeks' time.

While all of our artists, musicians, artisans, and staff were so looking forward to sharing the joy and delight of the remaining two productions of our season with all of you, it is vital that we play our part in combating the spread of COVID-19, and encourage others to do the same. A situation of this magnitude is unprecedented for our organization and our community, and we are following the lead of our city, state, and federally elected officials in making this painful choice.

COVID-19 is negatively affecting so many industries, including the live performing arts. While we are working to reschedule our various artist contracts to an upcoming season, we recognize that many of our creators are dependent on the income they would have received for their upcoming performances. MN Opera is committed to supporting our artists during this extraordinary circumstance and to that end we have established an Artist Support Fund for artists both on and off stage.

Please consider which of the following choices would be most appropriate to you, and if you would help in supporting our family of creators.



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Options for Ticket Holders for *Edward Tulane* and *Don Giovanni* and Any Ancillary Events:

- You may request the value of your ticket be reissued as a gift to the Artist Support Fund to help us pay the creators who were preparing incredible performances this spring.
- You may request the value of your ticket be reissued as a gift certificate to be used toward tickets in the upcoming 2020-2021 Season.
- You may request a refund in the amount of your tickets.

As we expect a high volume of calls, we encourage you to complete any of these options [online](#). You can call Patron Services at 612-333-6669, M-F, 10am-5pm. Our Patron Services staff will be working diligently on your request and we appreciate your patience.

Finally, if you have the means please also consider [making a special gift](#) to our Artist Support Fund.

On behalf of all of us at MN Opera, we wish you safety, patience, and good health. Please know how deeply we appreciate your steadfast support.

Sincerely,

Ryan Taylor
President and General Director, MN Opera

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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.