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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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MINNESOTA OPERA PRESENTS OPERA IN THE OUTFIELD AT CHS FIELD IN DOWNTOWN ST. PAUL

Join MN Opera for this spectacular, one-of-a-kind and physically distanced event.

MINNEAPOLIS (September 8, 2020) – Minnesota Opera begins its 2020 Fall Season with Opera in the Outfield at CHS Field on September 24 and 26, 2020. The one-of-a-kind outdoor experience features an innovative digital creation presented on the field's giant video board that puts a unique twist on both old favorites and newer works in a safe, physically distanced atmosphere.

Opera in the Outfield features selections from classics like *La Traviata*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Don Pasquale* and *Carmen*. Other excerpts come from *Blue*, a contemporary opera highlighting racial injustice that MN Opera postponed from its previously planned 2020-2021 Season; composer Joel Puckett and librettist Eric Simonson's *The Fix*, a recent MN Opera New Works Initiative production set against the backdrop of America's favorite pastime; and Scott Joplin's *Treemonisha*, an opera from 1911 that celebrates African-American music and culture.

The event will feature a larger-than-life, pre-produced video up on the field's video board with excerpts from past productions, as well as newly recorded footage of the Minnesota Opera Orchestra, Minnesota Opera Resident Artists and special guest artists The Steeles. Stage Director David Radamés Toro has worked closely with video designer David Murakami (*Das Rheingold*, *Elektra*, *Flight*) to create something familiar for the opera audience, yet entirely unique in and of itself. In producing the video experience, Toro and Murakami say their aim is to create something visually similar to Disney's *Fantasia* in terms of colors, shapes and feel.

In partnership with CHS Field, Minnesota Opera has worked to make the health and safety of their patrons, artists and staff a top priority for this event. "CHS Field has figured out how to organize and host events in a safe way given the current state of things," says Karen Quisenberry, Vice President of Production at MN Opera. "They've worked with the MN Department of Health and are taking a lot of precautions." Quisenberry has worked closely with Stage Director David Radamés Toro and the staff at CHS Field to help plan a safe and responsible event. Thanks to their hard work, many safety protocols will be implemented including requiring reservations, face coverings and physical distancing. To learn more, visit mnopera.org/safety.

This will be MN Opera's first in-person event since canceling the remainder of its 2019-2020 Season due to COVID-19 following Jonathan Dove's *Flight* in late January and early February.



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Opera in the Outfield will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 24 and Saturday, September 26. It will then be available on demand from September 27–October 11. Purchase in-person tickets or digital access at mnopea.org/outfield.

What: Opera in the Outfield

Where: CHS Field, 360 N Broadway St., Saint Paul, MN 55101

When: Thursday, September 24, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, September 26, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.
(Available On Demand: September 27–October 11, 2020)

Tickets: In-person tickets: \$10–\$50; digital access: \$10 and up. Call Minnesota Opera Patron Services at 612-333-6669, Monday – Thursday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., or purchase online at mnopea.org/outfield.

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

Creative Team

Conductor — Lidiya Yankovskaya

Director — David Radamés Toro*

Video Designer — David Murakami

Assistant Production Designer — Sam Clevenger

Recording Engineer — John Scherf

Cast

Mezzo-Soprano — Mia Athey†

Soprano — Leah Brzyski†

Baritone — Aaron Keeney†

Tenor — Joseph Leppek†

Bass — Allen Michael Jones†

The Steeles featuring:

J.D. Steele

Jevetta Steele

Fred Steele

Jearlyn Steele

Billy Steele

†MN Opera Resident Artist

*MN Opera Resident Artist Alum

To learn more about Opera in the Outfield, please visit mnopea.org/outfield.



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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.