

OPEN CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS – COMPOSERS, LYRICISTS, SONGWRITERS OF ALL GENRES

Minnesota Opera seeks a variety of composers, lyricists/librettists, songwriters or others interested in creating works to participate in the second cycle of **MNiatures: Tiny Operas, Big Ideas**.

Program Overview

As part of the company's mission, MN Opera strives to advance the art of opera for future generations. In order to do so, we believe the artform should be celebrated through expansion and experimentation and - especially in the creation of new work - new voices, genres and stories must be given center stage. **MNiatures** provides support for creators who have stories and perspectives that have not traditionally been represented in the operatic canon to develop and record a short, fully original operatic piece that test new definitions of the word "opera."

Creators, working in teams of 2, will develop a short composition of 8-10 minutes in length. Each team will consist of artists working from different backgrounds and should include those with experience outside of the classical tradition. All works should have a narrative element and be written primarily for the voice.

This cycle, we will ask all chosen teams to use the theme of **RESILIENCE** to inform their pieces.

MN Opera will support creators through the facilitation of a Project Cohort with a series of meetings (virtual and/or in person as COVID guidelines dictate). MN Opera will also provide professional video/audio recordings of the final compositions at the Opera Center in Minneapolis, MN. Teams will have the opportunity to collaborate with MN Opera Artistic and Production staff to support the final performance both musically and visually.

MNiatures provides a stipend of **\$2,000** per creator, as well as additional funding/support for singers and instrumentalists for the final presentation.

Program Timeline

MNiatures: Tiny Operas, Big Ideas runs from **June 25, 2021 – Nov. 13, 2021**

Key Dates:

- June 6, 2021 – Submissions Due
- June 25, 2021 – Creative Teams Notified of Selection
- Wk of July 12, 2021 – Cohort Kick-Off Meeting
- July 23, 2021 – Concept Outline Due
- August 20, 2021 – Preliminary Compositions Due / Transcription Process Begins
- September 10, 2021 – Composition finalized & Parts distributed to performers
- Sept. 28 – Oct. 10, 2021 – Rehearsals*
- Oct. 12 -18, 2021 – Filming / Recording of final presentations*
- October / November 2021 – Digital Release of **MNiatures: Tiny, Operas, Big Ideas**
- Following Digital Release – Final Cohort Meeting / Project Wrap-Up

**Please note, all rehearsals as well as filmings / recordings will be subject to MN Opera's COVID-19 Guidelines and Best Practices which are developed in conjunction with each individual project.*

Application Guidelines

All creators interested in participating in **MNiatures** may apply either as an individual or as a team. Those applying as individuals will be teamed with another complementary individual applicant at the discretion of MN Opera.

To apply as a team please submit the following – Team submissions must be received as a single submission:

- A Joint Letter of Interest (Maximum 500 words) addressing the following:
 - How your team's work and perspective expand and enrich opera
 - What intrigues you about writing an opera
- A brief biography of each team member (Maximum 200 words each)
- A color headshot of each team member – this does not need to be a formal headshot but should be a nice picture of you that could be used for publicity purposes.
- 3 Work samples for each team member. Work samples should not exceed 3 minutes. For teams who have previously collaborated, up to 2 joint work samples may be submitted (meaning that each team should submit a total of 4-6 work samples). We request that work samples be submitted as links accessibly by multiple parties.

To apply as an individual please submit the following:

- A Letter of Interest (Maximum 500 words) addressing the following:
 - How your team's work and perspective expand and enrich opera
 - What intrigues you about writing an opera
- A brief description about the skill set or other qualities you desire in a collaborator
- A brief biography (Maximum 200 words)
- A color headshot– this does not need to be a formal headshot but should be a nice picture of you that could be used for publicity purposes.
- 3 work samples. Work samples should not exceed 3 minutes. We request that work samples be submitted as links accessible by multiple parties.

Applicants from a variety of artistic disciplines and genre are welcomed. For those applying as teams, please make sure that diverse creative backgrounds are represented. MN Opera is interested in amplifying and supporting the work of artists of color and other artists whose stories and identities have been underrepresented within the operatic canon. All applicants must be residents of the state of Minnesota. Those who participated in Cycle 1 of MNiatures are not eligible for this cycle.

Submissions may be completed online at: <https://mnopera.org/2021-2022-mniatures-application/> and must be received no later than **June 6, 2021 at 11:59pm**.

If you have any questions regarding the project or your application, please contact: Julia Gallagher, Lab & Special Projects Director, at jgallagher@mnopera.org.