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MINNESOTA OPERA PRESENTS CHORAL HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE COMPANY'S LATEST COMMISSION, *EDWARD TULANE*

For its last digital offering of the 2021–2022 Season, Minnesota Opera presents *Edward Tulane Choral Suite*, an animated presentation featuring the Minnesota Opera Chorus.

MINNEAPOLIS (December 8, 2021) – Nearly two years after *Edward Tulane* was postponed due to the pandemic, Minnesota Opera presents *Edward Tulane Choral Suite*. The animated digital production will feature music by Paola Prestini and libretto by Mark Campbell, highlight the Minnesota Opera Chorus and Orchestra and showcase the opera's choral music, offering a preview of the new work before the full production makes its way to the Ordway stage in the future. *Edward Tulane Choral Suite* will be available on YouTube and at mnopera.org starting Monday, December 13, 2021.

The *Choral Suite* is derived from the full-length opera, which is based on the novel *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* by Newberry Medalist and #1 *New York Times* best-selling author Kate DiCamillo, and it is the first time one of her works is being adapted for the operatic stage.

In May of 2020, just a few months after the premiere of *Edward Tulane* was canceled, Minnesota Opera's President and General Director Ryan Taylor, along with Associate Conductor and Chorus Director Andrew Whitfield reached out to Composer Paola Prestini about the *Choral Suite*. "I jumped at the opportunity to reimagine the suite and focus on music," says Prestini. "I hadn't written a note since March. As we progressed, I began to imagine the visuals that had just come from an amazing work with the artist Erin Pollock and I knew her sensibilities would be perfect for our Edward. And so, I put together the storyboard, sounds, and Minnesota Opera gathered the readings by the brilliant kids from the local schools and Ann Patchett and Kate DiCamillo herself and a stunning libretto by Mark Campbell to essentially tell an abridged story."

The *Choral Suite* offers a unique preview of the opera's score and story, all while presenting new stop-motion clay visuals created by animator Erin Pollock. Erin Pollock is an American painter, sculptor, photographer and stop-motion animator. She is a graduate of Whitman College and did postgraduate art studies at Gage Academy in Seattle and Studio Art Centers International in Florence before receiving an MFA from the New York Academy of Art where she is currently a Chubb Post-graduate Fellow. Pollock is a recipient of a MacDowell Colony Fellowship and has been supported by The Robert Maxwell Foundation, The Rasmuson Foundation, Alaska State Council on the Arts and 4Culture.

“I created a short film for this production of *Edward Tulane Choral Suite* using traditional stop-motion animation techniques,” says animator Erin Pollock. “The movement comes from running together thousands of photographs of sculptures and paintings as I subtly manipulate them. The process is meticulous and slow but magical. To bring life to Edward and the cast of characters he encounters on his journey, I used clay, paint, fabric, wood, mirrors and found objects.

The opera *Edward Tulane* is about a toy rabbit who thinks of himself as quite exceptional. Content in his easy life, his world is upturned when he is separated from his loving family. Based on the best-seller by local author Kate DiCamillo, *Edward Tulane* takes us on a miraculous journey, from the depths of the deep blue sea to the streets of Memphis. Perfect for the young and young at heart, this Minnesota original shows us a true miracle—that even the most broken of hearts can learn to love again.

For more information on *Edward Tulane Choral Suite*, visit mnopera.org/choral-suite.

What: *Edward Tulane Choral Suite*
Based on the book by Kate DiCamillo
Music by Paola Prestini
Libretto by Mark Campbell
Directed by Paola Prestini
Animation by Erin Pollock

Commissioned by Minnesota Opera as part of Its New Works Initiative and adapted for animated digital presentation
Performed In English with English captions

Where: Access and stream *Edward Tulane Choral Suite* at mnopera.org.

When: Available starting Monday, December 13, 2021.

Media: Digital assets are available on our [Online Press Room](#).

Creative Team

Composer | Paola Prestini
Librettist | Mark Campbell
Animator | Erin Pollock

Performers

Minnesota Opera Chorus
Minnesota Opera Orchestra



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