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MINNESOTA OPERA ANNOUNCES CANCELLATION OF ITS UPCOMING PERFORMANCE OF VOICES UNITED

MINNEAPOLIS (February 16, 2022) – As Minnesota Opera continues to navigate the unpredictable current chapter of the COVID-19 pandemic, the organization has made the decision to cancel the previously announced performance of *Voices United* this coming March. In doing so, the company will continue to prioritize the health and safety of its creative workforce and focus its efforts on maintaining the artistic integrity of its forthcoming fundraising event, *Beyond the Gala* on April 2, and its performances of *Carmen*, directed by Denyce Graves and conducted by Elias Grandy this coming May.

“Our company has become known for its agility in navigating this extended health crisis and has actively learned the full magnitude and complexity of proper health and safety protocols identified during its successful production of *The Anonymous Lover*,” said Minnesota Opera President and General Director Ryan Taylor. “When MN Opera announced its current season in June of 2021, it did not anticipate the extensive testing and tracing regimen that would be required to keep its creative workforce healthy during a new wave of viral proliferation with a variant as easily transmissible as Omicron. We realized that the size and scale of *The Anonymous Lover* pushed our protocol systems to the edge of what our human and financial resources can sustain. At this time, properly executing a performance like *Voices United*, with twice as many musicians and three times as many vocalists, is unfortunately beyond our capacity.”

At the time of this announcement, the state of Minnesota is experiencing a COVID-19 test positivity rate that, based on the recommendations of healthcare experts, is too high for MN Opera’s testing and tracing protocols to be loosened.

All patrons currently holding tickets for the cancelled performance will have the option to refund, donate, or apply the value of their tickets to future offerings. All ticket holders affected will receive communication directly from Minnesota Opera with a full description of their options.

Minnesota Opera believes that the projected diminution of transmission will allow us to enjoy future events planned for this season, including our annual fundraising event *Beyond the Gala* on April 2, 2022, and all performances of *Carmen* in May.

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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.