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MINNESOTA OPERA PRESENTS HANDEL'S *RINALDO* IN THE COMPANY'S INAUGURAL PERFORMANCE AT THE LUMINARY ARTS CENTER

Minnesota Opera lights up the Luminary Arts Center with an imaginative and intimate company premiere of Handel's tune-filled story.

MINNEAPOLIS (November 1, 2022) – Minnesota Opera will present George Frideric Handel's *Rinaldo* as its first production in the organization's newly renovated venue, the Luminary Arts Center. Located in the North Loop neighborhood of Minneapolis, the Luminary Arts Center opens new doors for Minnesota Opera and offers a chance for the company to produce chamber pieces that work well in an intimate space. *Rinaldo* makes its company premiere at Minnesota Opera and marks only the second opera composed by Handel in the company's history.

In this spellbinding tale of love and war, our hero must save his innocent, true love from a sorcerer who will stop at nothing to gain victory. The opera sweeps the audience from laughter to heartbreak and back again in this enchanting musical journey. While the opera, written in 1711, is steeped in a fantasy world of knights and sorcerers, it was also laced with problematic portrayals of the Muslim community that are at odds with society's modern understanding and values. Minnesota Opera's production takes place in the mid-1980s on Wall Street. Differing from the original plot, the production has no absolute saint nor villain; noble knights become representatives of "Old Money" families, whereas sorcerers transform into "New Money" stock aristocrats who have amassed significant fortunes thanks to a long bull market. Each side fights for control of the market and their assets. "It is not about one hero who saves the world," says stage director Mo Zhou. "Rather, I want to explore the gray areas in the intertwined world of those characters."

The new production is the first baroque chamber piece performed by Minnesota Opera in 15 years and is designed to showcase the company's newly renovated 224-seat venue, the Luminary Arts Center. "We're looking forward to presenting *Rinaldo* as our first production in this renovated theater," says President and General Director Ryan Taylor. "I'm also grateful for the thoughtful originality of an extraordinary creative team who are completely reimagining the piece. The problematic, inappropriate portrayals of the Muslim community present in the original narrative have been uncoupled from this production, allowing for a fresh environment for the story to unfold in a way that helps lift the burden of anachronistic characterizations that run counter to our values." Taylor says that the Luminary Arts Center enables MN Opera to explore presenting a wider variety of works, expanding the circle of storytelling. "Some works in the operatic repertoire

thrive in a space with less distance between the audience and performers. The Luminary allows us to close that gap and bring our audience into the drama more intimately.”

Stage Director Mo Zhou will lead the production. The cast is led by countertenor Patrick Terry in the title role of Rinaldo. Terry is a graduate of the University of Minnesota and the Jette Parker Artists Programme with the Royal Opera at Covent Garden in London. Joining Terry is Minnesota Opera Company Artist Symone Harcum as Almirena and soprano Victoria Korovljev as the Siren. Rounding out the cast are current Minnesota Opera Resident Artists Keely Futterer (Armida), Christina Hazen (Goffredo), Charles H. Eaton (Argante), Jeremiah Sanders (Mage) and Efraín Corralejo (Herald). Conductor Emily Senturia leads the Minnesota Opera Orchestra in the company’s first foray into Handel’s operatic world since *Julius Caesar* in 1994.

Minnesota Opera will present Offstage: *Rinaldo* at the socially missioned Metronome Brewery in Lowertown St. Paul on Wednesday, November 2, from 6:00–7:30 pm. The event will feature a panel conversation exploring reverence, mysticism and traditions of the western canon. This event also celebrates Minnesota Opera’s first performance in the Luminary Arts Center.

What: *Rinaldo*
Music by George Frideric Handel
Libretto by Giacomo Rossi

Where: Luminary Arts Center, 700 N First Street, Minneapolis, MN 55401

When: Saturday, November 19 at 7:30 pm
Sunday, November 20 at 2:00 pm
Saturday, November 26 at 7:30 pm
Sunday, November 27 at 2:00 pm
Tuesday, November 29 at 7:30 pm
Friday, December 2 at 7:30 pm
Saturday, December 3 at 7:30 pm

Tickets: \$50-\$80. *Rinaldo* is sold out; occasional returned tickets may be available. Call Minnesota Opera Patron Services at 612-333-6669, Monday–Thursday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., or purchase online at mnopera.org/rinaldo.

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

Creative Team

Conductor | Emily Senturia

Stage Director | Mo Zhou

Scenic Design | dots

Costume Design | Tyler M. Holland

Lighting Design | Marie Yokoyama



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Intimacy and Fight Director | Alessandra Bongiardina
Principal Coach | Celeste Marie Johnson

Cast

Rinaldo | Patrick Terry
Almirena | Symone Harcum°+
Armida | Keely Futterer*
Goffredo | Christina Hazen*
Argante | Charles H. Eaton*
Siren | Victoria Korovljev
Mage | Jeremiah Sanders*
Herald | Efraín Corralejo*

*MN Opera Resident Artist
°MN Opera Resident Artist alum
+Company Artist

To learn more about *Rinaldo*, please visit mnopera.org/rinaldo.

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