



Administrative: 612-333-2700

Patron Services: 612-333-6669

Fax: 612-333-0869

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Isaac Mayhew, Associate Director of Marketing and Communications; imayhew@mnopera.org; 612-342-1614 (o), 651-272-0070 (m)

MINNESOTA OPERA ANNOUNCES MNOP+ SERIES FOR 2026

**The company's second annual performance series will be held
at the Luminary Arts Center in North Loop**

MINNEAPOLIS (November 4, 2025) – Minnesota Opera is proud to announce the return of MNOP+, a series of intimate, artist-driven performances that will take place at the Luminary Arts Center in the North Loop neighborhood of Minneapolis.

The series will begin in January with *The Chamber Music of Florence Price*, a celebration of the American composer whose life will be the subject of the chamber opera *My Name is Florence*, premiering at the Ordway later this season. At the end of February, Resident Artist tenor Ángel Vargas and pianist Fumiyasu Kawase will perform the world premiere of a new song cycle by composer David Hanlon and librettist John De Los Santos. In March, acclaimed pianist and vocal coach John Churchwell will cap off a residency with the MN Opera Resident Artists by curating and performing a concert with all six members of the program. The series will conclude in April with *Gospel Night*, featuring baritone Reginald Smith, Jr. and tenor Chaz'men William-Ali, with MN Opera VP, Artistic, Joseph Li at the piano.

"MNOP+ is a celebration of the artists who make this company what it is, and it is an opportunity for those artists to share their musical journeys up close with all of us," said Li. "This season, audiences can hear everything from the world premiere of a new song cycle from our New Works Initiative to a chamber cohort of our incredible musicians of the MN Opera Orchestra. Each concert highlights the depth of our artists' passion and creativity that drives what we do at MN Opera."

Tickets start at \$25 and are available at www.mnopera.org/mnop-plus.

2026 MNOP+ SERIES

The Chamber Music of Florence Price

Saturday, January 17, 2026 at the Luminary Arts Center

Experience Florence Price's story through her own music, ahead of MN Opera's world premiere of *My Name is Florence*. Members of the Minnesota Opera Orchestra, Principal Coach and Chorus Director Celeste Marie Johnson, and Resident Artist Kara Morgan will perform chamber and vocal music composed by Price, who boldly blended her classical music training with the power and vulnerability of spirituals in so much of her work.

New Works Initiative Song Cycle Premiere

Saturday, February 26, 2026 at the Luminary Arts Center

This brand-new song cycle by composer David Hanlon and librettist John De Los Santos will leave you in tears of...heartbreak? Hilarity? Come find out.

Resident Artists Ángel Vargas and Fumiyasu Kawase will perform the world premiere of the first song cycle from MN Opera's New Works Initiative cohort, followed by performances by Resident Artists Kylie Kreucher and David Wolfe, with Mario Antonio Marra, head of music, at the piano.

John Churchwell Residency

Saturday, March 21, 2026 at the Luminary Arts Center

Enjoy an evening with the MN Opera Resident Artists and John Churchwell, one of the leading collaborative pianists of his generation and the Vocal Institute Co-Director at Music Academy of the West.

Kylie Kreucher, Kara Morgan, Ángel Vargas, David Wolfe, John Mburu, and Fumiyasu Kawase will all perform in a concert curated thoughtfully by Mr. Churchwell.

Gospel Night

Saturday, April 29, 2026 at the Luminary Arts Center

It's about to be a blessing. Join GRAMMY® and Emmy Award-winning baritone Reginald Smith, Jr. (also starring in MN Opera's *Pagliacci*) and tenor Chaz'men William-Ali for a rousing evening of gospel music with MN Opera VP, Artistic, Joseph Li at the piano.

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Minnesota Opera advances the art of opera for today and future generations
by expanding the circle of musical storytelling.