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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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MINNESOTA OPERA TO PRESENT RARELY PERFORMED PUCCINI OPERA IN CONCERT

The concert presentation of Puccini's *Edgar* will be only the second
US performance in decades.

MINNEAPOLIS (March 3, 2026) – Minnesota Opera's upcoming presentation of *Edgar* in Concert will provide audiences with the rare opportunity to experience one of Giacomo Puccini's earliest operas, composed before his better-known works such as *La bohème*, *Tosca*, or *Turandot*. The concert format will offer a glimpse of a young composer testing the edges of his talent, refining his craft, and reaching toward the brilliance that continues to define his legacy today. This rarely performed opera, last presented in the United States by the Civic Opera Theater of Kansas City in 2005 and at Carnegie Hall in 1977, will be onstage at the **Ordway Center for the Performing Arts** in downtown Saint Paul for two performances only—**Friday, April 17** and **Sunday, April 19**.

Edgar in Concert will be the first of a two-part celebration of *verismo* opera to conclude MN Opera's 2025-2026 season. *Verismo* opera—which focuses on telling musical stories more reflective of our shared full and flawed realities—has become closely associated with Puccini, who is widely regarded as one of the greatest composers of this style of all time. Puccini himself lamented the shortcomings of *Edgar*, which was not well-received upon its 1889 premiere, and made several attempts throughout his career to revise and improve the piece.

"Puccini's work is widely celebrated in our field," said MN Opera President and General Director Ryan Taylor. "His dramatic and musical legacy are tightly intertwined with this art form, and this concert presentation of one of his first operas promises a glimpse at his own discovery of that artistic voice. Keen ears will pick up on early versions of Puccini's work that would later transform him into the compositional powerhouse he became."

With tenor **Diego Torre** making his company debut singing the title role, *Edgar* in Concert will serve as a showcase for the MN Opera Resident Artist Program. Alumni **Karin Wolverton** and **Thomas Glass** will return to the company to sing the roles of Fidelia and Frank, joined by second-year Resident Artists **Kara Morgan** and **John Mburu** as Tigrana and Gualtiero.

Principal Conductor **Christopher Franklin** will lead the MN Opera Orchestra and Chorus, present onstage throughout the performance. Former Company Artist **Margaret Jumonville** will be Stage Director, accompanied by Costume Designer **Brandi Mans**, Lighting Designer **Wu Chen Khoo**, and Wigs, Hair, and Makeup Designer **Emma Gustafson**.

MN Opera VP, Artistic, Joseph Li will present Opera Insights in the Ordway's Target Atrium one hour prior to each performance and highlight moments in the score that both echo and foreshadow Puccini's musical language and his storytelling craft.



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Tickets for *Edgar* in Concert start at \$28 and are available at mnopera.org/edgar.

Quick facts:

What: *Edgar* in Concert
Music by Giacomo Puccini
Libretto by Ferdinando Fontana

The opera will be sung in Italian with English captions projected above the stage.

Where: Ordway Center for the Performing Arts, 345 Washington Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102

When: Friday, April 17, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, April 19, 2026 at 2 p.m.

Tickets: From \$28. Call Minnesota Opera Patron Services at 612-333-6669, Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., or purchase online at mnopera.org/edgar.

Run Time: One hour and 50 minutes (one intermission)

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

Learn More: Opera Insights – one hour prior to the show in the Target Atrium at the Ordway

Creative Team:

Principal Conductor | Christopher Franklin
Stage Director | Margaret Jumonville[°]
Costume Designer | Brandi Mans
Lighting Designer | Wu Chen Khoo
Wigs, Hair, and Makeup Designer | Emma Gustafson

Cast:

Edgar | Diego Torre
Fidelia | Karin Wolverton+
Tigrana | Kara Morgan*
Frank | Thomas Glass+
Gualtiero | John Mburu*

* Resident Artist

+ Resident Artist Alum

[°] Company Artist Alum

To learn more about *Edgar* in Concert, please visit mnopera.org/edgar.

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Minnesota Opera connects people in the pursuit of a more empathetic, equitable, and joyful life, advancing the art and experience of opera.