

## NEWS RELEASE

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# Gounod's *Faust* opens on January 24

The Minnesota Opera presents an all-new production, directed  
by acclaimed choreographer Doug Varone

- WHAT:** Charles Gounod's *Faust*. Sung in French with English captions projected above the stage. A new Minnesota Opera production.
- WHERE:** Ordway Center for the Performing Arts (mainstage)  
345 Washington St., St. Paul MN
- WHEN:** Saturday, January 24, at 7:30 p.m.                      Saturday, January 31, at 7:30 p.m.  
Tuesday, January 27, at 7:30 p.m.                              Sunday, February 1, at 2:00 p.m.  
Thursday, January 29, at 7:30 p.m.
- TICKETS:** \$20 – \$150. Call The Minnesota Opera Ticket Office at 612.333.6669 or purchase online at [www.mnopera.org](http://www.mnopera.org).

**Minneapolis, MN** – The Minnesota Opera is proud to announce the opening of an all-new production of *Faust*. Gounod's opera follows the fortunes of an aging Dr. Faust, who makes a deal with the devil to regain his youth and win the young Marguerite. Based on Goethe's classic book, this tale of good and evil brims with Gounod's unforgettable melodies and opera's favorite villain, Méphistophélès. The Minnesota Opera is pleased to welcome back director/choreographer Doug Varone, whose recent staging of *Salome* at the Metropolitan Opera was hailed as "a triumph" by *The New York Times*.

This all-new production is the first Minnesota Opera staging of *Faust* in a decade, and stars **PAUL GROVES** as Faust, **KYLE KETELSEN** as Méphistophélès, **JUDITH HOWARTH** as Marguerite and **LUCAS MEACHEM** as Valentin. Acclaimed French conductor **JEAN-YVES OSSONCE** conducts.

"We're thrilled to have Doug Varone back at The Minnesota Opera," says **ARTISTIC DIRECTOR DALE JOHNSON**. "His insights of how movement propels dramatic action, contributes to character and heightens emotional impact made for a brilliant production of *Joseph Merrick, the Elephant Man* back in 2006, and he's done it again with *Faust*. Being able to work with his phenomenal dance company also gives us a great opportunity to include the ballet in act five, a part of the traditional opera that most companies cut for lack of resources."

THE CREATIVE TEAM

Conductor	Jean-Yves Ossonce
Stage Director and Choreographer	Doug Varone
Set Designer	Andromache Chalfant
Costume Designer	James Schuette
Lighting Designer	Jane Cox

THE CAST

Faust, <i>an aging philosopher</i>	Paul Groves
Marguerite, <i>a village girl</i>	Judith Howarth
Méphistophélès	Kyle Ketelsen
Valentin, <i>brother of Marguerite</i>	Lucas Meachem
Siébel, <i>friend of Marguerite</i>	Nicole Percifield
Marthe Schwerlein, <i>Marguerite's neighbor</i>	Kathleen Humphrey
Wagner, <i>friend of Valentin</i>	John David Boehr
Dancers	Doug Varone and Dancers

**To learn more about *Faust* ...**

Please visit our website at [www.mnopera.org](http://www.mnopera.org) or consider the opportunities listed below. On the website you will find casting updates, artist biographies, synopses, background notes, education program information, suggestions for further reading and listening, ticketing services and other company information.

**Adult Education Class**

A class devoted to *Faust* will be held on Monday, January 12, 2009. Special guest speaker will be author and renowned French vocal coach **MARY DIBBERN**. Call 612.333.6669 for tickets, or register online at [mnopera.org](http://mnopera.org).

**Opera Insights**

One hour before show time, **ARTISTIC DIRECTOR DALE JOHNSON** and artistic staffers present Opera Insights – free, fun and informative 30-minute sessions held prior to each performance in Ordway Center’s mezzanine lobby.

This production of *Faust* is sponsored by Ameriprise Financial.

The 2008–2009 Minnesota Opera season is sponsored by US Bank Private Client Group and FAF Advisors.

The Minnesota Opera’s mission is to produce opera and opera education programs  
at the highest artistic level that inspire and entertain our audiences  
and enrich the cultural life of our community.

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