

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New production of *Roberto Devereux* by Donizetti opens January 30

The first installment of Minnesota Opera's Tudor trilogy stars
Brenda Harris as Queen Elizabeth I.

- What:** Gaetano Donizetti's *Roberto Devereux*
Sung in Italian with English translations projected above the stage.
- Where:** Ordway, 345 Washington St., St. Paul, MN 55102
- When:** Saturday, January 30, at 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday, February 2, at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, February 4, at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, February 6, at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, February 7, at 2:00 p.m.
- Tickets:** \$20–\$200. Call the Minnesota Opera Ticket Office at 612.333.6669,
9:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. Monday - Friday or purchase online at mnopera.org.

Minneapolis, MN—Minnesota Opera is proud to announce the first installment in Gaetano Donizetti's trilogy of operas based on the Tudor queens, *Roberto Devereux*, which will be followed next season by *Mary Stuart* and in 2011–2012 with *Anne Boleyn*. *Roberto Devereux* centers on the tragic May-December love story between Queen Elizabeth I of England and Robert Devereux, the Earl of Essex. Jealous of Devereux's love for another woman – Sara, Duchess of Nottingham – Elizabeth is nonetheless prepared to forgive Devereux his infidelities to queen and country if only he would pledge himself to her. Devereux resists, and in her rage Elizabeth imprisons him in the Tower of London, setting in motion a series of events that lead to Devereux's death.

"We are very pleased to launch our three-year cycle of Donizetti's Tudor trilogy with this extraordinary musical drama," said **ARTISTIC DIRECTOR DALE JOHNSON**. "This production exemplifies Minnesota Opera's continued commitment to repertoire from the Bel Canto period and the artists that specialize in this exquisite operatic style."

KEVIN NEWBURY, who thrilled audiences with his brilliant *The Barber of Seville* (2009), returns to direct a fresh, new period-inspired production by set designer **NEIL PATEL** with costumes by **JESSICA JAHN**. Bel Canto master soprano and Minnesota Opera favorite

continued ...

BRENDA HARRIS (*Orazi e Curiazi*) stars as Queen Elizabeth I opposite Portuguese tenor **BRUNO RIBEIRO**, who makes his debut as her treacherous lover, Roberto Devereux. Baritone **LESTER LYNCH** (recently seen in the 2008 production of *Il trovatore*) returns as the Duke of Nottingham alongside Russian mezzo-soprano **TAMARA KLIVADENKO** who makes her Minnesota Opera debut as Sara. Bel Canto specialist **FRANCESCO MARIA COLOMBO** (*Maria Padilla, Orazi e Curiazi*) conducts the **MINNESOTA OPERA ORCHESTRA**.

THE CREATIVE TEAM

Conductor Francesco Maria Colombo
Stage Director Kevin Newbury
Set Designer Neil Patel
Costume Designer Jessica Jahn
Lighting Designer D. M. Wood

THE CAST

Elisabetta, *Queen of England* Brenda Harris
Roberto Devereux, *Earl of Essex* Bruno Ribeiro
Duke of Nottingham Lester Lynch
Sara, *Duchess of Nottingham* Tamara Klivadenko
Lord Cecil Brad Benoit
Sir Gualtiero Raleigh Jonathan Kimple
A page Michael Nyby
A friend of Nottingham Rodolfo Nieto

To learn more about *Roberto Devereux* ...

Please visit our website at 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.

Brew and View with the Queen

Join the Opera for a free event at Brit's Pub & Eating Establishment on Sunday, January 10, 2010, at 3:00 p.m. for drink specials and a casual discussion about one of the most famous Tudor queens. Meet soprano **BRENDA HARRIS** (Queen Elizabeth I), *Roberto Devereux* Stage Director **KEVIN NEWBURY** and University of Minnesota Professor of English, **JOHN WATKINS**, and stay for a viewing of the 1939 film starring Bette Davis and Errol Flynn, *The Private Lives of Elizabeth and Essex*. Vocal stylings by **THE ELIZABETHAN SYNGERS**. Call 612.333.6669, or register online at mnopera.org.

Adult Education Class

A class devoted to *Roberto Devereux* will be held on Thursday, January 14, 2010, from 7:00–9:00 p.m. at the Minnesota Opera Center, 620 North First Street in the Minneapolis Warehouse District. **PHILIP GOSSETT**, distinguished guest and Professor of Music at University of Chicago, will discuss the complicated history of this tragic romance. Call 612.333.6669, or purchase tickets online at 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.

Roberto Devereux is sponsored by Ameriprise Financial.

The 2009–2010 Minnesota Opera season is sponsored by The Private Client Reserve at U.S. Bank.

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.