

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Minnesota Opera's company premiere of *Manon Lescaut* opens on September 21

Puccini's soulful early masterpiece opens the 51st season with soprano Kelly Kaduce in the title role and tenor Dinyar Vania making his company debut as her star-crossed lover

- What:** *Manon Lescaut* by composer Giacomo Puccini
Sung in Italian with English surtitles projected above the stage
- Where:** Ordway, 345 Washington Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102
- When:** Saturday, September 21, 8pm Tuesday, September 24, 7:30pm
Thursday, September 26, 7:30pm Saturday, September 28, 7:30pm
Sunday, September 29, 2pm
- Tickets:** \$20 – \$200. Call the Minnesota Opera Ticket Office at 612.333.6669, Monday–Friday, 9am–6pm, or purchase online at mnopera.org.
- Media:** An online press kit (available now on Dropbox at mnop.co/mnoperapressroom) includes artist headshots, design renderings, production photos and other useful resources.
Contact Communications Manager Daniel Zillmann to take advantage of the following interview, photo and video opportunities at dress rehearsals at Ordway: **Wednesday, September 18, 7:30pm** and **Thursday, September 19, 7:30pm**.
- Preview:** Minnesota Opera hosts its first **Social Media Preview** of the season for bloggers and social media savvy individuals. This season's previews will include a live tweeting opportunity for the next generation of performing arts lovers, whether brand new to opera or aficionados of the art form. Beginning with refreshments during a social hour and pre-rehearsal discussion at Ordway with special guest, Minnesota Opera Music Director **Michael Christie**, the event will conclude with exclusive access to the dress rehearsal on **Thursday, September 19, 6pm**. R.S.V.P. online at mnop.co/preview by September 17.

Minneapolis—Minnesota Opera is pleased to announce its season opening, in which the irresistible lure of money seduces the beautiful Manon, triggering her downfall. But true love is her redemption in this soulful opera by the composer of *La bohème*, *Madame Butterfly* and *Turandot*. *Manon Lescaut* was

continued ...

Puccini's third opera and his first major success. Defending his work against another opera based on the 1731 novel by the Abbé Prévost, Puccini said, "Manon is a heroine I believe in, and therefore she cannot fail to win the hearts of the public. Why shouldn't there be two operas about Manon? A woman like Manon can have more than one lover." He added, "Massenet feels it as a Frenchman, with powder and minuets. I shall feel it as an Italian, with a desperate passion."

Soprano **KELLY KADUCE** (*Madame Butterfly*, *Turandot*) stars in the title role with tenor **DINYAR VANIA**, who makes his Minnesota Opera debut as her star-crossed lover, Chevalier des Grieux. This Washington National Opera production, called "impassioned, sensual" by *The Baltimore Sun*, was designed by **JOHN PASCOE** (debut). **MICHAEL CAVANAGH** (*Tosca*) directs and Minnesota Opera **MUSIC DIRECTOR MICHAEL CHRISTIE** (*Anna Bolena*, *Turandot*) conducts.

THE CREATIVE TEAM

Conductor Michael Christie
Stage Director Michael Cavanagh
Set and Costume Designer John Pascoe*
Lighting Designer William Healey*

THE CAST

Manon Lescaut Kelly Kaduce
Lescaut, *her brother and Seargent of the Royal Guards* Matthew Opitz+
The Chevalier des Grieux Dinyar Vania*
Geronte de Revoir, *Treasurer General* Andrew Wilkowske
Edmondo, *a student* John Robert Lindsey+
The Innkeeper, *Sergeant of the Royal Archers* Christian Zaremba*+
A Singer Victoria Vargas*
The Dancing Master Robb Asklof*

*Minnesota Opera Debut
+Minnesota Opera Resident Artist

To learn more about *Manon Lescaut* ...

Please visit mnop.co/manonlescaut. There you will find casting updates, artist biographies, synopses, background notes, audio and video clips, ticketing services and other company information.

Behind the Curtain *Manon Lescaut* ...

Look behind the curtain on Monday, September 9 at 7pm at the Minnesota Opera Center in Minneapolis to see what it takes to bring innovative opera to the stage. Get the inside scoop from members of the cast and creative team and explore the music, history and design of *Manon Lescaut*. Minnesota Opera's new **HEAD OF MUSIC ROB AINSLEY** will lead an exploration of the music, history and design of *Manon Lescaut* from his perspective as a chorus master and vocal coach. Get a taste for the music from the stars themselves as soprano Kelly Kaduce and tenor Dinyar Vania give an intimate performance of excerpts and discuss why they think singers and audiences alike share a passion for Puccini. General admission tickets are \$35 and available for purchase at mnopera.org or by calling 612-333-6669.

The 2013–2014 Minnesota Opera season is sponsored by Ascent Private Capital Management of U. S. Bank.

Minnesota Opera combines a culture of creativity and fiscal responsibility to produce opera and opera education programs that expand the art form, nurture artists, enrich audiences and contribute to the vitality of the community.