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## MEDIA ALERT!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# Minnesota Opera announces real-time chat with *Silent Night* cast during PBS broadcast

The world-premiere production of the Pulitzer Prize-winning opera  
will begin airing nationally on December 13, 2013,  
with a social media live-chat at [mnop.co/silent-night](http://mnop.co/silent-night)

Minneapolis–Minnesota Opera’s world premiere of Kevin Puts’ *Silent Night*, winner of the 2012 Pulitzer Prize in Music, will be broadcast nationally on PBS, presented by Twin Cities Public Television (*tpt*) National Productions, beginning Friday, December 13 at 9pm ET/8pm CT (check for broadcast dates and times in your local market at [mnop.co/silent-night-broadcast-schedule](http://mnop.co/silent-night-broadcast-schedule)).

Minnesota Opera has invited the cast and creative team of the original production of *Silent Night*, other companies connected to the production and the opera community to join a nationwide conversation during the opera’s first airing on December 13. This will be held across multiple social media channels: Facebook ([facebook.com/minnesotaopera](http://facebook.com/minnesotaopera)), Twitter ([@mnopera](https://twitter.com/mnopera) and [#SilentNightPBS](https://twitter.com/SilentNightPBS)) and Instagram ([@mnopera](https://www.instagram.com/mnopera)). Production images and behind-the-scenes photos can be found on Pinterest ([pinterest.com/mnopera](http://pinterest.com/mnopera)), and video from the November 2011 dress rehearsal as well as interviews with the cast and creative team can be found on YouTube ([youtube.com/minnesotaopera](http://youtube.com/minnesotaopera)). TPT will join the conversation on Twitter ([@tpt](https://twitter.com/tpt)), as well as Cincinnati Opera ([@cincinnatiopera](https://twitter.com/cincinnatiopera)) and their local PBS affiliate CET ([@cetconnect](https://twitter.com/cetconnect)), where the production will be presented in July 2014. Opera Philadelphia ([@OperaPhila](https://twitter.com/OperaPhila)), which produced *Silent Night* in February 2013, will be involved in this week’s conversation as well. Minnesota Opera will facilitate a live-chat on [mnop.co/silent-night](http://mnop.co/silent-night) while curating a collection of all the social media posts.

Minnesota Opera presented the world premiere of *Silent Night* in November 2011, at Ordway in Saint Paul, Minnesota. It was composed by **KEVIN PUTS** with a libretto by **MARK CAMPBELL**, based on the screenplay for *Joyeux Noël* by Christian Carion for the motion picture produced by Nord-Ouest Production. The opera recounts a miraculous moment of peace during one of the bloodiest wars in human history. On WWI’s western front, Scottish, French and German officers defy their superiors and nego-

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tiate a Christmas Eve truce. Enemies become brothers as they share Christmas and bury their dead. William Burden starred as the soldier whose voice inspired peace – if only for a day.

*Silent Night* was conducted by Minnesota Opera’s Music Director **MICHAEL CHRISTIE** and staged by Academy Award-winning director **ERIC SIMONSON**. *Silent Night*, which was recently honored with a regional Emmy nomination, was the first commission of Minnesota Opera’s **NEW WORKS INITIATIVE**, a landmark program designed to invigorate the operatic repertoire with an infusion of contemporary works.

“A major objective of the New Works Initiative is to see that the new works we produce enter the repertoire and reach an audience far beyond our own local market,” said President and General Director **KEVIN RAMACH**. “One strategy was to record and distribute some of these new operas to amplify their reach to new audiences in our community and worldwide. Working with the talented director Joe Brandmeier, Minnesota Opera developed a new capacity for capturing the essence of these new works digitally, and we’re very excited that millions of Americans have the opportunity to watch this Pulitzer Prize-winning opera in December.”

Visit [mnop.co/silent-night](http://mnop.co/silent-night) for a digital program, photos, videos, artist biographies and more.

### Minnesota Opera’s New Works Initiative

Minnesota Opera’s New Works Initiative supported the American premiere of Jonathan Dove’s *The Adventures of Pinocchio* and revivals of Dominick Argento’s *Casanova’s Homecoming* and Bernard Herrmann’s *Wuthering Heights*, as well as the commission of *Doubt*, composed by Douglas J. Cuomo with libretto by John Patrick Shanley. This season, the Initiative makes possible *The Dream of Valentino*, newly revised by Dominick Argento. Two more commissions have been announced, as well – *The Manchurian Candidate*, also composed by Kevin Puts with a libretto by Mark Campbell, will have its world premiere in March 2015, and *The Shining*, composed by Paul Moravec with a libretto by Mark Campbell and based on the novel by Stephen King, will have its world premiere in May 2016.

### About Twin Cities Public Television (*tpt*)

The mission of *tpt* is to “enrich lives and strengthen our community through the power of media.”

As one of the nation’s leading public media organizations, *tpt* uses television, interactive media and community engagement to advance education, culture and citizenship. Over its 50 plus year history, *tpt* has been recognized for its innovation and creativity with numerous awards, including Peabody awards and national and regional Emmys.

Based in St. Paul, Minnesota, *tpt* is one of the highest rated PBS affiliates in the nation, reaching more than 1.3 million people each month through multiple broadcast and online channels. The organization’s particular areas of focus include: the educational readiness of children; serving the needs and unleashing the potential of America’s aging population; engaging a new generation in the power of public media; and being the preferred media partner for organizations that align with their mission to enrich lives and strengthen community. TPT National Productions is the national productions division of *tpt* and is a significant content producer for the public television system.

For more information about *tpt*, visit their website at [www.tpt.org](http://www.tpt.org) or join them on Facebook and Twitter.

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.

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