

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Wuthering Heights casting update

Soprano Sara Jakubiak replaces Kelly Kaduce in Minnesota Opera's major revival of Bernard Herrmann's only opera

- What:** Bernard Herrmann's *Wuthering Heights*.
Sung in English with English captions projected above the stage.
- Where:** Ordway, 345 Washington Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102
- When:** Saturday, April 16, 7:30pm Sunday, April 17, 2pm
Tuesday, April 19, 7:30pm Thursday, April 21, 7:30pm
Saturday, April 23, 7:30pm
- Tickets:** \$20 – \$200. Call the Minnesota Opera Ticket Office at 612.333.6669, Monday–Friday, 9am–6pm, or purchase online at mnopera.org.
- Events:** A calendar of Community Events has been planned around this major revival. Visit mnopera.org/events for more information.
- Media:** An online press kit is available now at mnopera.org/wutheringheightskit, which includes archival documents from the 1982 premiere at Portland Opera and other useful resources. Contact Communications Manager, Daniel Zillmann, to take advantage of the following interview, photo and video opportunities:
Wednesday, April 13, 7:30pm, and Thursday, April 14, 7:30pm (Dress Rehearsals at Ordway, 345 Washington Street, Saint Paul, MN)
- Bloggers:** Minnesota Opera will host a **Blogger Preview Night**, including a reception and exclusive access to the final dress rehearsal on **Thursday, April 14, 6pm**.

Minneapolis–Minnesota Opera announces a casting change for the highly anticipated new production of *Wuthering Heights*, opening on April 16. American soprano **SARA JAKUBIAK** will sing the role of Catherine Earnshaw, replacing **KELLY KADUCE**, who has withdrawn from the production due to a family emergency. Ms. Jakubiak is described as “a singer who is going places and should delight audiences for years to come” by the *New Haven Register*, and has recently appeared at New York City Opera in Bernstein's *A Quiet Place* and Chicago Opera Theater in Jake Heggie's *Three Decembers*.

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The opera is a quintessential pairing of Emily Brontë's gothic romance with a dazzling score by legendary Hollywood composer Bernard Herrmann. Unable to bridge the chasm of social class, Heathcliff and Catherine are consumed by a love that can never be, and its legacy haunts the windswept Yorkshire moors. The production is the first major revival of Herrmann's only opera and celebrates the centennial of the composer's birth.

Composer Bernard Herrmann (1911–1975) was a Hollywood legend – an Academy Award-winning American composer who scored almost every Alfred Hitchcock soundtrack from 1955 to 1964, including *Psycho*, *Vertigo* and *North by Northwest*, and his numerous unforgettable collaborations include *Citizen Kane* with Orson Welles and *Taxi Driver* with Martin Scorsese. His iconic cinematic style infuses *Wuthering Heights*, which expertly underscores the passion, prejudice and mystery of Emily Brontë's classic novel. Though Herrmann completed *Wuthering Heights* in 1951 (which was partially penned in Minneapolis), the opera did not see its premiere until 1982, when it was staged by Portland Opera.

Academy Award-winning director **ERIC SIMONSON** (*The Grapes of Wrath*) leads a world-class creative team: set designer **NEIL PATEL** (*Roberto Devereux*, *Mary Stuart*), costume designer **JANE GREENWOOD** (nominated a record 15 times for the Tony Award and making her Minnesota Opera debut), lighting designer **ROBERT WIERZEL** (*The Grapes of Wrath*) and projections designer **WENDALL K. HARRINGTON** (*The Grapes of Wrath*). **SARA JAKUBIAK** (debut) sings the role of Catherine Earnshaw opposite **LEE POULIS**, who also makes his Minnesota Opera debut as Heathcliff. Edgar Linton, who becomes Catherine's husband, is sung by lyric tenor **ERIC MARGIORE** in his debut with former Minnesota Opera Resident Artist **ADRIANA ZABALA** (*The Adventures of Pinocchio*) as his sister (and later wife of Heathcliff), Isabella Linton. Catherine's brother Hindley, who proves ruinous to the Earnshaw name, is sung by **BEN WAGER** (*The Adventures of Pinocchio*), and Mr. Lockwood, the opera's narrator, is sung by **JESSE BLUMBERG** (*The Grapes of Wrath*). **MICHAEL CHRISTIE** (*La traviata*) returns to conduct the Minnesota Opera Orchestra.

THE CREATIVE TEAM

Conductor	Michael Christie
Stage Director	Eric Simonson
Set Designer	Neil Patel
Costume Designer	Jane Greenwood*
Lighting Designer	Robert Wierzel
Projections Designer	Wendall K. Harrington
Choreographer	Heidi Spesard-Noble

THE CAST

Catherine Earnshaw	Sara Jakubiak*
Heathcliff	Lee Poulis*
Hindley Earnshaw, <i>Catherine's brother</i>	Ben Wager
Edgar Linton, <i>the Earnshaws' neighbor</i>	Eric Margiore*
Isabella Linton, <i>Edgar's sister</i>	Adriana Zabala
Nelly Dean, <i>the housekeeper</i>	Victoria Vargas+
Joseph, <i>a farmhand</i>	Rodolfo Nieto+
Mr. Lockwood, <i>a neighbor</i>	Jesse Blumberg
Hareton, <i>Hindley's son</i>	Joshua Ross*

*Minnesota Opera Debut, +Minnesota Opera Resident Artist

Wuthering Heights is the third production of the Minnesota Opera New Works Initiative, a multi-year program designed to infuse the operatic art form with new commissions and revivals of contemporary American works.

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***Wuthering Heights* in HD**

Be a part of opera history! Minnesota Opera will be recording the April 19 and 21 performances of *Wuthering Heights* in HD for national and international release. A full press release is forthcoming. The HD recording is made possible by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and Cultural STAR Program.

To learn more about *Wuthering Heights* ...

Please visit our website at mnoopera.org or consider the opportunities listed below. On the website you will find casting updates, artist biographies, synopses, background notes, education program information, audio and video clips, suggestions for further reading and listening, ticketing services and other company information.

Bruce Crawford's radio documentary, "**Bernard Herrmann: A Celebration of His Life and Music**," is available at mnoopera.org/herrmannaudio.

Other Minnesota Opera Events:

***Wuthering Heights*: Is This Love?**

Explore literature's most heartrending and complicated relationship on **Monday, March 28, 7pm**, at Open Book, 1011 Washington Avenue South in Minneapolis. MinnPost's Book Club Club host **SALLY WILLIAMS** will moderate a distinguished panel, including **DIANA POSTLETHWAITE**, Chair of the St. Olaf English Department and Brontë scholar, **SARA HOPPE**, co-owner and psychologist at Grove Psychotherapy in Minneapolis and stage director **ERIC SIMONSON**. Minnesota Opera artists will present musical excerpts from the opera. Co-presented by **MINNESOTA OPERA**, **MINNPOST.COM** and the **LOFT LITERARY CENTER**, this event is free and open to the public. RSVP online at mnoopera.org/events or call the Minnesota Opera Ticket Office at 612.333.6669, Monday–Friday, 9am–6pm.

In Context: Bernard Herrmann

MINNESOTA OPERA, **THE WALKER** and **TAKE-UP PRODUCTIONS** bring fresh insights to *Wuthering Heights* and Herrmann's artistry in general through the screening of two classics preserved in the National Film Registry. On **Wednesday, March 30, 7:30pm**, **William Wyler's *Wuthering Heights* (1939)**, and on **Wednesday, April 6, 7:30pm**, **Orson Welles' *Citizen Kane***, will be presented at the Walker Art Center, 1750 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis. Join Walker film curator **SHERYL MOUSLEY** and **ERIC SIMONSON**, the opera's stage director and dramaturg, prior to the March 30 presentation of *Wuthering Heights* for a post-screening discussion on the novel's adaptations in film, television and opera. Purchase tickets online at walkerart.org or call 612.375.7600.

Tempo Presents: Ghosts in the Graveyard

Gather up your courage and come along with Tempo on a haunted tour of Saint Paul, courtesy of Wabasha Street Caves, on **Thursday, March 31, 7pm**, starting at Joseph's Grill, 140 Wabasha Street South in Saint Paul. Join us as Academy Award-winning director **ERIC SIMONSON** and Minnesota Public Radio's Classical Music Host **JOHN BIRGE** discuss the supernatural elements of *Wuthering Heights*. Tickets are \$5 (Tempo members) and \$15 (non-members). Purchase tickets or find membership information at mnoopera.org/tempo or call the Minnesota Opera Ticket Office at 612.333.6669, Monday–Friday, 9am–6pm.

Herrmann: Eight Themes in the Key of Suspense

From **Friday, April 1, through Sunday, May 1**, **MINNESOTA OPERA** and **TAKE-UP PRODUCTIONS** will present a thrilling five-week festival of films featuring scores by Bernard Herrmann. All screenings will be held at the Riverview Theater, 3800 42nd Avenue South, or The Trylon, 3258 Minnehaha Avenue, both in Minneapolis. Tickets are \$8 each. Purchase tickets online at take-up.org/series/40/ or call 612.424.5468. Complete information on the festival can be found at mnoopera.org/bernardherrmannfilmfestival.

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| April 1–3: | <i>The Man Who Knew Too Much</i> (1956), Alfred Hitchcock |
| April 4: | <i>North by Northwest</i> (1959), Alfred Hitchcock |
| April 8–10: | <i>Fahrenheit 451</i> (1966), François Truffaut |
| April 11: | <i>Psycho</i> (1960), Alfred Hitchcock |
| April 15–17: | <i>Cape Fear</i> (1991), Martin Scorsese |

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- April 18: *Vertigo* (1958), Alfred Hitchcock
April 22–24: *Sisters* (1973), Brian DePalma
April 29–May 1: *Taxi Driver* (1976), Martin Scorsese

Adult Education Class: *Wuthering Heights*

Wuthering Heights was considered by Herrmann himself as the masterwork of his life, and leaving no room for revisions, his opera wasn't performed until after his death. Noted film expert **BRUCE CRAWFORD** discusses Bernard Herrmann's life and career on **Monday, April 4, 7pm**, at the Minnesota Opera Center, 620 North First Street in Minneapolis' North Loop. Tour the Opera Center prior to the class – meet at 6:15pm in the lobby to see where costumes are designed and sets are built. Purchase tickets at mnopera.org/events or call the Minnesota Opera Ticket Office at 612.333.6669, Monday–Friday, 9am–6pm.

Project Opera Presents: *Tom Thumb*

Project Opera, Minnesota Opera's co-ed youth opera training program, will perform a staged production of Hans Werner Henze's *Tom Thumb* on **Saturday, April 9, 1pm and 3:30pm**, at The Ritz Theater, 345 13th Avenue Northeast, Minneapolis. Unique in the operatic repertoire as it was originally written for children to perform for other children, this piece is based on the Carlo Collodi (author of *Pinocchio*) version of the classic tale and will be performed in English. Tickets are \$15 (adults) and \$5 (children). Purchase tickets at ritzdolls.com or call 612.436.1129. For more information on Project Opera, visit mnopera.org/learn.

Bernard Herrmann: Music Goes to the Movies (with a side trip to the opera)

Join moderator **PHILLIP GAINSLEY** and Minnesota composer **ADAM WERNICK** in a lively discussion about one of Hollywood's legendary composers and the art of scoring for film and stage on **Sunday, April 10, 2pm**, at the Minnesota Opera Center, 620 North First Street in Minneapolis' North Loop. Tickets are \$8. Purchase tickets by calling 952.381.3449. Co-presented by **MINNESOTA OPERA**, **RIMON: THE MINNESOTA JEWISH ARTS COUNCIL** – an initiative of the Minneapolis Jewish Federation – and the **MINNEAPOLIS JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL**.

Minnesota Public Radio Broadcast of *Salome* (2010)

Minnesota Public Radio will broadcast Minnesota Opera's 2010 production of Strauss' *Salome*, starring **MLADA KHUDOLEY** and **JASON HOWARD**, on **Wednesday, April 13, 8pm**.

An Afternoon with Rimon at the Opera

RIMON: THE MINNESOTA JEWISH ARTS COUNCIL offers refreshments, a pre-show talk with Minnesota Opera's new President and General Director, **ALLAN NAPLAN**, and tickets to the matinee performance of *Wuthering Heights* on **Sunday, April 17, 1pm**, at Ordway, 345 Washington Street, Saint Paul. Tickets are \$75 (including matinee ticket). To purchase, call the Minnesota Opera Ticket Office at 612.333.6669, Monday–Friday, 9am–6pm.

Opera Insights

One hour before show time, Minnesota Opera Resident Artist **JEREMY REGER** and artistic staff members present Opera Insights – free, fun and informative 30-minute sessions held prior to each performance in Ordway's Marzitelli Foyer.

The 2010–2011 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.