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NEWS RELEASE

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Minnesota Opera to capture *Wuthering Heights* in HD video

Minneapolis – Minnesota Opera announces it will record its new production of Bernard Herrmann's *Wuthering Heights* in HD video for national and international release. Recording of this production will occur during the performances on Tuesday, April 19, and Thursday, April 21, 2011. The Opera is committed to the production and proliferation of new works and, through this recording supported by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the St. Paul Cultural STAR program and the Minnesota Opera New Works Initiative Committee, *Wuthering Heights* will be given life well beyond its week onstage at Ordway.

Electronic distribution is a focus of the **MINNESOTA OPERA NEW WORKS INITIATIVE**, a landmark program designed to invigorate the operatic repertoire with an infusion of contemporary works. In future seasons, the initiative will include three commissions by American composers, all of which the company plans to record in HD, as well as revivals of masterworks like *Wuthering Heights*.

Composer Bernard Herrmann, who crafted the scores to films such as *Vertigo*, *North by Northwest* and many other classics, considered *Wuthering Heights*, which was his only opera, to be his life's greatest work. This April, Minnesota Opera will be only the second company to produce the opera, and though performances at Ordway serve up to 9,000 audience members, by recording in HD video for future distribution, this work can be introduced to exponential numbers of new audiences, giving new life to a nearly unknown opera by a legendary American composer.

Minnesota Opera is partnering with **MOVING PICTURES, INC.** on this HD production. Emmy Award-winning director **JOE BRANDMEIER** will produce and direct the recording. Based in Minneapolis, Brandmeier has worked all over the world with a wide variety of musical talent, from The Beijing Opera Company to Bobby McFerrin, U2, Janet Jackson, Wyclef Jean and Run DMC. Minnesota Opera is currently in negotiations with a number of media distribution outlets regarding the HD video's national and international release. Specific details are not available at this time.

The **JOHN S. AND JAMES L. KNIGHT FOUNDATION** promotes journalism excellence worldwide and invests in the vitality of communities in the United States where the Knight brothers once owned newspapers. Knight Foundation invests in ideas and projects that can lead to transformational change.

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