

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Minnesota Opera's *Lucia di Lammermoor* opens March 3

Minnesota Opera's acclaimed Bel Canto series
continues with Donizetti's masterpiece

Soprano Susanna Phillips returns in the title role with
tenor Michael Spyres and baritone James Westman

- What:** Gaetano Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor*
Sung in Italian with English translations projected above the stage.
- Where:** Ordway, 345 Washington Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102
- When:** Saturday, March 3, 7:30pm Sunday, March 4, 2pm
Tuesday, March 6, 7:30pm Thursday, March 8, 7:30pm
Saturday, March 10, 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.
- Media:** An online press kit is available now at mnopera.org/luciakit, which includes full
bios, links to view design renderings, production photos and other useful resources.
Contact Communications Manager, Daniel Zillmann, to take advantage of the following
interview, photo and video opportunities: **Wednesday, February 29, 7pm; Thursday,**
March 1, 7:30pm and Friday, March 2, 11am (dress rehearsals at Ordway).
- Bloggers:** Minnesota Opera will host a **Blogger Preview Night**, including a reception with
conductor Leonardo Vordoni and exclusive access to the final dress rehearsal on
Thursday, March 1, 6pm. Email dzillmann@mnopera.org to R.S.V.P.

Minneapolis–Minnesota Opera is pleased to announce the continuation of its acclaimed Bel Canto series with Donizetti's masterpiece *Lucia di Lammermoor* featuring the return of Susanna Phillips in the title role. In this powerful and gripping opera, Lucia secretly loves Edgardo, her clan's enemy. Scheming to restore the family's fortune, her brother forces her into a loveless marriage – with disastrous conse-

continued ...

quences. Interpretations of this famous heroine by opera's greatest superstar sopranos, such as Maria Callas, Beverly Sills and Joan Sutherland, have thrilled audiences and rendered them legends. The intensity of this piece and the cast assembled for it should not be missed.

Winning the hearts of Minnesota Opera audiences as Eurydice in 2010, soprano **SUSANNA PHILLIPS** returns as the fragile heroine of this exhilarating masterpiece of melodic beauty and psychological depth. Alternating with her in the title role is **ANGELA MORTELLARO** (*Werther*). Internationally acclaimed tenor **MICHAEL SPYRES** (debut), noted by *The Wall Street Journal* for the "Bel Canto beauty" of his voice, is Edgardo, alternating with **NATHANIEL PEAKE**, who recently made his company debut as Werther on February 4. As Lucia's scheming brother Enrico, baritone **JAMES WESTMAN** (*The Barber of Seville*) returns, alternating with **HYUNG YUN** (*La bohème*). The role of Lucia's tutor Raimondo alternates with basses **BEN WAGER** (*Wuthering Heights*) and **JOSEPH BEUTEL** (*Werther*). In all performances, tenor **A. J. GLUECKERT** (*Silent Night*) is Lucia's fatefully betrothed husband Arturo, mezzo-soprano **VICTORIA VARGAS** (*Wuthering Heights*) is Lucia's faithful companion Alisa and **JOHN ROBERT LINDSEY** (*Werther*) is the captain of the guards, Normanno. Italian conductor **LEONARDO VORDONI** returns to the company after sell-out performances of *The Pearl Fishers* and leading the faultless musical direction of *Casanova's Homecoming*, both in 2009. This riveting production is a revival of a co-production by Minnesota Opera, New York City Opera, Pittsburgh Opera and Opera Colorado, directed by **JAMES ROBINSON** (*Casanova's Homecoming*) with sets designed by **CHRISTINE JONES** (*Joseph Merrick, The Elephant Man*) and costumes designed by **CONSTANCE HOFFMAN**.

THE CREATIVE TEAM

Conductor	Leonardo Vordoni
Stage Director	James Robinson
Set Designer	Christine Jones
Costume Designer	Constance Hoffman
Lighting Designer	Scott Bolman

THE CAST

Lucia	Susanna Phillips Angela Mortellaro+ (performs March 4)
Edgardo, <i>Master of Ravenswood</i>	Michael Spyres* Nathaniel Peake (performs March 4)
Enrico, <i>Lord of Lammermoor, brother to Lucia</i>	James Westman Hyung Yun (performs March 4)
Raimondo, <i>a chaplain</i>	Ben Wager Joseph Beutel+ (performs March 4)
Arturo, <i>Lucia's bridegroom</i>	A. J. Glueckert+
Alisa, <i>Lucia's companion</i>	Victoria Vargas+
Normanno, <i>Enrico's benchman</i>	John Robert Lindsey+

*Minnesota Opera Debut, +Minnesota Opera Resident Artist

To learn more about *Lucia di Lammermoor* ...

Please visit mnopera.org/season. On it you will find casting updates, artist biographies, synopses, background notes, audio and video clips, suggestions for further reading and listening, ticketing services and other company information.

The 2011–2012 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.