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News Release

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Minnesota Opera announces executive change

Minneapolis – Minnesota Opera today announced the resignation of its president and general director Allan Naplan for personal reasons. Naplan joined the company in March, 2011.

“I am grateful to the extended Minnesota Opera community for making my young family feel so welcome during my time with the company,” Naplan stated. “Minnesota Opera has a tremendous profile in the Twin Cities and throughout the opera industry, and I feel privileged to have been associated with this fine organization.”

“We are sorry to see Allan leave, as he is a person of immense talent and ability,” said **MINNESOTA OPERA BOARD CHAIR SIDNEY EMERY, JR.** “While Allan’s departure is regrettable, Minnesota Opera is in fine shape. We are well into the preparation of the season’s finale *Madame Butterfly*, which we expect to be a box office hit, have announced a wonderful program for the 2012–2013 season and have exciting plans for the company’s 50th anniversary celebration next year.”

The company’s Board of Directors has appointed Kevin Ramach as interim managing director. Ramach has been the company’s production director for the past six years and served with both Kentucky Opera and Minnesota Opera in production/technical roles over the past 23 years. Emery stated, “We are fortunate to have an individual of Kevin’s caliber and experience stepping into the leadership role.”

During Naplan’s tenure, Minnesota Opera marked a number of milestones, including: the world premiere of *Silent Night* by Kevin Puts; the commissioning of another world premiere, *Doubt* by Douglas Cuomo; the engagement of the company’s first music director, Michael Christie; and the company’s first webcast, *Werther*, in February. In addition, the company balanced its budget, achieved a 10-year high in season subscriptions and launched its education and outreach series, Opera Up Close.

Naplan was previously general director of Madison Opera, where he served for six seasons. During his tenure there, Madison Opera achieved record box office sales, enhanced education and outreach programming, increased fundraising and an expansion of the company’s season. Prior to his work at Madison Opera, he held key artistic positions at Pittsburgh Opera and Houston Grand Opera. An accomplished composer, his compositions have been performed at Carnegie Hall, Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Avery Fisher Hall, The White House and in 36 foreign countries.

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.

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