

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Minnesota premiere of Susan Kander's *The Giver* opens April 27

Project Opera commission based on Lois Lowry's Newbery Medal-winning novel

Community-supported Kickstarter campaign has raised more than \$20K

- What:** Susan Kander's *The Giver* (based on the novel by Lois Lowry)
Sung in English with English captions projected beside the stage.
- Where:** Minnesota Opera Center, 620 North First Street, Minneapolis, MN 55401
- When:** Friday, April 27, 7pm
Saturday, April 28, 10am, 2pm and 7pm
Sunday, April 29, 1pm
- Tickets:** \$18/Adult and \$8/children under 18.
Recommended for ages 8 and above.
Call the Minnesota Opera Ticket Office at 612.333.6669, Monday–Friday, 9am–6pm.

Media/

Bloggers: On **Thursday, April 26**, Minnesota Opera will host an official press night, including a meet-and-greet reception with **author Lois Lowry** and **composer/librettist Susan Kander** at 6pm and Project Opera's **final dress rehearsal** of *The Giver* at 7pm.

Contact Communications Manager, Daniel Zillmann, to R.S.V.P. for press tickets or inquire of interview, photo and video opportunities.

Minneapolis – Project Opera's first commissioned opera, *The Giver*, will have its Minnesota premiere April 27–29, 2012, in a fully staged production performed by Project Opera at the Minnesota Opera Center in Minneapolis. This new opera by Susan Kander is based on the popular novel by Lois Lowry, and was a co-commission with the Lyric Opera of Kansas City.

The Giver is a science fiction novel about a utopian community where there are no choices and where everyone has his or her place in the world assigned according to gifts and interests. The time has come for 12-year-old Jonas to become the new Receiver of Memory. He will be the one to bear the collective

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memories of a society that lives only in the present where “Sameness” is the rule. But Jonas soon recognizes the losses and discovers the lie that supports his community. He decides to change his world, but he cannot predict how that change will come about, or what that change will mean for himself and the “new child” Gabriel, whom he has resolved to protect. *The Giver* won the Newbery Medal, an award for children’s literature, in 1994.

Minnesota Opera’s first campaign through Kickstarter, an online crowd-funding website, successfully raised \$20,830 in support of *The Giver*. 164 members of Minnesota Opera’s family and extended family contributed via the Kickstarter page online, including Minnesota Opera Board members, staff, volunteers, Project Opera parents, members and alumni. There were also several gifts from project “backers” across the country, including donors in California, New York, Georgia and Kentucky. The success of this campaign reflects both statewide and national enthusiasm and philanthropic support of new opera commissions.

To learn more about *The Giver* ...

Please visit mnopera.org/season. There you will find background notes and biographies of author Lois Lowry and composer/librettist Susan Kander, as well as ticketing services and other company information.

About Project Opera

Project Opera, a training program for students in grades 4–12, is an important component of Minnesota Opera’s expanding education program for young singers. The program features two ensembles – Ragazzi and Giovani. In addition to their own concert schedule, Ragazzi and Giovani participants perform in the Ordway lobby prior to each of the Opera’s Sunday matinee performances. Led by Music Director Dale Kruse, Project Opera students learn healthy vocal technique, perform repertoire in the major operatic languages and study the fundamentals of acting technique throughout the year-long program. As enrichment activities, participants are also invited to attend the Opera’s student matinees, its intensive Day at the Opera training program and Summer Opera Camp. Project Opera’s most talented singers are invited to participate in the High School Apprentice Program, which includes individualized training and performance opportunities in main stage productions.

For more information on Project Opera, please call Education Director Jamie Andrews at 612.342.9573. You can also look up more information online at mnopera.org/learn or on the education website at imagineopera.org.

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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