

## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Donizetti's *Anna Bolena* opens on November 10

Minnesota Opera's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season continues with the final installment of Donizetti's Tudor trilogy, led by Music Director Michael Christie and a quartet of powerful voices: Keri Alkema, Kyle Ketelsen, Lauren McNeese and David Portillo

- What:** Gaetano Donizetti's *Anna Bolena*  
Sung in Italian with English translations projected above the stage.
- Where:** Ordway, 345 Washington Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102
- When:** Saturday, November 10, 7:30pm Tuesday, November 13, 7:30pm  
Thursday, November 15, 7:30pm Saturday, November 17, 7:30pm  
Sunday, November 18, 2pm
- Tickets:** \$20 – \$200. Call the Minnesota Opera Ticket Office at 612.333.6669,  
Monday–Friday, 9am–6pm, or purchase online at [mnopera.org](http://mnopera.org).
- Media:** An online press kit (available now on Dropbox at [bit.ly/mnoperapressroom](http://bit.ly/mnoperapressroom)) includes full bios, artist headshots, design renderings, production photos and other useful resources.  
Contact Communications Manager Daniel Zillmann to take advantage of the following interview, photo and video opportunities at dress rehearsals at Ordway: **Wednesday, November 7, 7:30pm** and **Thursday, November 8, 7:30pm**.
- Preview:** Minnesota Opera hosts its second **Social Media Preview Night** of the season for bloggers and tweeters, including complimentary appetizers, a social hour and pre-rehearsal discussion with **Music Director Michael Christie** at Amsterdam, and exclusive access to the dress rehearsal on **Thursday, November 8, 5:30pm**. Email Daniel Zillmann by November 2 to R.S.V.P.

Minneapolis—The walls are closing in on Anne Boleyn as she fails to produce a male heir for King Henry VIII, whose attention has wandered to one of her ladies-in-waiting, Jane Seymour. In an opera based on a real-life tragedy that outdoes many fictional plots, *Anna Bolena* bursts with vocal pyrotechnics. Donizetti's legendary masterpiece is a gripping tale of intrigue and betrayal. This sumptuous production marks the not-to-be-missed conclusion of Minnesota Opera's Tudor trilogy.

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Soprano **KERI ALKEMA**, heralded as “compelling, rich-voiced” by *The New York Times*, makes her company debut in the title role of the ill-fated second wife of King Henry VIII. Bass-baritone **KYLE KETELSEN** (*Faust*) makes his long-awaited return as the mercurial English king, with mezzo-soprano **LAUREN MCNEESE** (*Casanova’s Homecoming*) as Giovanna Seymour (Jane Seymour). Tenor **DAVID PORTILLO** makes his Minnesota Opera debut as Lord Percy, who seeks to win Anna back in this complicated royal love quadrangle. Resident Artist **VICTORIA VARGAS** (*Nabucco*) is Anna’s page, the court musician Smeton. Bass-baritone **RICHARD OLLARSABA** (*Nabucco*) sings the role of Lord Rochefort, Anna’s brother, and tenor **JOHN ROBERT LINDSEY** (*Nabucco*) is Sir Hervey, an official of the king. The team that created *Roberto Devereux* (2010) and *Mary Stuart* (2011) return: stage director **KEVIN NEWBURY** (*Werther*), set designer **NEIL PATEL** (*Wuthering Heights*), costume designer **JESSICA JAHN** (*Werther*) and lighting designer **D. M. WOOD** (*Werther*). Music Director **MICHAEL CHRISTIE** conducts the Minnesota Opera Orchestra.

THE CREATIVE TEAM

Conductor . . . . . Michael Christie  
Stage Director . . . . . Kevin Newbury  
Set Designer . . . . . Neil Patel  
Costume Designer . . . . . Jessica Jahn  
Lighting Designer . . . . . D. M. Wood  
Wig and Makeup Designers . . . . . Jason Allen and Ronell Oliveri  
Assistant Director . . . . . Daniel Ellis+  
Assistant Conductor . . . . . Aaron Breid+  
English Captions . . . . . Christopher Bergen

THE CAST

Giovanna Seymour, *Anna’s lady-in-waiting* . . . . . Lauren McNeese  
Anna Bolena, *wife of the King of England* . . . . . Keri Alkema\*  
Smeton, *the queen’s page and minstrel* . . . . . Victoria Vargas+  
Enrico VIII, *King of England* . . . . . Kyle Ketelsen  
Lord Rochefort, *Anna’s brother* . . . . . Richard Ollarsaba+  
Lord Riccardo Percy . . . . . David Portillo\*  
Sir Hervey, *an official of the king* . . . . . John Robert Lindsey+  
Princess Elizabeth, *Anna and Enrico’s daughter* . . . . . Edie Ruth Stenglein

\*Minnesota Opera Debut, +Minnesota Opera Resident Artist

To learn more about *Anna Bolena* ...

Please visit [mnopera.org/season](http://mnopera.org/season). There 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 Minnesota Opera season is sponsored by Ascent Private Capital Management of U.S. Bank.

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