

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Minnesota Opera's *Turandot* opens on April 13

Sopranos Irina Rindzuner and Helen Todd alternate in the title role of the final production of Minnesota Opera's 50th anniversary season

- What:** *Turandot* by composer Giacomo Puccini
Sung in Italian with English surtitles projected above the stage
- Where:** Ordway, 345 Washington Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102
- When:** Saturday, April 13, 7:30pm Sunday, April 14, 2pm
Tuesday, April 16, 7:30pm Wednesday, April 17, 7:30pm
Thursday, April 18, 7:30pm Friday, April 19, 7:30pm
Saturday, April 20, 7:30pm Sunday, April 21, 2pm
- 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 (available now on Dropbox at bit.ly/mnoperapressroom) includes 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 tech and orchestra dress rehearsals at Ordway: **Tuesday, April 9, 7pm** and **Thursday, April 11, 7:30pm** (Rindzuner cast) OR **Wednesday, April 10, 7pm** and **Friday, April 12, 11am** (Todd cast).
- Preview:** Minnesota Opera hosts its final **Social Media Preview** of the season for bloggers and tweeters, including refreshments, a social hour and pre-rehearsal discussion with special guest, Minnesota Opera Music Director **Michael Christie** at Sakura, and exclusive access to the dress rehearsal on **Thursday, April 11, 6pm**. R.S.V.P. to Daniel by April 8.

Minneapolis–Minnesota Opera is pleased to present its final production of the 50th anniversary season, Giacomo Puccini's *Turandot*. The cold, proud princess Turandot puts her suitors to the ultimate test in this exotic legend, set against the mystique of an imagined imperial China. Boasting stunning pageantry, richly colored orchestration and one of opera's most popular arias ("Nessun dorma") *Turandot* is an absolute powerhouse finale to the season.

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This opulent new production by French-Canadian director and designer team Renaud Doucet and André Barbe was built in the Minnesota Opera Center in the Minneapolis Warehouse District, and has won rave reviews across the nation for the companies that have staged it. According to *The Seattle Times*, “[This production] did more than ample justice to the spectacular side of Puccini’s last opera ... by the end we were not merely impressed but moved.”

Russian soprano **IRINA RINDZUNER** makes her Minnesota Opera debut as Turandot. According to *The New York Times*, her “... account of the daunting aria ‘In questa reggia’ from *Turandot* earned her a rousing ovation.” Ms. Rindzuner alternates the title role with soprano **HELEN TODD** (*Nixon in China*). Alternating as the icy princess’ determined suitor Calaf are tenors **ADAM LAURENCE HERSKOWITZ** (debut) and **SCOTT PIPER** (*Orazi e Curiazi*). The role of the slave girl Liù is Minnesota’s favorite soprano **KELLY KADUCE** (*Madame Butterfly*) who alternates with Resident Artist **CHRISTIE HAGEMAN** (*Nabucco*). Minnesota Opera veteran tenor **VERN SUTTON**, who debuted in the first Minnesota Opera (then Center Opera) production, Dominick Argento’s *The Masque of Angels* (1964), sings the role of Turandot’s father, Emperor Altoum. Resident Artist **RICHARD OLLARSABA** (*Anna Bolena*) is the exiled king, Timur, **MATTHEW OPITZ** (*Hamlet*) is Grand Chancellor Ping and **JOHN ROBERT LINDSEY** (*Silent Night*) is General Purveyor Pang. Former Resident Artist **BRAD BENOIT** (*Silent Night*) returns to the Ordway stage as Chief Cook Pong. New to Minnesota Opera audiences, this is a co-production with Opera Philadelphia, Pittsburgh Opera, Seattle Opera, Utah Opera and Cincinnati Opera. Debuting as *Turandot*’s creative team, director/choreographer **RENAUD DOUCET** and set/costume designer **ANDRÉ BARBE** are known for their integration of multiple production elements into a spectacular, dynamic whole. **GUY SIMARD** debuts as lighting designer and **MICHAEL CHRISTIE** conducts the Minnesota Opera Orchestra.

THE CREATIVE TEAM

Conductor Michael Christie (conducts April 13–20)
Stage Director Renaud Doucet*
Set and Costume Designer André Barbe*
Lighting Designer Guy Simard*
Assistant Conductor Aaron Breid*+ (conducts April 21)

THE CAST

Princess Turandot Irina Rindzuner* (performs April 13, 16, 18, 20)
. Helen Todd (performs April 14, 17, 19, 21)
Calaf, *an unknown prince* Adam Laurence Herskowitz* (performs April 13, 16, 18, 20)
. Scott Piper (performs April 14, 17, 19, 21)
Liù, *a young slave girl* Kelly Kaduce (performs April 13, 16, 18, 20)
. Christie Hageman+ (performs April 14, 17, 19, 21)
Timur, *an exiled king, father of Calaf* Richard Ollarsaba+
Ping, *the grand chancellor* Matthew Opitz+
Pang, *the general purveyor* John Robert Lindsey+
Pong, *the chief cook* Brad Benoit
Emperor Altoum, *Turandot’s father* Vern Sutton

*Minnesota Opera Debut

+Minnesota Opera Resident Artist

The Minnesota Opera season is sponsored by Ascent Private Capital Management of U.S. Bank.

Minnesota Opera combines a culture of creativity and fiscal responsibility to produce opera and opera education programs that expand the art form, nurture artists, enrich audiences and contribute to the vitality of the community.