

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Minnesota Opera receives \$100,000 grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation

Funding will support live outdoor simulcasts of Minnesota Opera's
season-opening performances in the fall of 2014 and 2015

Minneapolis—Minnesota Opera was awarded a \$100,000 grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation to simulcast the 2014–2015 and 2015–2016 season-opening performances in Landmark Plaza in downtown Saint Paul. “These simulcasts will launch the cultural season in Saint Paul,” said **CEO AND PRESIDENT OF KNIGHT FOUNDATION ALBERTO IBARGÜEN**.

Support in 2011 to Minnesota Opera's New Works Initiative from Knight Foundation was integral to the company's development of a new competency in the HD capture of its productions, a direct result of which is the upcoming national broadcast of the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Silent Night* on December 13, 2013, on PBS.

“We are so grateful to Knight Foundation for its continued support of our efforts to expand the audience for opera far beyond the limits of our mainstage performances,” said **MINNESOTA OPERA PRESIDENT AND GENERAL DIRECTOR KEVIN RAMACH**. “Their latest gift also contributes directly to our stated mission to ‘contribute to the vitality of the community.’ We believe an opera company should be accessible, and this gift from Knight Foundation allows Minnesota Opera to offer more free events, which is good for the Twin Cities, for Minnesota and for Minnesota Opera.”

“Minnesota Opera has long been an important part of Saint Paul's culture ... taking part in the Concrete and Grass Lowertown Music Festival, last season's free ‘Opera under the Stars’ performance of *La bohème* on Harriet Island and more. The Opera has not only been an important part of the community beyond the Ordway, but has also been a part of creating the vibrancy of our downtown, playing an important role in its revitalization,” said **SAINT PAUL MAYOR CHRIS COLEMAN**. “All of us at the city look forward to these major events in Saint Paul.”

Knight Foundation supports transformational ideas that promote quality journalism, advance media innovation, engage communities and foster the arts. The foundation believes that democracy thrives when people and communities are informed and engaged. For more, visit KnightFoundation.org.

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.

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