

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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La traviata, Verdi's signature tragic love story, opens March 5

**The world-famous classic that inspired *Moulin Rouge!*
features the long-awaited return of Elizabeth Futral
and the debut of Georgia Jarman in a twin-cast spectacular.**

- What:** Giuseppe Verdi's *La traviata*.
Sung in Italian with English translations projected above the stage.
- Where:** Ordway, 345 Washington St., Saint Paul, MN 55102
- When:** Saturday, March 5, at 7:30pm+ Sunday, March 6, at 2pm++
Tuesday, March 8, at 7:30pm+ Wednesday, March 9, at 7:30pm++
Thursday, March 10, at 7:30pm+ Friday, March 11, at 7:30pm++
Saturday, March 12, at 7:30pm+ Sunday, March 13, at 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:** Contact Communications Manager, Daniel Zillmann, to take advantage of the
following exclusive interview, photo and video opportunities:
Wednesday, March 2, at 7:30pm, and Thursday, March 3, at 7:30pm
(**Dress Rehearsals, Ordway, 345 Washington Street, Saint Paul, MN**)

Minneapolis—Violetta's romantic happiness is dashed in this heartrending story of a courtesan who falls for a younger man, Alfredo, but must give him up. He learns her true motive just in time for a heartbreaking reunion. Verdi's unforgettable characters and vivid portrayal of the decadence and consequence of Parisian high society inspired the 2001 Oscar-winning film, *Moulin Rouge!*

continued ...

La traviata is one of the world's favorite operas, and for good reason – it has the most well-known tragic heroine, Verdi's most intimate score and all the emotion of Parisian nightlife, both public and private. The captivating soprano **ELIZABETH FUTRAL+** (*Pelléas et Mélisande*), makes her long-awaited return as opera's most intriguing party girl, Violetta, opposite **BRUNO RIBEIRO+** (*Roberto Devereux*) as Alfredo, alternating performances with **GEORGIA JARMAN++**, who makes her Minnesota Opera debut, and former Resident Artist **DANIEL MONTENEGRO++**. **STEPHEN POWELL**, as Giorgio Germont, also makes his Minnesota Opera debut for all performances. The beloved Minnesota Opera production features the company debuts of director **LAWRENCE EDELSON** as well as the ambitious and adventuresome **MICHAEL CHRISTIE**, who conducts the Minnesota Opera Orchestra.

THE CREATIVE TEAM

Conductor	Michael Christie*
Stage Director	Lawrence Edelson*
Set Designer	Tom Mays
Costume Designer	Gail Bakkom
Lighting Designer	Josh Epstein
Choreographers	Megan McClellan, Brian Sostek

THE CAST

Violetta Valery, <i>a courtesan</i>	Elizabeth Futral+
	Georgia Jarman*++
Alfredo Germont	Bruno Ribeiro+
	Daniel Montenegro++
Giorgio Germont, <i>his father</i>	Stephen Powell*
Flora Bervoix, <i>friend of Violetta</i>	Victoria Vargas
Gastone, <i>friend of Alfredo</i>	Brad Benoit
Annina, <i>Violetta's maid</i>	Angela Mortellaro
Baron Douphol, <i>Violetta's protector</i>	Jonathan Kimple
Marchese d'Obigny	Michael Nyby
Doctor Grenvil	Ben Crickenberger

Friends of Violetta and Flora, servants

*Minnesota Opera Debut
+Performs March 5, 8, 10, 12
++Performs March 6, 9, 11, 13

To learn more about *La traviata* ...

Please visit our website at mnopera.org or consider the opportunities listed below. On the website you will find casting updates, artist biographies, synopses, background notes, education program information, audio and video clips, suggestions for further reading and listening, ticketing services and other company information.

Other Minnesota Opera Events:

Tempo Presents: Spectacular! SPECTACULAR!

Join us if you Can-Can-Can on **Friday, February 18, at 8pm**, at The Varsity Theater, 1308 4th Street SE, in Dinkytown, for a barrage of theatrical ravishment, a private screening to celebrate the **10th anniversary of *Moulin Rouge!*** and a special presentation by the artists of the opera that inspired the movie. Tickets are \$15 (Tempo members), \$18 (non-members) and \$20 (general admission at the door). Purchase tickets or find membership information at mnopera.org/tempo or call the Minnesota Opera Ticket Office 612-333-6669 Mon.–Fri., 9 a.m.–6 p.m. A huge thank you to our media sponsors: **CITY PAGES, L'ETOILE, METRO MAGAZINE, CLASSICAL MINNESOTA PUBLIC RADIO.**

Adult Education Class

A class devoted to *La traviata* will be held on **Monday, February 21, at 7pm**, at the Minnesota Opera Center, 620 North First Street in Minneapolis' North Loop. *La traviata* ("the fallen woman") documents the lives of Parisian courtesans in the 1850's with a love story that compelled Verdi to set it to music, largely due to the parallels with his own love life. Minnesota Opera Assistant Conductor and Chorus Master **DR. CLINTON SMITH** will illustrate just how far Verdi, through timeless arias and choruses, pushed the boundaries of social convention to explore the social, economic and sexual relationships between men and women.

Minnesota Public Radio Broadcast of *La bohème* (2010)

Minnesota Public Radio will broadcast Minnesota Opera's 2010 production of Puccini's *La bohème*, with **JAMES VALENTI** (who returns in the 2011–2012 season as Werther) and **ELLIE DEHN**, on **Wednesday, March 2, at 8pm**.

Opera Insights

One hour before show time, Head of Music **MARY DIBBERN** and artistic staff members present Opera Insights – free, fun and informative 30-minute sessions held prior to each performance in Ordway's Marzitelli Foyer.

The 2010–2011 Minnesota Opera season is sponsored by The Private Client Reserve at U.S. Bank.

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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