

## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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### *Hansel and Gretel* opens November 1

**This new production, directed by Doug Varone,  
is an edgy urban take on the classic fairy tale**

**What:** *Hansel and Gretel* by composer Engelbert Humperdinck. Sung in German with English translations projected above the stage. A new Minnesota Opera production.

**Where:** Music Theater at Ordway, 345 Washington Street, Saint Paul, MN 55102.

**When:** Saturday, November 1, 7:30pm      Sunday, November 2, 2pm  
Thursday, November 6, 7:30pm      Saturday, November 8, 7:30pm  
Sunday, November 9, 2pm

**Tickets:** \$25 – \$200. Call the Minnesota Opera Ticket Office at 612-333-6669, Monday–Friday, 10am–5pm, or purchase online at [mnopera.org](http://mnopera.org).

**Media:** An online press room (available at [mnop.co/files](http://mnop.co/files)) includes artist headshots, and marketing artwork. Check back for updated resources and information.

Contact Communications Manager Julie Behr to take advantage of interview, photo and video opportunities at *Hansel and Gretel* dress rehearsals at Ordway:

**Wednesday, October 29, 7:30pm and Thursday, October 30, 7:30pm.**

**Preview:** Minnesota Opera hosts a **Social Media Preview Night** for press members, bloggers, and tweeters to attend the *Hansel and Gretel* dress rehearsal at Ordway on **Thursday, October 30, 6pm**. The evening begins with refreshments, a cash bar, and a pre-rehearsal discussion with Head of Music Rob Ainsley. R.S.V.P. by October 28 at [mnop.co/preview](http://mnop.co/preview).

**Minneapolis** – Minnesota Opera is pleased to announce its new production of Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel* directed by Doug Varone and conducted by Anne Manson. The opera features mezzo-soprano Stephanie Lauricella and soprano Angela Mortellaro in the title roles, accompanied by the Zenon Dance Company.

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Based on the Brothers Grimm classic, this beloved fairy tale whips together frothy folk tunes with sumptuous orchestration into a deceptively sweet, deliciously dark confection that has delighted families for generations. Minnesota Opera’s new production of Engelbert Humperdinck’s enduring masterpiece is appropriate for grown ups and children who aren’t afraid of the dark.

Award-winning stage director and choreographer [Doug Varone](#) (*Faust*, 2009; *Cinderella*, 2010) returns to lead this new Minnesota Opera production. Instead of the traditional gingerbread house, Varone sets the production in an impoverished urban area in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century where the children are irresistibly drawn to a beautiful and strange carnival world. Varone choreographs the Zenon Dance Company, whose dancers are featured as mysterious and intriguing circus-like performers. [Anne Manson](#) (*The Adventures of Pinocchio*, 2009; *Mary Stuart*, 2011) returns to conduct the Minnesota Opera Orchestra. Hailed by *The New York Times* as “the conductor of choice for opera,” Manson has come to the forefront as one of the most exciting interpreters of opera in America today.

Former Minnesota Opera Resident Artist soprano [Angela Mortellaro](#) (*The Dream of Valentino*, 2014) performed opposite mezzo-soprano [Stephanie Lauricella](#) (debut) in *Hansel and Gretel* at Sarasota Opera in 2010. *South Florida Classical Review* called Mortellaro “... an exceptionally convincing Gretel ...singing with a rich, youthful soprano voice and strongly conveying Gretel’s terror at being lost ...” and praised Lauricella who “... gracefully stepped into the role of Hansel...displaying a fine high mezzo, and bringing apt rambunctious androgyny to the role”. Bass-baritone [Craig Irvin](#) (*Arabella*, 2013) sings the role of Hansel and Gretel’s poor father. Irvin debuted with Minnesota Opera in 2011 as Lieutenant Horstmayer in the world premiere of Kevin Puts’ Pulitzer Prize-winning *Silent Night*. Internationally renowned as a leading Verdi mezzo-soprano, [Marianne Cornetti](#) (*Aida*, 1999) stars as the mother and the evil witch.

Visit [mnop.co/hansel](http://mnop.co/hansel) to find casting updates, creative team and artist biographies, audio and video clips, show synopses, and background notes.

### The Creative Team

Conductor.....Anne Manson  
Stage Director and Choreographer.....Doug Varone  
Set and Costume Designer.....David Zinn  
Lighting Designer.....Robert Wierzel

### The Cast

Gretel.....Angela Mortellaro  
Hansel, *the brother*.....Stephanie Lauricella\*  
Witch/Gertrud, *their mother*.....Marianne Cornetti  
Peter, *their father*.....Craig Irvin  
Sandman.....Shannon Prickett+  
Dew Fairy.....Siena Forest+

\*Minnesota Opera Debut  
+Minnesota Opera Resident Artist

The 2014–2015 Minnesota Opera season is supported by Target.

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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.