

News Release

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Peter Rothstein Directs *Diana's Garden*, a Rediscovered Comedy from Mozart's Era

Artistic Director of Theater Latté Da and former Minnesota Opera chorister Peter Rothstein returns after his triumphant production of Mozart's *Così fan tutte* in 2011

MINNEAPOLIS (January 2, 2017) – Minnesota Opera brings *Diana's Garden*, a rediscovered musical gem from Mozart's era, to the Ordway stage on January 21, 2017. Diana, the goddess of chastity, is the target of Cupid's interference as he brings unwelcome love and passion to her sacred garden. Diana is torn between her requisite divine duties and her desire for a handsome man. Premiering the year after Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*, and with a libretto by Lorenzo da Ponte (famed for *Così fan tutte* and *The Marriage of Figaro*), *Diana's Garden* is a witty, effervescent farce full of winking social commentary on freedom, power, and love. This new production sets the opera's action in the 1950s, a time where overt sensuality was largely taboo.

"We are thrilled to welcome stage director Peter Rothstein back to Minnesota Opera," said President and General Director Ryan Taylor. "In addition to decades of thoughtful, innovative, and adventurous work as the founding Artistic Director at Theatre Latté Da, Peter is an accomplished singer, actor, and has directed for such esteemed organizations as the Guthrie Theater, Park Square Theatre and, of course, Minnesota Opera." Rothstein led Minnesota Opera's 2011 production of Mozart's *Così fan tutte*, which was acclaimed for its exceptional comic timing and masterful twist on a classic story for modern audiences.

"One of Minnesota Opera's greatest strengths and joys is finding new and interesting operas to present to our patrons," said Artistic Director Dale Johnson. "Our upcoming production of Vicente Martín y Soler's *Diana's Garden* is one of those kinds of pieces. The opera has fallen out of the repertoire since its premiere, but was exceedingly popular in its day. In this rediscovered gem from Mozart's era, you will hear a delightful score, perfect for a light frolic during January in Minnesota."

The opera is full of playful music sung by soprano Leah Partridge, who is making her Minnesota Opera debut in the title role of Diana. Minnesota Opera favorite mezzo-soprano Adriana Zabala (*The Manchurian Candidate*, *Wuthering Heights*) sings the role of Amore. Also making his house debut is tenor Alek Shrader, lauded by the *Chicago Tribune* as having "matinee-idol good looks" and a "sweet, open sound." Peter Rothstein, Artistic Director of Theater Latté Da, returns to Minnesota Opera after his triumphant production of Mozart's *Così fan tutte* in 2011 and brings his humor and light touch to this rediscovered comedy.

What: Vicente Martín y Soler's *Diana's Garden*
Sung in Italian with English translations projected above the stage

Where: Ordway Music Theater, 345 Washington St., Saint Paul, MN 55102

When: Saturday, January 21, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, January 26, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, January 28, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, January 29, 2017 at 2 p.m.

Tickets: \$25-\$200. Call the Minnesota Opera Ticket Office at 612-333-6669, Monday – Friday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., or purchase online at mnopera.org.

Media: Press information and digital assets are available at our [Online Press Room](#). Check back for updated resources and information.

The Creative Team

Conductor Michael Christie
Stage Director Peter Rothstein
Set and Lighting Designer Paul Whitaker
Costume Design Alice Fredrickson
Wig and Make-Up Design David Zimmerman

The Cast

Diana, *goddess of the hunt and of virtue* Leah Partridge
Amore, *son of Venus* Adriana Zabala
Endimione, *a shepherd* Alek Shrader
Doristo, *a shepherd* Craig Colclough
Silvio, *a hunter* +David Walton
Britomarte, *a nymph* +Alexandra Razskazoff
Clizia, *a nymph* +Gina Perregrino
Cloe, *a nymph* +Nadia Fayad

+Minnesota Opera Resident Artist

To learn more about *Diana's Garden*, please visit mnopera.org/dianas-garden. There you will find a full synopsis, artist biographies, audio clips, set and costume renderings, ticketing services, and other company information.

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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.