

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“Opera under the Stars” *La bohème* June 14–16

Concert program, parking information, food vendors and weather policy announced for Minnesota Opera’s free outdoor concert performances in Saint Paul, Minneapolis and Faribault

Mobile site will launch on June 14

- What:** “Opera under the Stars”
An outdoor concert performance of *La bohème* by composer Giacomo Puccini
- When/Where:** Friday, June 14, 7pm Harriet Island Target Stage, Saint Paul
Saturday, June 15, 7:30pm Lake Harriet Bandshell, Minneapolis
Sunday, June 16, 7pm Shattuck-St. Mary’s School, Faribault
- Admission:** Free and open to the public. No tickets are required.
Visit mnopera.org/opera-under-the-stars for more information.

(*Minneapolis/St. Paul*) Minnesota Opera is pleased to announce enhancements to the concert-going experience for “Opera under the Stars” on June 14-16, including an online concert program, maps and parking information, weather policy and on-site food vendors. The June 14 Harriet Island performance in Saint Paul will feature R. A. MacSammy’s, AZ Canteen and other local food truck vendors, and the Minneapolis and Faribault performances on June 15 and 16 will have dining options available. More information will be added to mnopera.org/opera-under-the-stars leading up to the performances. Minnesota Opera’s first mobile site will also be launched for these events on June 14, and will feature English translations of the opera.

Minnesota Opera presents these free outdoor concert performances of Puccini’s *La bohème* as encores to its 50th anniversary season and in appreciation for five decades of generous community support. These family-friendly events feature the Minnesota Opera Orchestra and Chorus and a cast of opera’s most beloved characters performing the heartwarming love story that inspired the Broadway musical, *Rent*.

Tenor **HAROLD MEERS** makes his company debut as the poet Rodolfo opposite soprano **KARIN WOLVERTON**, last heard in the Pulitzer Prize Award-winning *Silent Night*, as the seamstress Mimì.

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ANDREW WILKOWSKE (*Silent Night* 2011) and **RODOLFO NIETO** (*Hamlet* 2013) sing the roles of Rodolfo's friends, the painter Marcello and the philosopher Colline. **CHRISTIE HAGEMAN** (*Turandot* 2013) is Musetta, **BRAD BENOIT** (*Turandot* 2013) is Parpignol, **BEN CRICKENBERGER** (*La bohème* 2010) is Benoit/Alcindoro and **JOHN ALLEN NELSON** (*Turandot* 2013) is Shaunard. **LEONARDO VORDONI** (*Lucia di Lammermoor* 2012) returns to conduct the Minnesota Opera Orchestra and Chorus.

"Opera under the Stars" is presented in part by Target. The June 14 performance is made possible with funding from the Saint Paul Cultural STAR Program. The June 15 performance is a part of the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board's 2013 Music In The Parks series. The June 16 performance, hosted by Shattuck-St. Mary's School, culminates the Faribault Heritage Celebration and is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund. Minnesota Opera appreciates its generous media sponsors – Classical Minnesota Public Radio and MinnPost.

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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