



For Immediate Release

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**Michigan Opera Theatre's 2018-19 Season Opens with Gala Concert Featuring
Renée Fleming and the Joffrey Ballet**

Black Tie Gala to Feature Concert, Dinner and Afterglow

Saturday, Sept. 29 at the Detroit Opera House

Detroit, Sept. 12, 2018 - Michigan Opera Theatre's 2018-19 season opens Sept. 29 with a gala concert featuring opera star Renée Fleming and a special performance by the Joffrey Ballet. The event will feature a black tie sponsorship-level gala as well as a Young Professionals Party, including cocktails, dinner and an afterglow with music and dancing.

"Renée Fleming is among the most significant voices of our time, and we are overjoyed for her to launch our 2018-19 season in concert along with a special appearance by Victoria Jaiani and Dylan Gutierrez from the renowned Joffrey Ballet," said MOT President and CEO Wayne S. Brown. "This is a not-to-be-missed event, and we encourage our patrons to take advantage of this special treat. The Gala provides invaluable support for our education and community programs."

Fleming makes her Detroit Opera House debut direct from her Tony-nominated performance on Broadway in "Carousel." She will perform a variety of music from opera, Broadway and classical composers, accompanied by the MOT Orchestra and conducted by MOT Principal Conductor Stephen Lord. She will also perform music she has sung on the Silver Screen, including Academy Award-winning films "The Shape of Water" and "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri," as well as the film, "Bel Canto," opening this week.

"Renée Fleming has reached international fame singing in every major opera house, on Broadway and in performances at places like Buckingham Palace and the Super Bowl," said Lord. "We are thrilled she will be making her Detroit Opera House debut with this special concert featuring a range of music that will appeal to a variety of tastes."

Joffrey Ballet dancers Jaiani and Gutierrez will perform a pas de deux from "Swan Lake."

The complete program includes:

- Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart: Overture from "Le nozze di Figaro" Overture
- George Frideric Handel: "Bel Piacere" from "Agrippina"
- George Frideric Handel: "Ritorna, oh caro e dolce mio Tesoro" from "Rodelinda"
- Vincenzo Bellini: Overture from "Norma"
- Leoncavallo: "Mattinata"
- Vincenzo Bellini: "Casta Diva" from "Norma"
- Johann Strauss II: Overture from "Die Fledermaus"
- Richard Georg Strauss: "Da geht er hin" from "Der Rosenkavalier"
- Richard Georg Strauss: "Zueignung"
- Jules Massenet: "Méditation" from "Thaïs"
- Pyotr Tchaikovsky: "White Swan Variation" pas de deux from "Swan Lake," performed by Victoria Jaiani and Dylan Gutierrez of the Joffrey Ballet
- Licinio Refice: "Ombra di Nube" from the upcoming film "Bel Canto"
- Friedrich von Flotow: "'Tis the last rose of Summer" from "Martha," featured in the film "3 Billboards outside Ebbings, Missouri"
- Harry Warren (arranged by Alexandre Desplat): "You'll Never Know," featured in the film "The Shape of Water"
- Frederick Loewe (Johnny Green arrangement): Overture from "My Fair Lady"
- Adam Guettel: "Fable" from "The Light in the Piazza"
- John Kander: "Love and Love Alone/Winter" from "The Visit"
- Sting: "August Winds" from "The Last Ship"
- Stephen Sondheim: "The Glamorous Life" from "A Little Night Music"

Both the Sponsor and Young Professionals Party tickets include pre-concert cocktails, the concert and the Music & Movement afterglow. Sponsorship-level tickets will include an exclusive dinner and presentation, while the Young Professionals Party will feature a strolling dinner reception on the Detroit Opera House Sky Deck.

The schedule includes:

- 5:30 p.m.: Cocktail reception
- 6:30 p.m.: "An Evening with Renée Fleming" concert
- 8:30 p.m.: Sit-down dinner for Sponsors and Sky Deck strolling reception for Young Professionals
- 9:45 p.m.: Music & Movement afterglow

In addition to the concert, Fleming will be meeting with leading area neurologists as part of her "Music and the Mind" initiative. The presentation explores the power of music as it relates to health and the brain, especially in regards to childhood development, music therapy and cognitive neuroscience. The event is available to media wishing to cover the presentation. Contact Erica Hobbs for details at ehobbs@motopera.org.

Tickets for “An Evening with Renée Fleming” range from \$49 - \$149. Young Professionals Party tickets, including the concert, are \$125 per person. Tickets may be purchased online at www.MichiganOpera.org, by calling (313) 237-7464 or in person at the Detroit Opera House (1526 Broadway, Detroit).

Sponsorship-level gala tickets, including the concert, start at \$750 per person. To inquire about sponsorships contact Assia Likomanov at alikomanov@motopera.org or call (313) 237-3268.

For additional information visit <https://michiganopera.org/events/renee-fleming/>.

“An Evening with Renée Fleming”

Performed Saturday, Sept. 29, 6:30 p.m. at the Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway, Detroit

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About Michigan Opera Theatre

Michigan Opera Theatre (Wayne S. Brown, President and CEO; Stephen Lord, Principal Conductor, Dr. David DiChiera, Founder and Artistic Director Emeritus), one of the nation’s most vibrant nonprofit arts organizations, is committed to presenting opera and dance of the highest artistic caliber. Founded in 1971, the company’s mission is to serve as a major cultural resource to the state of Michigan and the city of Detroit. Visit the website at www.michiganopera.org.