



For Immediate Release

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**Michigan Opera Theatre to Present "The Barber of Seville"**

*Opera features famous "Figaro, Figaro!" aria, colorful 19<sup>th</sup>-century sets*

*Nov. 10-18 at the Detroit Opera House*

**DETROIT, Oct. 30** - Michigan Opera Theatre will present the Rossini classic "The Barber of Seville" Nov. 10-18 at the Detroit Opera House. The opera includes some of the most familiar music in the world, including the famous "Figaro, Figaro!" and "Una voce poco fa" arias, as well as vibrant period sets.

A prequel to "The Marriage of Figaro," "The Barber of Seville" is a comedic opera and the first based on a trilogy of plays by Pierre Beaumarchais. It tells the story of how Count Almaviva wins the hand of his beloved Rosina with the help of his clever barber, Figaro. Rosina is the ward of Dr. Bartolo, a watchful guardian who intends to marry Rosina himself for her dowry. With the assistance of Figaro and the power of disguise, Count Almaviva is able to outsmart Bartolo and marry Rosina.

MOT Principal Conductor Stephen Lord said "Barber" is an easily-accessible work and a great choice for a first-time opera-goer.

"Figaro's antics to unite two lovers have left audiences in stitches for generations," he said. "Filled with tunes familiar to audiences everywhere, it's easy to see why this is one of opera's best-loved works."

While most productions of "Barber" are set in the late 1700s, the MOT production is set during Rossini's time in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It features a colorful set, intentionally painted to look one dimensional, and a 19<sup>th</sup> century proscenium to create a theater within a theater. In a nod to Rossini, the set also features a large portrait of the composer, which oversees everything.

“It captures the energy and exuberance and absurdity of the story in a musical way as opposed to slapstick way,” said Director Christopher Mattliano. “The feeling is very nostalgic and affectionate for that period of time and is a celebration of Italian opera.”

The production stars real-life married couple Alek Shrader and Daniela Mack playing on-stage love interests Count Almaviva and Rosina. Lucas Meachem plays Figaro, his signature role which he has performed 57 times. Andrew Shore, the much-admired and versatile English baritone, plays the antagonist Dr. Bartolo. The opera is conducted by Christopher Allen.

An opera talk will be given one hour before each performance. The opera is sung in Italian with English supertitles projected above the stage.

This production is made possible by 2018 Fall Opera Season Sponsor, Ford Motor Company.

Ticket prices range from \$39 to \$160. Tickets may be purchased online at [www.MichiganOpera.org](http://www.MichiganOpera.org), by calling (313) 237-7464 or in person at the Detroit Opera House (1526 Broadway, Detroit).

For full casting and additional information visit <https://michiganopera.org/opera/the-barber-of-seville/>.

### **“The Barber of Seville”**

Music by Gioachino Rossini, libretto by Cesare Sterbini based on Pierre Beaumarchais’s French comedy

Performed at the Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway, Detroit

Saturday, Nov. 10, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 14, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 16, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 18, 2:30 p.m.

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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](http://www.michiganopera.org).