



For Immediate Release

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Michigan Opera Theatre to Present Tchaikovsky's Greatest Opera "Eugene Onegin"

Opera Opens Series Celebrating Literary Masterworks

Oct. 13-21 at the Detroit Opera House

DETROIT, Oct. 2, 2018 - Michigan Opera Theatre opens its 2018-19 opera series with Pyotr Tchaikovsky's "Eugene Onegin" ("Un - Yay - Ghen"). The work is Tchaikovsky's most popular opera, though he is better known as the composer for "The Nutcracker," "Swan Lake," "The Sleeping Beauty" and the "1812 Overture."

The opera tells the story of Eugene Onegin, a selfish, cynical aristocrat, whose snobbery and vengefulness lead to a life of regret and loneliness. After spurning the love of Tatyana and killing his best friend Lensky in a duel, Onegin finds himself lost, traveling around Russia unhappy and without purpose. When he eventually returns to St. Petersburg and sees Tatyana at a party, now married to a prince, he realizes his earlier mistake and professes his love for her, but it's too late. While she still loves Onegin, Tatyana remains loyal to her husband, leaving Onegin desperate and alone.

"It is a story of squandered romance and tragic honor, of regret and longing for the road not taken," said MOT Principal Conductor Stephen Lord. "With Tchaikovsky's rich orchestration, it is the epitome of Russian Lyric Opera."

The opera is based on the Russian classic by Alexander Pushkin and is the beginning of MOT's opera series based off of classic literature. Other operas in the series include Voltaire's "Candide" and John Steinbeck's "The Grapes of Wrath," as well as the classic Grimm's fairytale, "Hansel and Gretel." The season also includes opera favorite "The Barber of Seville," based on the novel by Pierre Beaumarchais.

"These stories touch on universal aspects of the human condition - regret, injustice, hardship - enabling them to withstand the test of time," said MOT President and CEO Wayne S. Brown.

“Our goal is to enable our patrons to leave the Detroit Opera House moved, connecting with characters and experiences throughout different cultures and time periods.”

The cast of “Onegin” includes Corinne Winters as Tatyana, Iurii Samoilov as Onegin, Jamez McCorkle as Lensky and Carolyn Sproule as Olga. The opera is conducted by Lord and directed by Stephanie Harvey.

An opera talk will be given one hour before each performance. The opera is sung in Russian 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, 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/eugeneonegin/>.

“Eugene Onegin”

Music by Pyotr Tchaikovsky, libretto by the composer and Konstantin Shilovsky, based on Alexander Pushkin’s novel in verse

Performed at the Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway, Detroit

Saturday, Oct. 13, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 17, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 19, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 21, 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.