For Immediate Release

U of M School of Music’s University Opera Theatre announces its 2011/2012 Season Featuring W.A. Mozart’s *Cosi fan tutte* and Robert Aldridge’s *Parables*

Minneapolis, MN (10/24/2011)—The University of Minnesota School of Music’s University Opera Theatre’s 2011/2012 season will feature W.A. Mozart’s *Cosi fan tutte* (November 17-20, 2011) and the world premiere of Robert Aldridge’s *Parables* (April 17-22, 2012) at Ted Mann Concert Hall (2128 4th St. S., Minneapolis, MN 55455). Tickets: $22 general admission; $12 for U of M students; group rates available. Two-for-one tickets for University students, faculty, staff, retirees, and alumni. Call 612/624-2345 or visit www.opera.umn.edu.

**W.A. Mozart’s *Cosi fan tutte* (School for Lovers)**  
*Libretto by Lorenzo Da Ponte, directed by David Walsh, conducted by Mark Russell Smith*  
Thursday, November 17, Friday, November 18, and Saturday, November 19 at 7:30 p.m.  
Sunday, November 20 at 1:30 p.m.

The shifting sands and moral ambiguities of human interaction, in particular the mysterious ambivalence of human feeling itself, are at the heart of this black comedy – the last and, arguably most provocative of the Mozart-Da Ponte operatic trilogy, which includes *Le Nozze di Figaro* and *Don Giovanni*. The premise of the opera seems not only to suggest the interchangeability of “objets d’amour” but perhaps, ultimately, the utter meaninglessness of any concept of enduring love in relationships.

Two young men, thoughtlessly and callously, place a bet on the fidelity of their fiancés. As both their own lives, as well as those of their “goddesses,” begin to unravel, they (and we!) are compelled to ask exactly what “lesson” has been learned here. Mozart and Da Ponte provide no easy or definitive answers but sweep us away with their customary brilliance on a journey to self-enlightenment that alternately torments and delights us, as it does especially the characters in the opera.

*(continues)*
Robert Aldridge’s Parables
Libretto by Herschel Garfein, directed by David Walsh, conducted by Kathy Saltzman Roney
Thursday, April 19, Friday, April 20, and Saturday, April 21 at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, April 22 at 1:30 p.m.

The events of 9/11, seared as they are into the collective consciousness of America, have triggered a powerful backlash against non-Christian-based religions and cultures, which comprise a significant portion of the country’s social fabric. This dramatic cantata by Robert Aldridge and Herschel Garfein, composer and librettist respectively for last season’s hugely successful production of Elmer Gantry, is a timely artistic response to the growing tendencies of racial and religious intolerance emerging across this nation and throughout the world, propelled by inflammatory catchphrases such as “illegal aliens,” “the global war on terror,” or the “threat of Islamic radicalization” (to America, Europe, the West, etc.).

Illuminating their theme by means of the three major “American” religions—Christianity, Judaism, and Islam—the cantata compelling argues the case for finding strength and promise, rather than menace and evil, in the extraordinary and rich diversity of the world’s cultures and celebrates this in a gloriously uplifting finale.

-----

Parking is available in the 21st Ave. ramp, one block southwest of the concert hall. Photographs available upon request. Email requests for photographs to marsh396@umn.edu. For more information on University Opera Theatre, visit opera.umn.edu.

Established in 1902, the University of Minnesota School of Music offers a dynamic, comprehensive program to more than 550 music students in undergraduate and graduate programs, led by a world-class faculty of more than 50 artists, scholars and teachers. The School of Music presents more than 400 free concerts per year. For a complete schedule of events, visit www.music.umn.edu or call (612) 626-1094 for a brochure.

###