For Immediate Release

U of M School of Music’s University Opera Theatre announces its 2012/2013 Season Featuring Verdi’s Falstaff and Britten’s A Midsummer Nights Dream

Minneapolis, MN (10/9/2012)—The University of Minnesota School of Music’s University Opera Theatre’s 2012/2013 season will feature Giuseppe Verdi’s Falstaff (November 15-18, 2012) and Benjamin Britten’s A Midsummer Nights Dream (April 18-21, 2013) at Ted Mann Concert Hall (2128 4th St. S., Minneapolis, MN 55455). Tickets: $20 adults; $5 U of M students & children; group rates available. Two-for-one tickets available for University of Minnesota faculty, staff, retirees, and alumni. Seating is general admission. Call 612/624-2345 or visit www.opera.umn.edu for tickets.

University Opera Theatre presents Giuseppe Verdi’s Falstaff
Libretto by Arrigo Boito | David Walsh, director | Mark Russell Smith, conductor
Thursday, November 15-Saturday, November 17, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, November 18, 2012 at 1:30 p.m.

After a lifetime of success as Italy’s undisputed King of Opera, Verdi could have been forgiven for wishing Otello to be his final word on the subject. He was enjoying a pleasant retirement and, initially, resisted attempts by fellow composer and his sometime librettist, Arrigo Boito, to lure him back into the operatic arena. One previous attempt at comic opera, early in his career, had failed disastrously, so Verdi was highly skeptical that, at the age of 78, he could suddenly master the genre. Fortunately for operatic posterity, Boito successfully persuaded Verdi to undertake the project and provided him with a brilliant text, distilling Shakespeare’s three ‘Falstaff’ plays into a vibrant, rollicking tale that inspired Verdi to create the greatest operatic comedy since Mozart’s Le Nozze di Figaro. Very rarely performed, Falstaff is a jewel and not be missed! More at opera.umn.edu.

Pre-opera lobby discussions begin 45 minutes before each performance.
Running time: 2 hours and 45 minutes (2 intermissions)

University Opera Theatre presents Benjamin Britten’s A Midsummer Nights Dream
Libretto by Peter Pears and Benjamin Britten
David Walsh, director | Sergey Bogza, Benjamin Klemme, and Erik Rohde, conductors
Thursday, April 18-Saturday, April 20, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, April 21, 2013 at 1:30 p.m.

Shakespeare’s play A Midsummer Nights Dream is arguably one of his most popular, but also one of his most psychologically complex and open to a broad range of interpretation. The play seems to be about the triumph of youth over age, of the senses over reason, and the world of dreams and love over the everyday life of the city. Benjamin Britten has perfectly captured the striking polarities and ambivalences inherent in Shakespeare’s original play in music of breathtaking beauty and poignancy.

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A Midsummer Nights Dream is not one of Britten’s most frequently performed operas, although perhaps his most beautiful score. Join our quartet of young lovers, Bottom and his amateur acting troop and the fairy world of Oberon and Tytania for adventure in the Forest of Athens! More at opera.umn.edu.

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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.

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