For Immediate Release

U of M School of Music’s University Opera Theatre announces its 2014/2015 Season Featuring Bizet’s La tragédie de Carmen and Mozart’s Le Nozze di Figaro

Minneapolis, MN (10/10/2014)—The University of Minnesota School of Music’s University Opera Theatre’s 2014/2015 season will feature Georges Bizet’s La Tragédie de Carmen (November 20-23, 2014) and W.A. Mozart’s Le Nozze di Figaro (April 16-19, 2015) 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 Georges Bizet’s La Tragédie de Carmen
Text and musical adaption by Peter Brook, Marius Constant, and Jean-Claude Carriere
David Walsh, director | Mark Russell Smith, conductor
Thursday, November 20 at 7:30 pm
Friday, November 21 at 1:30 pm and 7:30 pm
Saturday, November 22 at 1:30 pm and 7:30 pm
Sunday, November 23 at 1:30 pm

Carmen, the opera, is a product of the Romantic Era in Europe and its fascination with the exotic. As a gypsy, Carmen emerges out of the desert and into European consciousness as a projection of the “mysterious other”—alluring and sensual but also dark and dangerous. Living in the moment, as most gypsies have to do in order to survive, Carmen’s nihilistic approach to life and death is informed by Moorish fatalism in the face of the implacable attitudes of Christian society. Her essential nature, its free and irrepressible spirit, is expressed through poetry, song, and dance. When the cards tell her that her time has come, Carmen accepts her fate calmly, but she never relinquishes a profound sense of who she is. She meets death with the wind in her face.

Pre-opera lobby discussions begin 45 minutes before each performance.

University Opera Theatre presents W.A. Mozart’s Le Nozze di Figaro
Libretto by Lorenzo da Ponte
David Walsh, director | Mark Russell Smith, conductor
Thursday, April 16-Saturday, April 18, 2015 at 7:30 pm
Sunday, April 19, 2015 at 1:30 pm

Le Nozze di Figaro (The Marriage of Figaro) is a quintessential Enlightenment work of art, brilliantly exposing the decay of moral order in 18th century Europe. The feudal aristocracy had stagnated and atrophied—what had once been a system that represented a certain order and benevolence as it had evolved, now came under attack from within and without. As the nobility saw itself in danger of being overthrown, it responded in a reactionary way by attempting to preserve or restore customs and privileges that it had relinquished. Yet, it is a mistake to perceive in the Mozart/Da Ponte opera (or, indeed, in Beaumarchais’ play on which it was based) a political or revolutionary manifesto. In updating the production to the Edwardian era, we implicitly acknowledge that these patriarchal attitudes have remained intact and pervasive even in more contemporary society.

Pre-opera lobby discussions begin 45 minutes before each performance.
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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