



For Immediate Release

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Michigan Opera Theatre to Present David DiChiera's "Cyrano"

Opera composed by MOT Founder to Mark Retirement and Conclude 2016-17 Season

May 13-21 at the Detroit Opera House

May 2, 2017 - Michigan Opera Theatre will conclude its 2016-17 season with "Cyrano," the masterwork of MOT Founder and Artistic Director David DiChiera who retires at the end of May. MOT premiered the work Oct. 13, 2007 and will present four performances May 13-21 at the Detroit Opera House. The opera features the original singer, Marian Pop, in the title role, as well as the return of librettist Bernard Uzan as stage director.

"David started Michigan Opera Theatre in 1971 and nurtured it into the thriving opera company it is today," said MOT President and CEO Wayne S. Brown. "We are honored to present his masterwork as the capstone of this season celebrating his legacy."

Based on Edmond Rostand's play "Cyrano de Bergerac," the opera tells the story of Cyrano, a nobleman and poet whose insecurities over his large nose prevent him from pursuing his true love. Instead, he assists Christian, his handsome though less intellectually-inclined rival, pursue the heart of his beloved Roxanne in a heart-wrenching story of delayed passion.

DiChiera began composing "Cyrano" in 2000, inspired by longtime friend and colleague Uzan who suggested the work. Though composing in modern times, DiChiera's neo-Romantic, traditional style clashed with the musical trends of the 1950s and 60s, leading him to delay creating his own full-length opera.

For DiChiera, the character of Cyrano reflected his own journey as a musician. DiChiera said he immediately connected with the character and the story.

"I was drawn to the character of Cyrano whose exterior life was fearless and outgoing with exciting esprit and panache, but who inside suffered a sense of overwhelming inadequacy which kept him from achieving personal fulfillment," he said.

MOT Principal Conductor Stephen Lord said "Cyrano" is a moving work, not to be missed.

“David has composed an opera of beautiful melody wedded to a story that resonates with us all,” he said. “It is a work that reflects the love David has invested in the city, in MOT and in the operatic repertoire.”

In addition to Pop, John Viscardi will perform the role of Cyrano. The cast also includes Sarah Joy Miller as Roxanne and Sebastien Gueze and Jason Slayden sharing the role of Christian. The opera is conducted by Steven Mercurio.

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

Coinciding with “Cyrano,” MOT will be presenting the DiChiera Grand Salute tribute concert May 19, featuring world-renowned singers Denyce Graves and Christine Goerke, as well as American Ballet Theatre Principal Dancer Veronika Part, among others.

The 2017 spring opera season is presented by Cadillac. The opening night performance is presented in honor of Lee and Floy Barthel.

Ticket prices range from \$29 to \$152. 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 more information visit <http://www.michiganopera.org/opera/cyrano/>.

“Cyrano”

Music by David DiChiera, Libretto by Bernard Uzan

Performed at the Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway, Detroit.

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

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

Saturday, May 20, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 21, 2:30 p.m.

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About Michigan Opera Theatre

Michigan Opera Theatre (Wayne S. Brown, President and CEO; Dr. David DiChiera, Founder and Artistic Director; Stephen Lord, Principal Conductor), 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.