

MICHIGAN OPERA THEATRE

For Immediate Release

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Michigan Opera Theatre to Present Puccini's "The Girl of the Golden West"

Opera to be conducted by Stephen Lord in first engagement since appointed Principal Conductor

April 1-9 at the Detroit Opera House

Detroit, March 23, 2017 – Michigan Opera Theatre continues its 2016-17 opera season with Giacomo Puccini's "The Girl of the Golden West," conducted by Stephen Lord in his first engagement since his appointment as Principal Conductor. MOT will present four performances April 1-9 at the Detroit Opera House.

The rarely-performed work is considered to be among the best of the legendary composer. Set in the American West during the Gold Rush, the opera tells the story of Minnie, a gun-toting, saloon-owning Sunday school teacher, as she navigates a complicated love triangle with an outlaw and a sheriff.

"We are thrilled to offer this unique work for the first time to Detroit audiences," MOT Founder and Artistic Director David DiChiera said. "'The Girl of the Golden West' offers both the beautiful music of Puccini, as well as the exciting setting of the American Old West."

Known for its rich orchestration, "The Girl of the Golden West" highlights the talents of the Michigan Opera Theatre Orchestra while also featuring plot-driving arias that keep audiences on the edge of their seats. Its aria, "Quello che tacete," inspired "Music of the Night" from Andrew Lloyd Weber's "Phantom of the Opera."

"People will cry at 'La bohème' or 'Madama Butterfly,' but I cry at 'The Girl of the Golden West,'" Lord said. "The story is about redemption and overcoming adversity. These are themes everyone can relate to."

Lord was appointed Principal Conductor in November and will oversee artistic leadership of MOT through the 2018-19 season after DiChiera's retirement at the end of this season.

The cast of "The Girl of the Golden West" includes **Megan Miller** and **Melissa Citro** as Minnie, **Mark Delavan** as the sheriff Jack Rance, and **Rafael Davila** and **Jeff Gwaltney** as the outlaw Dick Johnson. **Mario Corradi** returns to MOT as director. For complete casting and production information visit www.MichiganOpera.org.

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

The 2017 spring opera season is presented by Cadillac. Additional support for this performance comes from the J. Ernest & Almena Gray Wilde Fund, the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and the National Endowment for the Arts. The opening night performance is dedicated in memory of Mandell L. Berman.

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/the-girl-of-the-golden-west/>.

"The Girl of the Golden West"

Music by Giacomo Puccini, Libretto by Guelfo Civinini and Carlo Zangarini

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

Saturday, April 1, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 5, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 8, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 9, 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), 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.