



For Immediate Release

CONTACT:

Erica Hobbs
(313) 237-3403

ehobbs@motopera.org

Michigan Opera Theatre to Present Opera on Art Patron Gertrude Stein

*"27" Explores the Paris Artist Salon of Where Picasso, Hemingway,
Fitzgerald and Matisse Gathered*

*March 2-3 at Arthur Miller Theatre, Ann Arbor
March 10-11 at the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts*

DETROIT, Feb. 15, 2018 - Michigan Opera Theatre will present Ricky Ian Gordon's "27," a contemporary opera about the Paris artist salon of Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas, with libretto by Royce Vavrek. The performances will take place March 2-3 at the Arthur Miller Theatre in Ann Arbor and March 10-11 at the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts in Clinton Township and feature artists from the Michigan Opera Theatre Studio. The opera is presented in partnership with the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance and the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts.

"27" tells the story of the inspired gatherings at 27 rue de Fleurus in Paris, where American expatriates Stein and Toklas hosted luminaries of art and literature such as Pablo Picasso, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Henri Matisse, and Ernest Hemingway. The opera focuses on the relationship between Stein and Toklas and explores themes of love, loss, change and art set throughout two world wars.

"Gertrude Stein and her Paris salon influenced and inspired some of the best artists and writers of all time. It is an incredible story to tell and one that is set to some truly beautiful music by Ricky Ian Gordon," said MOT Principal Conductor Stephen Lord. "We are excited to present this important work, performed by the exceptional emerging talent of our Studio Artists."

"27" marks the first production of MOT's 46th spring opera season and the fourth year of presenting full opera productions in venues outside the Detroit Opera House as part of MOT's commitment to expanding opera into regional communities. The performances will be MOT's fourth production at the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, following "Little Women" in 2017, "The Tender Land" in 2016 and "Frida" in 2015. MOT will make its debut at the Arthur Miller Theatre.

"In addition to performing at the Detroit Opera House, Michigan Opera Theatre is committed to serving our extended community with performances throughout the region and beyond," said MOT President and CEO Wayne S. Brown. "We are delighted to partner with the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance to present '27' in Ann Arbor and to continue our partnership with the Macomb Center of the Performing Arts for performances in Macomb."

The MOT Studio, now in its third year, is a young artist residency that provides advanced training and performance opportunities as part of MOT's mission to support the next generation of opera singers. The 2017-18 class, all of whom will be featured in "27," include Briana Elyse Hunter as Stein, Monica Dewey as

Toklas, Michael Day as Picasso and Fitzgerald, Harry Greenleaf as Leo Stein and Man Ray, and Erik Van Heyningen as Matisse and Hemingway. The opera is conducted by Roberto Kalb and directed by Jeffrey Buchman.

The production is made possible by General Motors, the 2018 Spring Opera Season Sponsor. It is also supported in part by an award from the William Davidson Foundation and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, with additional support from the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan.

Tickets for the Ann Arbor performances are \$30. Tickets to the Macomb performances are \$57. To purchase tickets visit www.MichiganOpera.org or call (313) 237-7464. Tickets may also be purchased through the Macomb Center for the Performing arts at www.MacombCenter.com or by calling (586) 286-2222.

For more information visit <http://www.michiganopera.org/opera/ricky-gordons-27/>.

"27"

Music by Ricky Ian Gordon, Libretto by Royce Vavrek

- Performed at the Arthur Miller Theatre, 1226 Murfin Ave., Ann Arbor
 - Friday, March 2, 7:30 p.m.
 - Saturday, March 3, 7:30 p.m.
- Performed at the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44575 Garfield Rd, Clinton Township
 - Saturday, March 10, 7:30 p.m.
 - Sunday, March 11, 2:30 p.m.

###

About Michigan Opera Theatre

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