



For Immediate Release

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Michigan Opera Theatre to Present Leonard Bernstein's "Candide"

Comic Operetta Celebrates Composer's Centenary

*March 9-10, Macomb Center for the Performing Arts
March 16-17 at the Berman Center for the Performing Arts*

DETROIT, Feb. 25, 2019 - Michigan Opera Theatre will present Leonard Bernstein's comedic operetta "Candide" in honor of the late composer's centenary. The work, based on the Voltaire novella, will feature artists from the Michigan Opera Theatre Studio. It will be presented at community locations: Macomb Center for the Performing Arts (March 9-10) and the Berman Center for the Performing Arts (March 16-17).

The story follows the life of Candide, a young man who faces a series of hardships with a cast of characters that includes his love interest Cunégonde, his foe Maximilian, the maid Paquette and their professor Doctor Pangloss, who teaches them that this world is the best of all possible worlds as it is the only world we have. The satirical work is a philosophical attack on optimism as the characters are challenged to maintain a positive outlook in the face war, murder, theft, illness and natural disaster.

"There are a great number of comic elements in it, but, in the end, it is full of heart and humanity," said MOT Principal Conductor Stephen Lord. "We - performers and audience alike - learn a tremendous amount about the human condition with some laughs and tears along the way."

The performance is the fifth year 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 fifth production at the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, following "27" in 2018, "Little Women" in 2017, "The Tender Land" in 2016 and "Frida" in 2015. It will be MOT's first production at the Berman Center since "Frida."

The MOT Studio, now in its fourth 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 2018-19 cohort, all of whom will be featured in "Candide," includes tenor Michael Day as the title character, baritone Harry Greenleaf as Dr. Pangloss, bass Allen Michael Jones as Maximilian, mezzo-soprano Katherine DeYoung as the old lady

and Cheyanne Coss as Paquette. Former MOT Studio Artist Monica Dewey returns as Cunegonde. The operetta is conducted by Daniel Black and directed by Keturah Stickann.

The production is made possible by General Motors, the 2019 Spring Opera Season Sponsor, and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Tickets are \$57 and are available online at www.MichiganOpera.org, via phone at (313) 237-7464 or in person at the Detroit Opera House Box Office at 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. Tickets may also be purchased through the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts at www.MacombCenter.com or by calling (586) 286-2222 or at the Berman Center for the Performing Arts at www.TheBerman.com or by calling (248) 661-1900.

For more information visit <https://michiganopera.org/season-schedule/candide/>.

“Candide”

Music by Leonard Bernstein, Book by Hugh Wheeler, Lyrics by Richard Wilbur

- Performed at the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44575 Garfield Rd, Clinton Township
 - Saturday, March 9, 7:30 p.m.
 - Sunday, March 10, 2:30 p.m.
- Performed at the Berman Center for the Performing Arts, 6600 W Maple Rd, West Bloomfield Township
 - Saturday, March 16, 7:30 p.m.
 - Sunday, March 17, 2:30 p.m.

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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.