



For Immediate Release

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BravoBRAVO! Celebrates 20th Anniversary with Experiential Attractions

Annual Detroit Opera House soirée to feature MET tenor Richard Leech with Beatboxer Stevie Soul

June 7, 2019

DETROIT, May 21, 2019 - Michigan Opera Theatre's (MOT) premier soirée, BravoBRAVO!, returns to the Detroit Opera House on June 7. This year marks its 20th anniversary with a theme celebrating the connection between the theater, the city and its residents: yOUR City. yOUR Stage. yOUR Story. The black tie event invites guests to participate in a variety of experiential attractions throughout the evening with interactive activities exploring Detroit's history and architecture. Per tradition, BravoBRAVO! features music, dancing and refreshments courtesy of the area's most popular restaurants and musicians. The pinnacle of the event will be a special performance by Richard Leech, renowned tenor at the Metropolitan Opera House, and local beatboxer Stevie Soul.

"BravoBRAVO! has become one of Detroit's most anticipated events, and we are honored to mark its 20th anniversary with a soirée that celebrates guests' personal connections to the theater and city," said MOT Chief Development Officer Frankie Piccirilli.

Interactive activities will include a Detroit history walk-through exhibit where participants will explore the Detroit Opera House to find historical markers, displays and props that showcase the history of Detroit, MOT and the theater itself. It will also feature a participatory painting exhibition led by Maker Trice Clark and Artist Candace Dove of Paint Party, as well as an improvised poetry slam by Reyes Poetry. Additional activities, including unique photo stations, will be stationed throughout the theater.

Leech and Stevie Soul will create a unique performance that blends classical opera with a modern twist. Local soprano Angela Theis will open with Puccini's "O mio babbino caro" aria, joined by Leech with a techno rendition of Eduardo di Capua's "O Sole Mio" with Soul and NuClassica's Natalie Frakes on electric violin. The performance will include ballet, contemporary and Jit dancers.

VIP ticketholders will also have the opportunity to enjoy a silent disco by Urban Fêtes presented by NerdsXpress. The experience provides headphones to participants, allowing them to choose their own music while dancing in a private lounge. The VIP lounge will include VIP food bites catered by Vertical Detroit and a private bar. VIP ticketholders will also enjoy Sky Deck photo opportunities, complimentary make-up touch-ups from EV Artistry and premium entrance into the event.

All ticketholders will have free entry to the official BravoBRAVO! after party at 3Fifty Terrace with DJ Godfather.

Proceeds from the event will go towards MOT's Create and Perform program, a two-week summer workshop where students ages 8-12 use improvisation to create their own stories, music compositions and dances, culminating in a final performance.

"BravoBRAVO! is a staple of the Detroit Opera House, but it also an important fundraiser for Michigan Opera Theatre," Piccirilli said. "While enjoying an evening dancing and mingling throughout the Detroit Opera House, guests support the opera company's outreach efforts to bring arts into the community."

The full line-up to date includes:

Musicians:

- DJ Godfather
- Midwest Dueling Pianos
- Nicole New
- DJ Todd Everett
- Nick Speed & Friends
- House Party Detroit
- Paramita Sound
- Omar Aragonés

Restaurants:

- Wolfgang Puck Steak
- Palette Dining Studio
- TAP
- MGM Grand Banquets
- Beans & Cornbread
- Cooking with Que
- Confections Factory
- Culinarian's Corner
- Detroit Beer Co.
- Dilla's Delights
- Good Cakes & Bakes
- Ice Cream Detroit
- YellSweets Bakery

Tito's Handmade Vodka is BravoBRAVO!'s Main Stage Presenting Sponsor. Also supporting the event are Making Waves LLC, Chemical Bank, Michael Einheuser, Jeremy Zeltzer and Kevin Dennis, Butzel Long, UHY, Comprehensive Dermatology Center, ABM Janitorial Services and The Smith Family Foundation.

BravoBRAVO! Co-Chairs include Vanessa Crocetto, Shelley Danner, Dave Jachulski, Amber Lewis, Elizabeth E. Mays, Michelle Nguyen, Stephen Oh, Kwaku Osei-Bonsu, Portia Powell and Nick Robinson. Additional support provided by committee members, Sonya Baker, Joyce A. Driver, Amina Khaliq, Gabriela Santiago Romero and Terrance Woods.

The event takes place from 8 p.m. - midnight at the Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway St. Detroit. General admission tickets are \$160; VIP admission is \$250. Tickets may be purchased online at www.MichiganOpera.org, by calling (313) 237-7464 or in person at the Detroit Opera House. For more information visit <https://michiganopera.org/season-tickets/calendar/bravobravo/>.

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About the Detroit Opera House

The Detroit Opera House, owned and operated by Michigan Opera Theatre (MOT), is one of Detroit's premier theaters and event spaces. Designed by C. Howard Crane and inspired by the grand opera houses in Europe, the theater opened in 1922 as the Capitol Theatre movie palace. After years of neglect, MOT restored and re-opened the venue as the Detroit Opera House in 1996 with a performance by Luciano Pavarotti. In addition to its primary role presenting MOT opera and dance performances, the Opera House is a leading venue for musical theater, concerts, weddings, graduations and corporate events.