



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Michigan Opera Theatre Cancels Remainder of 2019-20 Season**

**DETROIT, March 17, 2020** - Following the outbreak of COVID-19, Michigan Opera Theatre (MOT) will cancel the remainder of its 2019-20 season. The decision comes following federal, state and CDC recommendations to reduce social gatherings in an attempt to curb the spread of the novel coronavirus.

"While we are disappointed that circumstances have necessitated the cancellation of our spring season, the health and safety of our guests, artists, staff members and entire community are our greatest priority," said MOT President and CEO Wayne S. Brown. "We appreciate the support and patience of our patrons and donors, as well as our corporate, foundation and community partners in light of this difficult decision."

The cancellations include:

- "Champion": March 28 - April 5
- "Easter Jazz Spectacular": April 11
- American Ballet Theatre's "Swan Lake": April 16 - 19
- Michigan Opera Theatre Children's Chorus' "The Very Last Green Thing": April 25
- "Pagliacci": May 9 - 17

MOT is offering patrons who have purchased tickets to these performances the option to donate their tickets, exchange them for a future performance or receive a full refund. Ticketholders will receive further notifications via email and are encouraged to follow the directions listed rather than calling the ticket office. Information and refund/donation instructions can also be found at [MichiganOpera.org](http://MichiganOpera.org).

While MOT is happy to reimburse patrons for canceled events, Brown encouraged ticketholders to consider donating the cost of their tickets to MOT.

“Michigan Opera Theatre is a non-profit organization that depends on the support of its donors and patrons to survive,” he said. “The cost of mounting a production is significant, with many of those costs incurred before the performance opens and regardless of whether or not the show goes on. The loss of revenue from these performances represents a substantial hardship for the organization. Donations are tax deductible and go a long way to ensure MOT can continue to provide arts programming in the future.”

MOT continues to plan for its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary season, slated to open in October. The organization plans to announce its new season in the coming weeks.

For more information, visit [www.MichiganOpera.org](http://www.MichiganOpera.org).

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### **About Michigan Opera Theatre**

Michigan Opera Theatre, 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 by Dr. David DiChiera, the company’s mission is to serve as a major cultural resource to the state of Michigan and the city of Detroit. The organization is led by President and CEO Wayne S. Brown and Chairman of the Board Ethan Davidson. Visit the website at [www.michiganopera.org](http://www.michiganopera.org).