



For Immediate Release

CONTACT: Erica Hobbs
(313) 237-3403
ehobbs@motopera.org

**Michigan Opera Theatre Children's Chorus to Present One-Act
Children's Opera Online**

Performance Part of New "MOT Learns at Home" Program

May 22, 2020 on the Michigan Opera Theatre Facebook Page

DETROIT, April 23, 2020 - The Michigan Opera Theatre Children's Chorus (MOTCC) will present a one-act opera online as part of Michigan Opera Theatre's (MOT) new "MOT Learns at Home" educational program, within its "MOT at Home" digital campaign. The Chorus will present Cary John Franklin's "The Very Last Green Thing," streamed on MOT's Facebook page at 11 a.m. May 22. The opera had been originally scheduled for a live performance at the Fisher Theatre April 25.

"While we are disappointed we are not able to perform live at the Fisher Theatre, we are thrilled to work together on something never done before at Michigan Opera Theatre and few places elsewhere" said MOTCC Director Suzanne Mallare Acton. "During social distancing, we are glad to continue to provide musical education to our students and give them hope during these trying times."

"The Very Last Green Thing" is a futuristic story set in the year 2492 where students are taught and raised by an android with rare opportunities to go outside. After encountering a time capsule from the late 20th century, the children find a withered plant and the secrets unlocked from the planet's past.

The opera will be about 30 minutes long and will consist of more than 400 video submissions by 44 participants. Leading up to the performance, MOTCC leaders will provide behind-the-scenes glimpses of students and parents as they assist in creating the digital opera while social distancing. The videos will be presented via MOT's Facebook and Twitter channels as part of "MOT at Home," as well as its [webpage](#). MOT launched the initiative last month to provide daily digital opera and dance content during social distancing.

"MOT Learns at Home" will also include a web streaming of MOTCC's 2018 performance of "HMS Pinafore" on Detroit Public Television's [website](#) at 11 a.m. May 10, as well as curriculum content for teachers and parents on the "MOT at Home" website.

For both operas, MOT will provide ready-made lessons designed for distance learning on corresponding themes for teachers and parents leading up to the performances. The curriculum will be prepared by former children's chorus member Michael Bigelow, a sixth-grade teacher with a master's degree in elementary education and undergraduate degree in vocal performance.

"Michigan Opera Theatre has always been committed to arts education and supporting the next generation of arts lovers and performers," said MOT Director of Education Andrea Scobie. "Our goal is to provide resources and support to teachers and parents to continue arts education for their students during this period of remote learning."

"MOT Learns at Home" is sponsored by Cadillac. "The Very Last Green Thing" is additionally supported by the Worthington Family Foundation and the Center for Financial Planning.

"The Center for Financial Planning is thrilled to support MOTCC's virtual opera," said financial planner Jacki Roessler with the firm's charitable committee. "In this time of financial and emotional crises, music and the arts are a refuge for students and adults alike."

Founded in 2007, MOTCC is a leading children's chorus serving students ages 8-16 in southeast Michigan. For more information visit www.motcc.org.

###

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.