



For Immediate Release

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Michigan Opera Theatre Awarded \$1 Million Grant from the Knight Foundation

Grant will be used to fund non-traditional operas and engage new audiences

DETROIT, Oct. 31, 2018 - Michigan Opera Theatre today announced the company has been awarded a \$1 million grant from the Knight Foundation. The grant is part of the foundation's larger \$20 million investment in the arts in Detroit and will enable some of the city's anchor arts institutions to reimagine their relationships with the community through innovation and experimentation.

The MOT award will seed an innovation fund devoted to supporting the production of new works in opera as well as presenting a fresh look at masterworks from the canon for today's audiences. Payable over a five year period, this matching grant is designed to help enable MOT to further enhance the artistic quality of works that appear on the Detroit Opera House stage and throughout the community.

"We appreciate the confidence that the Knight Foundation has expressed in our work," said MOT President and CEO Wayne S. Brown. "A history of support from the Knight Foundation began with our late founder David DiChiera's work in 1980, and we are proud to continue our strong relationship."

In addition to regular annual fund support, grants from the Knight Foundation have contributed to other major projects including the Ford Performing Arts Center and the commissioning of DiChiera's opera "Cyrano."

The grant supports a continuation of producing works such as MOT's recent production of "The Summer King" about Negro Leagues baseball star Josh Gibson. The work featured unique jazz-inspired music, high tech LED sets and the year-long "Take Me Out to the Opera" community initiative celebrating African-American artists and

athletes. In the immediate future, the grant will support MOT's April production of "Hansel and Gretel," which features larger-than-life puppets and special effects.

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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, Principal Conductor Stephen Lord and Chairman of the Board Rick Williams, Chairman. Visit the website at www.michiganopera.org.