

# MICHIGAN OPERA THEATRE

For Immediate Release

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## Michigan Opera Theatre to Present Season-Opening Gala Featuring Renowned Tenor Michael Fabiano

*Concert to include performances by soprano Leah Crocetto, tenor Rodrick Dixon and  
American Ballet Theatre dancers, conducted by Steven Mercurio*

*Gala to honor tenor George Shirley and MOT Chair Rick Williams*

*Oct. 12 at the Detroit Opera House*

**Detroit, Sept. 25, 2019** - Michigan Opera Theatre's 2019-20 season opens Oct. 12 with a gala concert featuring renowned tenor Michael Fabiano, joined by soprano Leah Crocetto and tenor Rodrick Dixon. "An Evening with Michael Fabiano" will be conducted by Steven Mercurio and will also include a pas de deux from American Ballet Theatre (ABT) and performances from the MOT Orchestra.

"We are thrilled to open our 49th season with a special opening concert with these internationally-renowned performers," said MOT President and CEO Wayne S. Brown. "We invite opera and dance audiences to join us for this special event!"

Fabiano is an internationally-acclaimed singer, currently starring in "Manon" at the Metropolitan Opera. In addition to the Met, he performs regularly for other leading opera companies and houses including, the Royal Opera, La Scala, the San Francisco Opera, Opéra Bastille, Teatro Real de Madrid and the Berlin State Opera, among others. He is also a University of Michigan graduate and a student of renowned tenor George Shirley, who will be honored at the gala.

Crocetto is an Adrian, Mich. native whose credits include performances with the Metropolitan Opera, Opera National de Bordeaux, the Canadian Opera Company and the San Francisco Opera, among others. Dixon is most notable in Detroit as a soloist for "Too Hot to Handel," the annual jazz/gospel rendition of Handel's "Messiah" at the Detroit Opera House. He is also a renowned classical crossover artist whose career includes performances in opera, musical theater, TV and albums.

Their performance will include opera works from Verdi, Puccini and Rossini, among others.

ABT dancers Léa Fleytoux and Jarod Curley will perform the White Swan Pas de Deux from Tchaikovsky's "Swan Lake" ahead of the company's full production of the ballet at the Detroit Opera House April 16-91.

Gala tickets include pre-concert cocktails, a post-concert dinner and an afterglow, in addition to the performance. It will honor Shirley, the first African-American tenor to sing a leading role at the Metropolitan Opera, and MOT Chairman of the Board Rick Williams.

"We are proud of the close relationships we have with George Shirley and Rick Williams and are honored to celebrate them," he said.

The schedule includes:

- 5:30 p.m.: Cocktail reception
- 6:30 p.m.: "An Evening with Michael Fabiano" concert
- 8:00 p.m.: Dinner
- 10:00 p.m.: Dessert and Afterglow

Tickets for the concert range from \$35 - \$149. Tickets may be purchased online at [www.MichiganOpera.org](http://www.MichiganOpera.org), by calling (313) 237-7464 or in person at the Detroit Opera House (1526 Broadway, Detroit).

Gala tickets, including the concert, start at \$750 per person. To inquire about sponsorships contact Angela Nelson-Heesch at [anelsonheesch@motopera.org](mailto:anelsonheesch@motopera.org) or call (313) 237-3416.

For more information visit <https://michiganopera.org/season-schedule/michael-fabiano-concert/>.

"An Evening with Michael Fabiano"

Performed Saturday, Oct. 12, 6:30 p.m. at the Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway, Detroit.

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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 R. Jamison Williams. Visit the website at [www.michiganopera.org](http://www.michiganopera.org).