



For Immediate Release

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Michigan Opera Theatre to Present "Gianni Schicchi" and "Buoso's Ghost"

Double bill features Puccini classic followed by sequel by Michael Ching

Feb. 29 - March 1 at the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts

DETROIT, Feb. 18, 2020 - Michigan Opera Theatre (MOT) will present a double bill of Giacomo Puccini's "Gianni Schicchi" followed by its sequel "Buoso's Ghost" by Michael Ching. The performance will feature artists from the Michigan Opera Theatre Studio and will be presented at the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts.

"Gianni Schicchi," based on a real-life character from Dante's "Divine Comedy," is Puccini's only comic opera and features the famous aria "Il mio babbino caro." Following the death of wealthy Florentine Buoso Donati, greedy relatives are upset about their neglect in his will. They look to mischievous Gianni Schicchi for help, who turns on them with plans of his own. "Buoso's Ghost" picks up where "Gianni Schicchi" left off in which Gianni Schicchi, once again, outwits Donati's scheming relatives.

"'Gianni Schicchi' is one of the funniest works in the opera canon, and we are thrilled to perform it - and what happens next - with 'Buoso's Ghost,'" said MOT President and CEO Wayne S. Brown. "This special double bill is a great representation of Michigan Opera Theatre's artistic vision of presenting beloved classics as well as exciting new works."

The performance is the fifth year presenting full opera productions in venues outside the Detroit Opera House as part of MOT's commitment to expanding opera into regional communities. The performances will be MOT's sixth production at the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, following "Candide" in 2019, "27" in 2018, "Little Women" in 2017, "The Tender Land" in 2016 and "Frida" in 2015.

The MOT Studio, now in its fifth year, is a young artist residency that provides advanced training and performance opportunities as part of MOT's mission to support the next generation of opera singers. The production features resident baritone Darren Drone as Gianni Schicchi, resident tenor Edward Graves as Rinuccio and resident soprano Avery Boettcher as Lauretta. It also features former MOT Studio Artists Joseph Michael Brent as Gherardo and Harry Greenleaf as Marco. The operas are conducted by David Aronson and directed by Richard Gammon.

The 2020 Spring Season is supported by Cadillac. This production is additionally supported in part by awards from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, William Davidson Foundation and the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

Tickets are \$53 and are available online at www.MichiganOpera.org, via phone at (313) 237-7464 or in person at the Detroit Opera House Box Office at 1526 Broadway St., Detroit. Tickets may also be purchased through the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts at www.MacombCenter.com or by calling (586) 286-2222.

For more information visit <https://michiganopera.org/season-schedule/gianni-schicchi/>.

“Gianni Schicchi”

Music by Giacomo Puccini, Libretto Giovacchino Forzano, based on a character from Dante’s “Divine Comedy”

“Buoso’s Ghost”

Music and libretto by Michael Ching

- Performed at the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, 44575 Garfield Rd, Clinton Township
 - Saturday, Feb. 29, 7:30 p.m.
 - Sunday, March 1, 2:30 p.m.

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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.