

MICHIGAN OPERA THEATRE

Yuval Sharon, Gary L. Wasserman Artistic Director

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Michigan Opera Theatre moves *Cavalleria rusticana* performance to June 12, 2021

World-renowned talent joins Cavalleria rusticana: In Concert cast

DETROIT, April 29, 2021 - Michigan Opera Theatre leadership has postponed the first performance of the 2021-22 season to allow for more favorable weather conditions, and announces the production's international cast.

A concert version of *Cavalleria rusticana* was set to be performed at Meadow Brook Amphitheatre on May 15, but MOT officials have postponed the performance to June 12 to take advantage of more favorable weather conditions. While safety measures and social distancing have already been planned by MOT and the 313 Presents staff for the performance, both companies continue to operate with audience safety and comfort as their top priority.

"We may be postponing, but I am happy to say that our sensational cast will all be able to join us for the new performance date of Saturday, June 12," Artistic Director Yuval Sharon said. "In addition to Detroit Symphony Orchestra Music Director Jader Bignamini conducting the MOT orchestra and MOT's Associate Artistic Director Christine Goerke, this concert will feature Brian Jagde, internationally acclaimed for his portrayal of Turridu; Alfred Walker, a regular at the Metropolitan Opera, in the role of Alfio; Ronnita Miller as Mamma Lucia; and Catherine Martin, recently seen as Waltraute in *TWILIGHT: GODS*, as Lola. This is as perfect of a cast as you can imagine for this work!" The performance will feature the Michigan Opera Theatre Orchestra and Chorus. This upcoming event is a collaboration between MOT and the DSO and acknowledges a historic first year of new artistic leadership for both organizations.

Christine Goerke as Santuzza

Soprano Christine Goerke (MOT productions include *Elektra* and *Twilight: Gods*) has appeared in many of the most prestigious opera houses of the world including the Metropolitan Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, San Francisco Opera, Royal Opera House, Paris Opera, Teatro alla Scala, Deutsche Oper Berlin, Teatro Real in Madrid, and the Saito Kinen Festival. She has sung much of the great soprano repertoire, beginning with the Mozart and Handel heroines and now moving into dramatic Strauss and Wagner roles.

Brian Jagde as Turiddu

American tenor Brian Jagde brings his dynamic vocalism and captivating stage presence to this MOT production of *Cavalleria rusticana*. He has also appeared in several of opera's most iconic roles including Cavaradossi in *Tosca*, Calaf in *Turandot*, Don José in *Carmen*, Enzo Grimaldi in *La Gioconda* and so much more.

Catherine Martin as Lola

Praised by The Washington Post for her "gorgeous, warm voice that you want to keep listening to," American mezzo-soprano Catherine Martin continues to make an impact in repertoire ranging from Verdi and Wagner to Strauss and Bellini. She recently performed as Wellgunde in *Götterdämmerung* with the National Taichung Theatre in Taiwan.

Ronnita Miller as Mamma Lucia

Exclaimed as a mezzo-soprano with a "rich voice" by the New York Times, Ronnita Miller became a principal artist in the ensemble at Deutsche Oper Berlin where she remained until 2019 singing many roles including Mamma Lucia in *Cavalleria rusticana*, Third Lady in *Die Zauberflöte*, Mary in *Der fliegende Holländer*, Madelon Andrea Chenier, Ulrika in *Un Ballo in Maschera*. She has also conducted masterclasses at St. Petersburg College in St. Petersburg, FL; outreach classes in New York City and has written for a host of online publications including Interview En L'air.

Alfred Walker as Alfio

Lauded by Opera News for his "inky bass-baritone and clear projection," Alfred Walker joins Michigan Opera Theatre as Alfio in *Cavalleria rusticana*. Among his upcoming engagements, he will return to the Metropolitan Opera for further performances of Crown in *Porgy and Bess*, to Lyric Opera of Chicago to play Vater in *Hansel und Gretel*, and join San Francisco Opera as Scarpia in *Tosca*.

Ticketholders should hold on to their current tickets as they will be honored at the June 12 performance. Should ticketholders have a conflict with this new date, refunds may be requested until May 28, 2021 through Ticketmaster.com, or by calling 313.471.7443.

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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, the Gary L. Wasserman Artistic Director Yuval Sharon, Associate Artistic Director Christine Goerke, and Chairman of the Board Ethan Davidson. Visit the website at www.michiganopera.org.