

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA OPERA THEATRE PRESENTS 'STRAVINSKY IN PARIS' THREE SHORT OPERAS BY IGOR STRAVINSKY, NOVEMBER 19-22

Minneapolis, MN (10/15/2009)— This November 19 through 22, the University of Minnesota School of Music's University Opera Theatre will celebrate Igor Stravinsky by presenting three of his operas created during his time in the City of Lights: *Le Renard* (*The Fox*), a burlesque, in English; *Mavra*, a satirical folk tale, in Russian; and *Le Rossignol* (*The Nightingale*), a fantasy piece, in French in a program titled "Stravinsky in Paris." Performances will begin at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, November 19 through Saturday, November 21 and at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, November 22 in Ted Mann Concert Hall, 2128 4th St. S., Minneapolis.

This trio of short and pithy operas showcases Stravinsky at his witty and satirical best. *Le Renard* represents Stravinsky's take on the fable of the vain Cock who almost succumbs to the wily Vixen Fox before being rescued by the Goat and the Cat. *Mavra* is one of those "lover disguised as cook" parodies that perfectly suits Stravinsky's comic touch. *Le Rossignol* transforms Hans Christian Andersen's beloved fairytale into a musical fantasy that brilliantly combines the mystical with exotic baroque caricature to produce a poignant and very moving finale. "Stravinsky in Paris" offers audiences looking for something different, if not exactly new, an opportunity for a stimulating operatic night out!

David Walsh, University Opera Theatre Director, will direct "Stravinsky in Paris." Foster Beyers, Christina Chen-Beyers, and Jeffrey Specht, School of Music D.M.A. conducting students, will take on the artistic challenge of conducting an opera by the Russian composer.

A pre-performance discussion with Walsh begins 45 minutes before each staging in the lobby of the concert hall. Parking is available in the 21st Ave. ramp, one block southwest of the concert hall. Photographs available upon request. Email requests for photographs to marsh396@umn.edu. For more information on University Opera Theatre, visit opera.umn.edu.

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Established in 1902, the University of Minnesota School of Music offers a dynamic, comprehensive program to more than 550 music students in undergraduate and graduate programs, led by a world-class faculty of more than 50 artists, scholars and teachers. The School of Music presents more than 400 free concerts per year. For a complete schedule of events, visit www.music.umn.edu or call (612) 626-1094 for a brochure.

LISTING INFORMATION

University Opera Theatre presents “Stravinsky in Paris” - Three short operas from Igor Stravinsky's time in the City of Lights:

Le Renard (The Fox) (In English, based on Chaucer)

Mavra (In Russian, based on Pushkin)

Le Rossignol (The Nightingale) (In French, based on Hans Christian Andersen)

Directed by David Walsh; Conducted by **Foster Beyers**, Christina Chen-Beyers, and Jeffrey Specht

Ted Mann Concert Hall (University of Minnesota's West Bank Campus)
2128 4th Street South, Minneapolis, MN 55455

Tickets: \$20 general admission; \$10 for U of M students; group rates. Two for one tickets for University students, faculty, and staff. Call **612/624-2345** or click below.