

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

200 Ferguson Hall
2106 4th Street South
Minneapolis, MN 55455
www.music.umn.edu

Media Contact: Lisa Marshall
612/626-1094
marsh396@umn.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA SCHOOL OF MUSIC, THE VOICES OF VIENNA AND RUSSIAN SEASONS IN MINNESOTA PRESENT AN HOMAGE TO THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF RUSSIAN SEASONS IN PARIS, OCTOBER 25

Minneapolis, MN (10/19/2009)— On Sunday, October 25, Russian Seasons in Minnesota, the Voices of Vienna and the University of Minnesota School of Music will present “An Homage to the 100th Anniversary of Russian Seasons in Paris.” The performance will begin at 7 p.m. on Sunday, October 25 at the Park Square Theatre in St. Paul.

The stage will come alive with the warm, energetic voice of School of Music voice professor Philip Zawisza, baritone, in arias from Tchaikovsky's operas *Eugene Onegin*, *Queen of Spades* and *Iolanta*. Sharing the stage with Zawisza on this 100th celebration of Russian Seasons in Paris are singers of exceptional talent and the compositions of Tatyana Dikareva, creator of Russian Seasons in Minnesota.

The Land of Lakes Choirboys, directed by Francis Stockwell lend their voices to Russian melodies including a new composition by T. Dikareva who has also composed a ballet *How to Paint a Bird's Portrait* to be premiered by Andrew Lester (U of M Theatre/Dance graduate), choreographer and dancers from the St. Paul City Ballet. The Opera Orchestra, under the baton of School of Music D.M.A. student Foster Beyers, will perform the Waltz from the *Sleeping Beauty Ballet Suite*.

The concert is a collaboration between Russian Seasons in Minnesota, The Voices of Vienna and the University of Minnesota School of Music. A reception follows the concert and showcases the art of Vladimir Dikarev. Tickets are available online at www.russianseason-mn.com for \$20 - \$25. Parking is free on-street and in Macy's ramp.

Philip Zawisza, an internationally acclaimed singer, has sung beside Placido Domingo, Jesse Norman and Carlos Bergonzi having a 20-year career singing in opera houses and with symphony orchestras throughout Europe. He joined the University of Minnesota vocal faculty last fall and this September debuted with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra in their September concert of Berlioz's *L'Enfance du Christ* singing the father's role with the Dale Warland SPCO Chorale.

Joining Zawisza in Russian Romances and arias are Linh Kauffman (School of Music D.M.A. voice student), soprano, who recently returned from touring Germany with the Bachakademie Stuttgart directed by Helmut Rilling. Kauffman was a soloist with the Minnesota Orchestra last season and has recorded with the Oregon Bach Festival. Anna DeGraff (School of Music D.M.A. voice student), mezzo soprano, sings a tranquil duet from *Queen of Spades* with Kauffman while at the keyboard. Ms. DeGraff played the role of Diamond Vi in a new opera *The Medicine Show* composed by Carolyn Elderding (School of Music M.A. Composition student) premiered on October 9th at the University of Minnesota.

A Russian concert must have the bass voice and one will be provided by Nicholas Nelson (School of Music voice student, B.A. 2008) who played the role of Will in *The Medicine Show* and is a three-time Schubert Club scholarship recipient. Mr. Nelson was an apprentice at Central City Opera this summer and will also share his skill on the balalaika. Another bass, Chris Foss, a new member of the Cantus award winning vocal male chamber ensemble will add his talent singing "Dark Eyes" and "Kretchma" while playing his guitar.

Tenor Aaron Humble, co-artistic director of Cantus sings the Lenski aria and arioso from *Eugene Onegin*. Aaron has traveled internationally with Cantus and has soloed with the Minnesota Orchestra, Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra and the Boston Pops besides singing operatic and oratorio roles.

Along with several major musical organizations in the Twin Cities metro area who are showcasing Russian music during this subscription season, the University Opera Theatre is presenting "Stravinsky in Paris" to include three one-act operas by Stravinsky – *Mavra*, *Le Renard*, (*The Fox*) and *La Rossignol* (*The Nightingale*) to take place at the Ted Mann Theater November 19-22. Visit www.opera.umn.edu for complete information.

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.