

MICHIGAN
OPERA
THEATRE

David DiChiera, General Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: **Rebekah Johnson**
(313) 237-3403
rjohnson@motopera.org

CELEBRATE *CYRANO*
WITH MICHIGAN OPERA THEATRE

* * *

Special Events Surrounding the World Premiere Include a Film Series, Fine Food and Wine, and exclusive *Cyrano* Previews!

* * *

DETROIT, Michigan, August 20, 2007...Michigan Opera Theatre is pleased to announce an exciting array of activities and events surrounding the world premiere of David DiChiera's opera *Cyrano* to inform, entertain and indulge! Patrons and guests will look forward to the highly-anticipated opera premiere with classic films, delectable food and wine, lavish costumes, and exclusive previews with *Cyrano* composer, David DiChiera, creative team, and cast.

Get a great front-row seat and popcorn during the ***Cyrano* Film Series**, held in the 6th floor "Black Box Theatre" of the Detroit Opera House. The film series is comprised of three movies, which like the opera, are based on the play *Cyrano de Bergerac* by Edmond Rostand. The first, 1950's *Cyrano de Bergerac*, starring Jose Ferrer, will be viewed on **Monday, September 10, 2007**. The second film, 1990's *Cyrano de Bergerac*, starring Gerard Depardieu, will be shown on **Monday, September 17**, and the third, 1987's classic comedy, *Roxanne*, starring Steve Martin, will be shown on **Monday, October 1**. All films begin at 7 p.m. and will be held in the 6th floor Chrysler "Black Box" Theatre of the Detroit Opera House. Tickets are \$5 at the door, and admission includes refreshments. For more information on the *Cyrano* film series, call (313) 861-3500 ext. 3200.

Haberman Fabrics of Royal Oak and Michigan Opera Theatre will also present a very special evening with *Cyrano* composer David DiChiera and Michigan Opera Theatre Costume Director Suzanne Hanna, on September 11, 2007 at 7 p.m. This exclusive sneak-peek will showcase some of the over 150 lavish costumes made in Detroit for the world premiere, and will include a discussion on the creation of

Cyrano, light refreshments, and a chance to win tickets to *Cyrano* and a backstage tour. The event is \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. This special creative event will be held at Haberman Fabrics store at 905 S. Main Street in downtown Royal Oak. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.habermanfabrics.com or call (248) 541-0010.

Two very special events will afford guests the opportunity to mingle with the artists and creative team from *Cyrano* while sampling delicious French food. The Opera League of Detroit presents an **Afternoon Tea and Etiquette from *Cyrano* to Modern Times** with guest speaker Patricia Rodzik on **Wednesday, September 19, 2007 at 3 p.m.** The afternoon tea will invite guests to learn about the role of manners and customs in the 17th century while composer David DiChiera reveals details about the opera. The tea is open to the public, and will take place at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club in Grosse Pointe Shores. Cost for the event is \$30.

The Opera League of Detroit also invites guests to celebrate *Cyrano* with a feast for the palate! Everyone is invited to meet composer David DiChiera and librettist Bernard Uzan during the Opera League of Detroit's **Evening of Fine French Wines, Delectable Cheeses and Decadent Desserts** on **Thursday, September 20, 2007 at 7 p.m.** Guests can enjoy scrumptious food and beverage stations, with a *Cyrano* presentation and discussion by the composer and librettist in the Detroit Opera House auditorium. Tickets for the exclusive event are \$50. Contact Nikki Ruddy at (313) 237-3407 or nruddy@motopera.org for tickets or more information for the Afternoon Tea or the Evening of French food.

All *Cyrano* festivities lead up to the highly-anticipated World Premiere Festival Weekend, as the world premiere of *Cyrano* will include an entire weekend of celebrations for the work of *Cyrano* composer and Michigan Opera Theatre general director David DiChiera, the cast and creative team.

Beginning **Friday, October 12, 2007** with the 21st annual **Michigan Opera Theatre Opera Ball**, guests in black-tie apparel will enjoy dancing, mingling and fine food and drink presented in a grand tent on the grounds of the Detroit Opera House. Then, following the opening night world premiere of *Cyrano* on Saturday, October 13, a black-tie gala supper will be held at 9:30 p.m. in the Festival Tent. The celebratory evening feast will be attended by *Cyrano* artists and the creative team.

An event-packed weekend will conclude with a relaxing brunch with *Cyrano* artists in the Festival Tent on **Sunday, October 14 at 12 p.m.** A "question and answer" period will follow the brunch, and guest will have the opportunity to ask David DiChiera and the artists about the making of the opera and their reflections on the world premiere. For ***Cyrano* Festival Weekend** packages and further information, contact Heather Hamilton at (313) 237-3425 or hhamilton@motopera.org.

-more-

About *Cyrano*

In October 2007, **Michigan Opera Theatre** will present *Cyrano*, a world premiere opera by Company Founder and General Director, **David DiChiera**, and director/librettist **Bernard Uzan**, at the Detroit Opera House. This three-act opera, DiChiera's first-ever major opera, is based on Edmond Rostand's celebrated play of 1897, *Cyrano de Bergerac*, a romantic tragedy.

Over eight years in the making, *Cyrano* represents DiChiera in his debut as an opera composer, reuniting him with long-time colleague Uzan and a host of creative team members. For more than 36 years, DiChiera has produced opera and musical theatre productions, in addition to salvaging the Detroit Music Hall in 1971, founding Michigan Opera Theatre, and establishing the Detroit Opera House in 1996. His enormous and well-documented contributions to the cultural life of Detroit, in addition to founding Opera Pacific in Orange County and providing artistic vision for Dayton Opera, have earned him a special place within the rarified world of the performing arts.

Celebrating Cyrano: A month-long series of special events leading up to the highly-anticipated World Premiere

***Cyrano* Film Series in the Chrysler "Black Box" Theater at the Detroit Opera House:**

Cyrano de Bergerac starring Jose Ferer ~ Monday, September 10, 2007 at 7 p.m.

Cyrano de Bergerac starring Gerard Depardieu ~ Monday, September 17, 2007 at 7 p.m.

Roxanne starring Steve Martin ~ Monday, October 1, 2007 at 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$5 at the door

***Cyrano* and a Nose for Design:**

Tuesday, September 11, 2007 at 7 p.m. at Haberman Fabrics in Royal Oak

Tickets are \$10 in Advance and \$15 at the door

Visit www.HabermanFabrics.com for tickets and more information

Opera League of Detroit Presents:

Afternoon Tea and Etiquette from *Cyrano* to Modern Times

Wednesday, September 19, 2007 at 3 p.m.

Tickets are \$30, Call Nikki Ruddy at (313) 237-3407 or email nruddy@motopera.org for more information.

Evening of Fine French Wines, Delectable Cheeses and Decadent Desserts

Thursday, September 20, 2007 at 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$50, call Nikki Ruddy at (313) 237-3407 or email nruddy@motopera.org for more information.

***Cyrano* World Premiere Festival Weekend:**

21st Annual Opera Ball ~ Friday, October 12, 2007 at 8 p.m.

***Cyrano* World Premiere and Gala Supper** ~ Saturday, October 13, 2007 (World Premiere at 6 p.m., Supper at 9:30 p.m.)

Brunch with *Cyrano* Artists ~ Sunday, October 14 at 12 p.m.

For Festival Weekend Packages & Further Information, Call Heather Hamilton at (313) 237-3425 or email hhamilton@motopera.org

###