

For Immediate Release

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**Mixed Precipitation launches
a mobile operatic adventure for socially distant outdoor fun**

Pickup Truck Opera

Volume Two: The Magic Flute

Reservations Open June 15th

When: Performances July 31st through September 12th, 2022

Where: Performances throughout the metro and Minnesota, including the North Shore, Iron Range, southeastern MN, and Viroqua, Wisconsin.

Mixed Precipitation presents the second installment of their traveling operatic adventure. Unfolding on their pickup truck stage, this show is lively fun for all ages.

Mozart's 1791 opera, *Die Zauberflöte (The Magic Flute)*, is thrust into modern times and a not-so-distant future. Our young heroes are early-career professionals entering essential professions with a high risk of burnout. Young Tamino is a first-year teacher at an underfunded school, Strange Land Middle. Pamina is a mental health nurse, but she's been hijacked by a wellness startup. Rival forces attempt to control the destiny of the eager and impressionable heroes.

Mozart wrote this allegorical plot with his creative partner, Emanuel Schikander (playwright, theatrical producer, and comedian), to celebrate the ideals of Freemasonry. The opera premiered in Vienna just two months before his death at age 35. Artistic Director **Scotty Reynolds** and the Mixed Precipitation team have assembled a team of new voices to present a bold version of another opera classic. *"This is the 4th production we've created which draws inspiration from the drama of Mozart's music and the fantastical stories in his operas. We'll use the myths of Freemasonry and the Enlightenment to look at the conflicts of our time with joy and hopefulness."*

This futuristic telling of the opera is created by music director **Gary Ruschman**, playwright **Francisco Benavides**, and staging director **Taous Khazem**. Mixed Precipitation tells the story with a cast of singers, puppeteers, and instrumentalists, featuring Mozart's fiery arias, epic

choruses, and the groovy beats of the 90s discotheque, including Deee-lite, Pizzicato Five, Icelandic pop star Björk, and other 90s hits.

Sopranos **Corissa Bussian** and **Jennifer LeDoux** lead the cast, sharing the role of Pamina at alternating performances. Tenor **Roland Hawkins** plays the role of Tamino. Bass **Rodolfo Nieto** sings the role of Sarastro, and **Lizz Windnagel** plays the landmark role of the Queen of the Night. **Loki Embrys Graham** and **Nick Miller** split the role of the bird-catcher Papageno, Tamino's comic sidekick. Audience favorite, **Joni Griffith**, returns playing multiple roles, including Papagena. Multi-instrumentalists **Uchenna Chidozie**, **Joni Griffith**, and **GINNA Watson** bring Gary Ruschman's innovative musical arrangements to life. The design team includes scenic artist **Boo McCloud**, costume designer **Rhiannon Fiskradatz**, and puppet designs by **Lizz Windnagel**. Mixed Precipitation associate artist **Jac Miller** plays multiple roles and leads the choreography. At selected performances, **Julia Engle** plays the Queen of the Night.

The Pickup Truck Opera continues Mixed Precipitation's 14-year tradition of outdoor theater extravaganzas, touring Minnesota communities in late summer. Mixed Precipitation began this mobile format in 2020, using a blue 2011 Ford Ranger Pickup Truck and a trailer as the container and platform for the opera's action. This allowed them to reach audiences on neighborhood streets, public squares, libraries, and care facilities. They reached an audience of over 3,000 in 2021 with their production, *Pickup Truck Opera: Volume One - The Odyssey*. One audience member called their production "A magnificent, heart-warming, communal art experience."

Their 2022 summer tour includes performances in sprawling parks, nature centers, and farms all over Minnesota. Audiences are encouraged to bring a lawn chair and beverages for their comfort. The performance lasts approximately 75-90 minutes. All performances are outdoors. Watch their website and social media for weather delays.

Sunday, July 31st at 5:00 pm

at the Loppet Trailhead

1221 Theodore Wirth Parkway, Minneapolis, MN 55422

Thursday, August 4th at 7:00 pm

Cook's Country Connection

1953 Vermilion Dr, Cook, MN 55723

Saturday, August 6th at 4:00 pm

at Whiteside Park

721 East Sheridan St, Ely, MN 55731

Sunday, August 7th at 2:00 pm

Early Frost Farm

7273 Palo Tia Rd, Embarrass, MN 55732

Friday, August 12th at 7:00 pm

Hovland Town Hall

4957 East Highway 61, Hovland, MN 55606

Presented by the North Shore Music Association

Saturday, August 13th at 7:00 pm

North House Folk School

500 West Highway 61, Grand Marais, MN 55604

Presented by the North Shore Music Association

Sunday, August 14th at 1:00 pm

Finland Heritage Site

5653 Little Marais Rd, Finland, MN 55603

Presented by Lovin' Lake County

Thursday, August 18th at 7:00 pm

North Hennepin Community College

7411 85th Avenue North, Brooklyn Park, MN, 55445

Presented by the City of Brooklyn Park

Friday, August 19th at 6:30

Dream Acres Farm

17289 County Road 8, Wykoff, MN, 55990

Saturday, August 20th at 3:00 pm

Peace Plaza

1st Ave SW & 1st St SW (Street Level) Rochester, MN 55902

Presented by the Rochester Art Center and the Rochester Downtown Alliance.

Sunday, August 21st at 5:00 pm

McIntosh Memorial Library

205 S Rock Ave, Viroqua, WI 54665

Thursday, August 25th at 7:00 pm

Dodge Nature Center, Farm Education Center

1701 Charlton Avenue, West St. Paul, MN 55118

Friday, August 26th at 7:00 pm

Caponi Art Park
1220 Diffley Road, Eagan, MN 55123

Saturday, August 27th at 3:00 pm
TBD

Sunday, August 28th at 3:00 pm
Cedar Lake East Beach, "Hidden Beach"
2000 S Upton Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55405
Presented by the Kenwood Neighborhood Association, Hidden Acoustics

Saturday, September 3rd at 2:00 pm
Alexis Bailly Vineyard
18200 Kirby Ave. Hastings, MN 55033

Sunday, September 4th at 2:00 pm
Alexis Bailly Vineyard
18200 Kirby Ave. Hastings, MN 55033

Saturday, September 11th at 3:00 pm
Swede Hollow Park
657 East Beaumont St, St. Paul, MN 55106

Sunday, September 12th at 3:00 pm
JD Rivers' Children's Garden
2900 Glenwood Ave N, Minneapolis, MN 55405

About Mixed Precipitation

Mixed Precipitation's mission is to create festive theatrical events that inspire social engagement. Since 2009 they have presented their signature events, *A Picnic Operetta* and *Pickup Truck Opera*, at community gardens, urban farms, parks, orchards, and vineyards throughout Minnesota. The company showcases musicians and theater artists with fun adaptations of operas by Mozart, Handel, Beethoven, Purcell, and many others. Their work has been presented by St. Mary's University, Carleton College, The Sheldon Theatre of Red Wing, Historic Holmes Theater of Detroit Lakes, and community groups all over Minnesota. Their site-responsive outdoor performances have become a Minnesota summer tradition. Previous projects include the *Mpls Pinter Studies*, and the Winter Olympic Quadrennial salon and opera, *Tonya and Nancy* (2010, 2014, 2018).

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