



John Wehrle, General Director  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Desperate Housewives Have Nothing Over Comedic Drama in ‘Marriage of Figaro’**

**Omaha, NE** — Scandal. Suspicion. Gossip. It’s Desperate Housewives, circa 1780, with some gorgeous opera thrown in to add to the drama.

Opera Omaha presents *The Marriage of Figaro* Friday, Feb. 26 and Sunday, Feb. 28 at the Orpheum Theater. The storyline: On the eve of his wedding to the lovely Susanna, Figaro must outwit his master, Count Almaviva, who has amorous and scandalous intentions on the bride-to-be.

John Wehrle, General Director, Opera Omaha, calls *The Marriage of Figaro* one of Mozart’s most successful works, with popular and recognizable music.

“It is a cornerstone of the standard repertoire and one of the world’s great masterpieces in any form,” he said, “but it is also a comedy about the silly things love makes us do. And it’s laugh-out-loud funny.”

Yet this opera also holds another important distinction, Wehrle said. “*Figaro* is the quintessential first-time opera. If you’ve never been to an opera, or haven’t been in awhile and want to try it again, this is the one you should see.”

What gives it this distinction? Touching relationships between men and

women that everyone can genuinely relate to, a storyline that's easy to follow, a period of time people are familiar with and fascinated by, and its high entertainment value.

Although all of Opera Omaha's productions are visually stunning, Wehrle said Figaro is truly magnificent. "You are dropped into the familiar world of the 18<sup>th</sup> century with professional sets and costumes designed by masters of their trade. It's like watching a 'period' movie unfold before you, but right on the stage."

Garnett Bruce, Artistic Adviser and Principal Stage Director, said The Marriage of Figaro ranks among his favorite operas. "Watching Figaro and Susanna scheme, plan and succeed becomes a kinetic experience. Mozart's wry sense of humor reflects a humanity that hasn't changed much in 250 years — plans and desires get thwarted, and it's the clever among us that can turn a potential catastrophe into an overwhelming success. The clarity of the writing and the characters are refreshing and, unlike many other stories, there is very little "assumed" knowledge required. You don't need to know ancient myths or Greek gods or higher calculus. These characters introduce themselves and Mozart weaves them together into an exponential experience."

Performances are Friday, Feb. 26th at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 28th at 2 p.m. at the Orpheum Theater. Tickets are on sale now, just in time for Valentine's Day. Single ticket prices start at just \$19 and can be purchased through [ticketomaha.org](http://ticketomaha.org), by calling 345-0606 or at the Ticket Omaha box office at 13th and Douglas streets.

For more information on the performance, visit [operaomaha.org](http://operaomaha.org).