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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Opera Omaha Wants You to Make a Date with Opera's Bad Boy

Omaha, NE — With murder, jealousy, revenge and a trip to Hell, Opera Omaha wants you seduced by their upcoming production of Mozart's greatest masterpiece, *Don Giovanni*. General public tickets to the company's second production of their "2010-2011 Season of Journeys" go on sale January 27, which just happens to be Amadeus Mozart's Birthday.

Performances are February 25 & 27 at the historic Orpheum Theater in downtown Omaha. Garnett Bruce, Artistic Adviser of Opera Omaha, returns to direct a stellar cast of singers from around the United States. Last year, Garnett Bruce directed Opera Omaha's wildly successful production of *The Marriage of Figaro* and Bruce plans to further explore the themes of equality, liberty, and fraternity in what is considered by many to be the greatest opera ever written. Journey along with the womanizer Don Giovanni as his arrogance leads him to pay the ultimate price.

The story of *Don Giovanni* is loosely based on the Don Juan legends. Giovanni

is a philanderer who has had 2065 lovers in his lifetime. Giovanni kills the father of his latest conquest, Donna Anna, in a duel. Donna Anna and her fiancé, Don Ottavio, vow to avenge the death of her father. After trying to seduce Zerlina at her wedding party, Giovanni's list of enemies multiplies.

Giovanni, in his arrogance, visits the grave of the father he killed. The inscription on the monument reads "Here I wait to avenge my murder". Giovanni laughs and instructs his servant, Leporello to invite the statue to dinner. What follows is one of opera's greatest scenes as a shameless Giovanni hears an ominous knock at the door of his home while enjoying a luxurious banquet. Opera's bad boy crumbles under his own arrogance while stirring up tempers around him, alive and dead.

Brad Watkins, Communications Director at Opera Omaha, says "This is a story line straight out of a romance novel or soap opera! Thrilling music and top notch singing makes this a perfect opera for new fans and old. Come find out what it means to see grand opera"

Don Giovanni will be conducted by JoAnn Kalesza, and stars Kelly Markgraf, who appeared with Opera Omaha last year as the Count in *The Marriage of Figaro*. Other performers are Matthew Burns, Sandra Piques Eddy, John Bellemer, Dean Petersen, Tamara Wapinsky, and Daniel Belcher.

Don Giovanni performances are Friday, February 25 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, February 27 at 2:00 p.m. at the Orpheum Theater. Tickets start at \$19. To purchase go to ticketomaha.com or by call (402) 345-0606.

About Opera Omaha

Opera Omaha, the only professional opera company in Nebraska, began in 1958 as the Omaha Civic Opera Society, a volunteer association, and with tremendous community support became fully professional by 1970. Opera Omaha produces a

season of original mainstage productions, presented at the historic Orpheum Theater, and smaller productions and musical events throughout the community. Opera Omaha is internationally known for its productions of eight world premieres and four American premieres of classical masterpieces, and is highly regarded regionally for an extensive education and outreach program that annually reaches as many as 15,000 people from elementary school through adulthood.