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Opera for the Cure Aims to Embrace, Inspire

Omaha, NE — It's a frightening, emotional diagnosis shared by far too many women and their families. Breast cancer is a disease that has touched nearly all of us in some way.

This October, the journey through breast cancer for both survivors and their loved ones will be explored and embraced through a healing musical experience like no other.

Opera Omaha, in a unique partnership with the Nebraska Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure, will present "Opera for the Cure," a dramatic and moving multimedia concert about the journey through breast cancer that has captivated thousands with its uplifting messages of hope and determination. Patterned after the nationally acclaimed "Sing for the Cure —A Proclamation of Hope," which has been performed across the country for the past decade, the performance is a beautiful affirmation of the human spirit in the face of cancer.

Opera for the Cure will recognize not only the survivor's experience but also those of "co-survivors" — the partners, children, siblings and friends who are critical supporters in the battle with breast cancer.

“Throughout this emotional performance, Opera Omaha will pay tribute to survivors and their families, as well as to those we have lost, through music, singing, photography and stories,” said John Wehrle, Opera Omaha General Director. “The performance itself is a journey, and it’s the journey of life that counts. This proclamation of hope will be uplifting and will leave the audience inspired.”

The partnership between Komen and Opera Omaha began last winter, when Wehrle approached Susan G. Komen Executive Director Lynette Farhart about producing “Opera for the Cure” in Omaha.

According to Farhart, Wehrle’s emotional connection to the production, coupled with the show’s subtitle — A Proclamation of Hope —easily won her over. “Ultimately the message is: What are we going to do about this, and who is going to do it? It’s the community that’s going to make the difference and help each person get through it,” Farhart said.

In keeping with that community spirit, the public is invited to participate in the journey by submitting survivor and co-survivor stories and photos at operaforthecure.org by Oct. 1, 2010. The website will display these inspirational stories and photos through the weekend of the performance, and a few will be selected for projection on stage, for display in the lobby of the Orpheum Theatre and in promotional materials advertising Opera for the Cure.

According to Farhart, this is a performance not to be missed. “Sometimes when you see a really great movie, you cry through the whole thing even though you really aren’t sad. You’re relating to it. It’s touching and moving. This is like that. You walk away wanting to make a difference.”

Opera for the Cure performances are Friday, October 15th at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, October 17th at 2 p.m. at the Orpheum Theater. Tickets go on sale August 30th for as low as \$19, and \$5 of each ticket purchased goes to Komen Nebraska. To purchase tickets go to ticketomaha.com or call (402) 345-0606.