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OrpheusPDX continues its second season with Nico Muhly's *Dark Sisters*



(Portland, Oregon) – Following quickly on the heels of its August 3rd season-opening production of Mozart's *The Royal Shepherd*, OrpheusPDX, is readying the second offering of its 2023 season on August 24 with Nico Muhly's hauntingly beautiful opera, *Dark Sisters*. All performances will take place in Portland State University's Lincoln Performance Hall, hailed by Opera News as the best venue for opera in the city. Tickets, beginning at \$50, are available at www.orpheuspx.org.

Dark Sisters is a story of resilience, survival, and ultimately of hope, as seen through the eyes of one extraordinary woman. Based on the 2008 raid of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Texas, the opera follows the journey of Eliza, a sister-wife who questions what she has been taught and emerges as a singular voice, one who is no longer content to be one of many.

OrpheusPDX artistic and general director, Christopher Mattaliano commented: "I saw the world premiere production of *Dark Sisters* in 2012 and this opera has haunted me for the past 10 years. I think it's one the best modern operas in the rep today—a powerful libretto with deeply expressive music. Nico Muhly's background as a choral singer is apparent in his stunningly beautiful choral writing for 6 female voices in this opera. *Dark Sisters* is a rich, moving work." Muhly has been commissioned by the

Metropolitan Opera on two separate occasions and been described by Met General Manager Peter Gelb as “one of the most brilliant composing talents out there.”

Dark Sisters also marks the continuation of OrpheusPDX’s innovative mentor-based new training program The Pathways Program. Conceived by Christopher Mattaliano, it pairs a student or young professional with an established professional artist engaged by OrpheusPDX for the 2023 season and, in the process, helps guarantee a thriving future for the operatic art form.

Dark Sisters

Nico Muhly

Thursday, August 24, 2023, 7:30 pm, Sunday, August 27, 2023, 3:00 pm
Lincoln Hall, 1620 SW Park Ave., Portland

Libretto by Stephen Karam
Sung in English with English surtitles

Director: Kristine McIntyre
Conductor: Deanna Tham
Set Design: Megan Wilkerson
Costume Design: Lucy Wells
Lighting Design: Solomon Weisbard

CAST

Eliza: Lindsay Ohse
Almera: Vanessa Isiguen
Ruth: Hannah Penn
Presendia: Sarah Beaty

Zina: Emily Way
Lucinda: Madeline Ross
Prophet/King: Nathan Stark

Full cast biographies, photos, and much more can be found at www.orpheuspdx.org.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets to individual productions, ranging in price from \$50 to \$110, can be purchased at www.orpheuspdx.org.

Season subscriptions, ranging in price from \$90 to \$198, are still available at www.orpheuspdx.org or by calling (503) 308-4828.

Student Tickets: \$15.00 tickets are available for students at each performance. These can be purchased at the box office and online at www.orpheuspdx.org. Limited to one pair per person.

OrpheusPDX

Inspired by the legend of *Orpheus and Eurydice*, where Orpheus’ singing is so beautiful that even the savage beasts of Hades are moved to tears, Portland’s new opera company, OrpheusPDX, aspires to do the same—to touch the very soul of the community through the power of great music and singing. It will enhance that powerful experience by producing opera in the intimate, 475-seat Lincoln Hall Theater, where audiences enjoy an enriching and personal experience.

OrpheusPDX is committed to both honoring tradition and exploring new directions body of great modern works that move and excite today’s audiences—thus providing them with the best of both operatic worlds each season.