

Media Release

Contact: Ann Smith, Media Relations

Cell: 503-956-2791

Email: ann@awordsmithcomm.com

Web: <http://www.CBMopera.com>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

10:00 PST, Wednesday, August 20, 2014

Portland, Oregon

New Opera in Portland Combines National Talent, Timely Subject

The Canticle of the Black Madonna is a new opera premiering on September 5 and 6, 2014 at Portland's Newmark Theatre. The opera features an all-professional cast under nationally-renowned director Kristine McIntyre, formally of the Metropolitan Opera. Full details at www.CBMopera.com.

Created by Oregon composer Ethan Gans-Morse and librettist Tiziana DellaRovere, the opera tells the story of a soldier with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) returning from Afghanistan to his wife during the devastating 2010 Gulf Oil Spill in coastal Louisiana. It explores the healing power of transformation through divine love, embodied by the Black Madonna.

A workshopped performance of the opera at the University of Oregon in 2013 received rave reviews from veterans and operatic artists:

"In my career as a professional opera singer, I have premiered countless new works, but none has moved me so deeply as *The Canticle of the Black Madonna*," said Pamela South, Grammy-Award winning Soprano.

In its development, the opera [crowdfunded \\$75,000](#), making it one of the most successful crowdfunding campaigns in recent history for a production of its scale.

Retired Oregon Army National Guardsman and Purple Heart recipient Sean Davis, serves as veteran service coordinator for the production. "*The Canticle of the Black Madonna* doesn't only inspire the community with a beautiful story of survival and love, but Ethan Gans-Morse and Tiziana DellaRovere have gone out of their way to help veterans, sometimes behind the scenes" said Sean. "Much of the good they've done for veterans and their family members will never be seen by the public, but it has shown me that they not only talk the talk, they are actively taking action to help veterans and this inspires me to work even harder to do my part" he said.

###

Anima Mundi Productions is a 501(c)(3) non-profit arts initiative dedicated to creating and producing original projects that harness the power of art to stir the soul, foster community, and address urgent social problems.

Anima Mundi Productions, 1327 SE Tacoma St. #143, Portland, OR 97202

For additional inquiries: Ethan Gans-Morse, Executive Director

Ethan@AnimaMundiProductions.com | 541-778-1211