

Media Release

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New Opera in Portland Crowdfunds its Way to Success

An Oregon opera helping military veterans with PTSD has [successfully raised more than \\$75,000](#) on the crowdfunding platform Indiegogo. Touted as one of the most successful crowdfunding campaigns for an opera production of its scale in recent history, *The Canticle of the Black Madonna* will now premiere on September 5 and 6, 2014 at Portland's Newmark Theatre.

"The success of this campaign demonstrates the public desire to address PTSD within veteran communities, and belief in the healing role of the arts in this process" said the opera's Composer and Executive Director, Ethan Gans-Morse.

"We are absolutely thrilled with the outcome of this crowdfunding campaign, which enables us to take this opera to the world" said Gans-Morse.

Ensuring that this opera is seen by a wider audience is a request that has come directly from veterans who watched a workshop performance of the opera at the University of Oregon in 2013.

"This is a gift that should be shared with the world. People in congress need to see this," said Bill Ritch, a Vietnam veteran, Silver Star recipient and former West Point instructor.

Coinciding with PTSD Awareness Month across the U.S., *The Canticle of the Black Madonna* remained on top of Indiegogo's most popular campaigns in the "trending music" category for the entirety of its 30 day duration.

At its premiere, *The Canticle of the Black Madonna* will feature an all-professional cast under nationally-renowned director Kristine McIntyre, formally of the Metropolitan Opera.

Tickets for the opera's September premier can be purchased at: <http://cbmopera.com>.

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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.

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