

Media Release

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New Opera in Portland to Host Special Media Event

The Canticle of the Black Madonna is an original opera premiering at Portland's Newmark Theatre on September 5 & 6, 2014. Anima Mundi Productions will hold a special media event on Saturday, August 9, from 5:30pm to 6:30pm in the "Renaissance Room" of the Sentinel Hotel, 614 SW 11th Ave, Portland. The event will provide exclusive access to the creators and nationally-renowned cast of *The Canticle of the Black Madonna*, as well as Oregon combat veterans whose lives have been transformed by the opera. [Full event details here.](#)

The Canticle of the Black Madonna tells the story of a soldier with PTSD returning from Afghanistan to his wife during the devastating 2010 Gulf Oil Spill in coastal Louisiana.

The media event will be attended by the opera's composer, Ethan Gans-Morse, and librettist, Tiziana DellaRovere, as well as baritone Michael Mayes, contralto Gwendolyn Brown, and director Kristine McIntyre, formally of the Metropolitan Opera. Former U.S. Army Infantryman Sean Davis, the project's veteran service coordinator, will also be available to discuss veterans services affiliated with the project.

A workshopped performance of the opera in 2013 at the University of Oregon 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.

"Please know that as a combat veteran I am truly and deeply touched that you have undertaken such an elusive and misunderstood issue as combat-related PTSD in America today," said Oregon National Guard First Sergeant Miah Washburn. "I am thankful to you all for what you do, and I know my fallen friends would be as well."

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

The media conference will be followed by a gala fundraising dinner featuring live performances by nationally-renowned talent and testimonials from combat veterans.

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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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