

MN OPERA

Chorus Handbook 2026 – 2027 Season

*Version 1
As of 9/16/2026, LB*

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➤ WELCOME

Welcome to the Minnesota Opera Chorus! You are part of a company of highly talented and dedicated individuals whose mission is to change lives by bringing together artists, audiences, and our community to advance the art of opera for today and for future generations. We are happy to have you with us and hope that performing in the chorus will be an enjoyable and rewarding experience!

➤ COMMITMENT TO EQUITY, DIVERSITY, & INCLUSION

We aim to inspire hope, empower all voices, and strengthen bonds between people of all backgrounds and identities. To this end, Minnesota Opera commits itself to continuously working to become an anti-racist and anti-oppressive organization. We acknowledge that along our journey, our culture and the world around us is constantly evolving. We will inevitably make mistakes. We choose to accept that reality and will humbly begin again in order to lean into this practice. Please review Minnesota Opera's Commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, available here: <https://mnopera.org/edi/diversity-commitment/>

➤ WHO'S WHO

Here are the key personnel you will be interacting with during the 2026 – 2027 season:

Vice President, Artistic:	Joseph Li
Head of Music:	Mario Antonio Marra
Principal Coach & Chorus Director:	Celeste Marie Johnson
Artistic Administrator:	Salvatore S. Vasta III
Principal Conductor:	Christopher Franklin
Production Stage Manager:	Luci Burdick
Company Artist Assistant Director:	Matthew J. Schulz
Stage Management:	Patty Garvey, Abbey Murray-Stark, Lucy Rockmore, Guy Spear
Vice President, Production:	Karen Quisenberry
Associate Production Director:	Genoveva Castañeda (Props, Admin)
Assistant Production Director:	Sarah Lockwood (Scheduling)
Technical Director:	Bearclaw Hart
Costume Director:	Corinna Bakken
Asst. Costume Director/Wardrobe Sup:	Molly O'Gara
Assistant Technical & Facilities Manager:	Jerry Smith
Facilities Manager	Adam Zahller

➤ REHEARSALS

Schedules & Attendance

Prior to accepting a contract as a chorister, you will receive a complete overview schedule of all rehearsals and performances. Once you have accepted a contract, you are required to attend all services as listed on your contract schedule. Absences must be cleared in advance through the proper channels (see “Absences” below).

Your call time is the time at which you should be in your place and ready to rehearse. Please allow sufficient time to deal with traffic or weather-related issues, find parking, sign-in, check your mailbox, stow your personal belongings, and say hello to colleagues before the call time. Late arrivals will be noted.

Rehearsal schedules are subject to change and changes may be made up to 24 hours in advance of a rehearsal call. This may mean a change to the overall date or time of the rehearsal, or just a change to the time you are required to report (your “call time”). At each rehearsal your “next call” will be at the bottom of the sign-in sheet on the callboard and also announced by the stage manager. Please be sure to check your next call at the end of every rehearsal and performance. You may also check the daily rehearsal schedules online at <http://callboard.mnopera.org>. (See “electronic callboard” section below.) In rare instances when additional rehearsal time may need to be added, it will be scheduled in collaboration with the individual artists whose schedules are affected.

Please note: In the event of severe weather conditions which may impact ability to safely travel to or from rehearsal, cancellations or schedule changes may occur with less than 24-hours notice as conditions dictate. In case of severe weather, please check your email for changes.

Schedules are published via the Prepared scheduling platform and can be viewed via a unique web link for each calendar feed. The link for a given calendar feed will not change. For example, you will always use the same link for the Chorus Overview Schedule for a given show. Information on each calendar feed automatically updates after a Prepared Administrator adds or changes an event in the system, so any time you refresh your browser you will see the most current information. You also have the option to subscribe to Prepared calendar feeds in your preferred scheduling app on your computer and/or mobile devices. (Please note: depending on the frequency with which your calendar app updates, there may be delays in pushing new events to non-Prepared calendar apps. The online schedule feed is always the most current.) For additional tips on navigating the Prepared platform, please view our MNOP Artists [Prepared User Guide](#) and/or this short [Intro Video](#) on the Electronic Callboard.

Attendance at costume fittings is mandatory. Please promptly respond to requests from the costume shop to schedule fittings and arrive on time for your appointment. (See “Costume & Wig Fittings” section below.) If for some reason you must reschedule a fitting, kindly give 24 hours of notice. (See “Contact Information” towards the end of this document.)

Absences

All absences must be cleared well in advance in writing with Assistant Production Director Sarah Lockwood, Production Stage Manager Luci Burdick and Chorus Director Celeste Marie Johnson. Please [submit an absence request via the electronic callboard](#) as soon as you are aware of an unavoidable conflict so that rehearsals may be structured around your request. Even if a request has been verbally agreed upon, you must still submit a request through the online callboard.

Some conflicts can be worked around, but conflicts with crucial rehearsals including the final music rehearsal with the conductor, final room run at the Opera Center, Sitzprobe, Wandelprobe, and all onstage rehearsals will rarely be approved. No more than one excused absence will be granted for each chorister on each production. That said, having everyone present at rehearsal is crucial to ensemble-making, so we ask that you limit your potential absence to only those times when it is absolutely necessary (e.g. work obligations, family events, etc.) In order to maintain peak artistic standards, we ask that you be sure to catch up on any markings or staging which occur in your absence via correspondence with the Chorus Director and Assistant Stage Director. Due to the limited rehearsals, chorus members will not be granted any excused absences, including late arrivals and early departures, during the New Works Initiative workshop periods.

Approved chorus conflicts are listed in the Chorus Schedule for the production published via Prepared and available on the Electronic Callboard (see above section). You will be listed as “N/A” for “not available” when you have an approved release. Please check this schedule to ensure your release is listed correctly. Contact Sarah Lockwood at slockwood@mnopera.org and Luci Burdick lburdick@mnopera.org if you believe we have made an error or omission.

We understand that occasionally unforeseen circumstances arise at the last minute, such as illness or a family emergency, which may result in an unforeseen absence. In case of an emergency or illness, please notify Luci Burdick, Production Stage Manager and Celeste Marie Johnson, Chorus Director as soon as possible. We will do our best to accommodate you if there is an emergency, but if the emergency requires your missing too many rehearsals/performances we may have to remove you from the production. Multiple unexcused absences may influence MNOP’s decision to re-engage a chorus member for future productions.

Chorus members may withdraw from a production up to three (3) months before the first rehearsal without affecting Chorus member’s standing with MNOP.

Rehearsal Health and Wellness Protocol

MNOP is committed to providing a safe and healthy workplace for all our artists and team members and may establish Health & Safety Protocols related to COVID-19, other public health concerns, and general safe workplace operations.

All personnel participating in on-site work, regardless of vaccination status, should continue to monitor themselves for possible symptoms related to COVID-19 or other illness that cannot be attributed to another known health condition, which may include:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

If you are experiencing any of the above symptoms which are new or worsening and/or cannot be attributed to another known health condition, please contact Luci Burdick, Production Stage Manager, at 937-504-3389 and consider the following questions:

- Do you have a fever?
- Do you need medical attention?
- Do you feel well enough to work?

If you feel well enough to work, you may be encouraged to mark, mask or social distance.

Current CDC/Covid Resources CDC Preventing Spread of Respiratory Illness: <https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/prevention/precautions-when-sick.html>

MN Health Testing Information: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/testsites/index.html>

Location & Parking

All staging rehearsals and costume fittings are held at the Minnesota Opera Center, located at 620 North First Street, Minneapolis, 55401. You will be given a security code that you must enter on the keypad in the entrance vestibule in order to unlock the main entrance door.

Street parking is available in the neighborhood surrounding the Opera Center. Metered spaces on 1st St are generally free after 6 pm and weekends; for full details, please refer to [this parking meter map](#). The MNOP parking lot is unavailable during business hours, but will be available for most Chorus calls after 5:00p on weekdays and all day on weekends in the following spaces: Any spaces on left (odd numbered) side AND space #4 through space #56 on the right (even numbered side). Only those with a valid handicap tag should utilize handicap spaces. Spaces #2 and #58 and above are all privately rented **24 hours per day** and NOT AVAILABLE for parking.

When MNOP rehearsal calls coincide with events at the Luminary Arts Center, you may see signage regarding paid parking at the lot entrance. MNOP artists parking for MNOP business (such as rehearsal) may still park in any of the available, above listed spaces free of charge. Spaces are available on a first come, first served basis, so MNOP makes no guarantee that spaces will be available. Artists are encouraged to watch the Daily Schedule on the Electronic Callboard for awareness of when the lot may be busier with Luminary events.

If Minneapolis declares a snow emergency that will take effect during our rehearsals, we will post a sign on the main entrance door to alert you and so that cars can be parked in safe areas.

Please use sensible safety precautions when attending calls at the Minnesota Opera Center. Do not let anyone you do not know into the Opera Center. At the end of rehearsal each evening, walk to your cars in groups and watch that your colleagues get safely into their cars and on their way. Use caution if an unknown person in the parking lot or on the street approaches you. Lock your car, and do not leave items visible to passerby if possible.

Musical Preparation

You will be provided with a score and study aids such as synopses, translations, musical markings, and divisi indications within four weeks of the beginning of the rehearsal period. Please arrive already knowing with the music and your part. Read the synopsis, listen to recordings with your score in hand, speak through the text slowly in rhythm, be clear about the divisi, highlight your parts if necessary, and anticipate difficulties in finding pitches. We will not spend time learning pitches in music rehearsals; rather, we will use that time together to craft a collective sound, work on musical and dramatic details, refine language, etc.

Minnesota Opera expects that you will be fully memorized by the first staging rehearsal to the point that you are able to perform the music with all the details that have been worked out during the music rehearsals, while incorporating all directions given to you by the stage director.

If you find yourself struggling to learn or memorize a certain passage, do not hesitate to contact the Chorus Director to discuss additional learning support.

Attire

During both musical and staging rehearsals, you will be working in very close proximity with your colleagues. Please respect their needs by attending to matters of basic personal hygiene and avoiding the use of perfumes, colognes, or other strongly scented products. Please note that some of your colleagues may be sensitive to strong scents.

For staging rehearsals, dress comfortably in clothes and shoes that allow you to move freely. Wear shoes that are secure on your feet and close-toed, so that you can move easily around the stage and your toes will be protected in those big crowd scenes! Open-toed shoes and sandals are not permitted in the theater due to safety concerns. See “Costume & Wig Fittings” below for what to wear to a fitting.

Chorus Representatives

There will be 1-2 chorus representatives per show, selected by the Chorus Director in collaboration with the Artistic department. These representatives will serve as liaisons between chorus members and MNOP staff by acting as point people, helping to facilitate issues that arise, and assisting with communication throughout the rehearsal process.

During Rehearsals

Upon arriving, sign in on the callboard located outside Bemis Rehearsal Hall on the lower level. The sign-in sheet is our record of your attendance and arrival time for payroll, so it is crucial that you remember to sign in! If you arrive late to a staging rehearsal, the sign-in sheet will be located at the stage manager’s table in the front of the rehearsal room. Please check in with the stage manager if you are late. Only sign in for yourself, not your colleagues.

You will have an assigned mailbox at the base of the stairs on the lower level. Please check your mailbox daily. You will find a nametag in your mailbox; please wear this for all rehearsals and return it to your mailbox for storage at the end of the day.

Check the callboard daily for any announcements or notes relating to chorus. Throughout the rehearsal process, mark any musical changes (such as dynamics, note values, articulation, etc.) given by the Chorus Director and/or Conductor, and study those markings with the same care as you would the notes printed in the score. Once staging begins, you may receive additional notes from the Chorus Director via email.

During staging rehearsals, stow your personal belongings in the waiting area at the rear of Bemis, where chairs will be provided for all chorus members. Due to limited capacity, please leave the chairs at the front of Bemis for principal artists and opera staff. Scores should remain with your belongings so they do not impede movement during staging rehearsals; use whatever method works best for you to keep track of your staging and music notes (i.e. taking notes during the breaks, writing things down once you get home after rehearsal, etc.) The Assistant Director will provide a staging notes summary by the final room run in both hard copy and electronic format and is available to answer questions throughout the process.

Remember to silence your cell phone during rehearsals. Unless you are dealing with an urgent situation, please leave your phone with your belongings and do not bring into staging rehearsals while you are actively working. Please do not bring cell phones on stage at the Ordway.

Rehearsals will sometimes involve periods of waiting. We recommend that you bring a quiet activity, such as reading material, to occupy your time when you are not needed onstage. Please keep talking to a minimum during rehearsals even when you are not onstage. At least one break will be given during each rehearsal.

Costume & Wig Fittings

All of the basic rules for rehearsals also apply to costume fittings. Costume fittings will take place during costume shop hours which are Monday – Friday 8:30a – 5:00p. When you are called for a fitting, please:

- Be in the costume shop and ready to try on costumes or wigs at your fitting time. Allow ample time for traffic and parking before your fitting time.
- Silence your cell phone during all costume and wig fittings.
- Wear appropriate undergarments to all costume fittings and performances. This includes full seat underwear and foundation garments such as you will wear onstage. Please refrain from wearing sports bras, thongs, or forgoing undergarments all together. If you have questions about attire for fittings, please contact Corinna Bakken, Costume Director (cbakken@mnopera.org).
- Practice good personal hygiene and refrain from using perfumes, colognes, or other heavily scented products.

If you must reschedule a costume fitting, please give a minimum of 24 hours' notice by contacting the costume shop directly at (612) 342-9576.

Guests

In the interest of maintaining an atmosphere of concentration, all rehearsals are closed to guests except under special circumstances. Prior permission must be granted by the Chorus Director (music rehearsal) or stage director, conductor, and PSM (staging rehearsal). Please make requests in writing to the Chorus Director at least three days in advance of your guests' proposed attendance, so there is adequate time to communicate with all parties.

Smoking

The Minnesota Opera Center is a non-smoking facility. Smoking is permitted outside the main entrance, but please be considerate of non-smokers.

Injuries

If you are injured while in the Minnesota Opera Center or at the theater, please report the incident immediately to stage management. The SM staff can provide basic first aid, will summon emergency medical personnel if needed, and will help you complete a First Report of Injury form so that medical treatment can be covered under the Opera's workers' compensation insurance.

Personal Items & Valuables

Artists are always responsible for all personal items brought to calls at all Minnesota Opera performance and rehearsal venues. Minnesota Opera cannot be held liable for the loss or damage of any personal items, regardless of where said loss occurs (including but not limited to rehearsal and performance venues, publicity events, vehicles, personal domiciles, restaurants, and theaters).

In the theater, stage management will collect and lock up small valuables during dress rehearsals and performances. Valuables will not be returned until the end of a rehearsal or performance, so keep any items with you that you will need throughout the call.

Discrimination, Harassment, and Inappropriate Behavior Policy

Minnesota Opera prohibits harassment, including, but not limited to, sexual harassment, discrimination and inappropriate behavior by employees or independent contractors. Any employee or independent contractor found to have violated this policy will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action up to and including suspension without pay or termination of employment. Each artist will be required to read, acknowledge, and abide by the Opera's Discrimination, Harassment, and Inappropriate Behavior policy. Any individual who feels they have been harassed should report the situation to the Production Stage Manager (937-504-3389) or the Human Resources Director (612-342-9552).

Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy

Minnesota Opera seeks to create a welcoming, nurturing and safe environment for all minors and vulnerable adults with whom it engages. MNOP has zero tolerance for any action of any employee, volunteer, visitor, or independent contractor which may jeopardize the safety, health or innocence of a minor or a vulnerable adult. Any independent contractor who receives a complaint of, or observes, abuse is required to immediately report the complaint to Jen Thill, Human Resources Director (612-342-9552) for investigation. If MNOP has determined that abuse has occurred, appropriate action will be taken, including appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including termination, and the contacting of law enforcement or other authorities. Each artist will be required to read, acknowledge, and abide by the Opera's Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy.

Electronic Callboard & Email Communications

In order to communicate information and share resources with artists, Minnesota Opera maintains an online callboard: a virtual version of the bulletin board outside the rehearsal room. The electronic callboard is available at <http://callboard.mnopera.org>. All schedule information pertaining to choristers, including your contract schedule, daily rehearsal schedules, next calls, and approved releases are posted on this website.

Communications from stage management, music staff, and the costume department are mostly handled by email. Please be sure that stage management has your current email address on file and check your email regularly throughout the rehearsal and performance process.

➤ AT THE ORDWAY CENTER**Location & Parking**

Our performance venue is the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts, located at 345 Washington Street, St. Paul, 55102. All MNOP Artists must enter and exit via the Stage Door, located at 128 W 5th Street.

Parking is not provided at the Ordway. We recommend that you park in one of the many lots or ramps nearby the Ordway. St. Paul parking meters are enforced daily until 10:00p and most have a 2-hour limit. Due to concurrent events at the Xcel Energy Center and the RiverCentre, there is often a heavy demand for parking in St. Paul. Please check the Daily Schedule feed (via the Electronic Callboard) for notices about heavily impacted parking days and allow plenty of time to find a parking spot and arrive on time for your call at the Ordway; notices regarding traffic and other events will be in the "Notes" section at the top of the Daily Schedule. See the last page of this document for parking ramp suggestions or ask your opera colleagues where they have found parking. Whenever possible, we highly recommend coordinating carpools with your colleague, which your chorus representatives can help facilitate.

Security & Sign In

All access cards will check in and out of the building using the tablets inside the stage door.

Upon Arrival Each Day:

- Select 'Minnesota Opera' on the tablet.
- Enter your email address to locate your record and sign in.
- The first time you sign in for each production, you will be required to take a photo using the tablet. (Photos are stored within the security system for 30 days and then deleted from the system.)

When Departing Each Day:

- Select 'End Visit' in the upper right-hand corner of the tablet.
- Type the first three letters of your first name to find your record and sign out.

Cell Phone Option:

- If the tablets are crowded when you are arriving/departing, you may scan the QR code on the tablet and posted in the security vestibule to use your cell phone for signing in/out. The same steps above will apply to using the mobile website.

Indoor Shoes

If it snows during our rehearsal or performance period, certain hallways and stairwells backstage will be limited to “indoor shoes” only in order to protect costumes from the salt and other chemicals used outdoors in the winter. If we have inclement weather, please bring a pair of indoor shoes or slippers which you can change into upon entering the theater and before going to your dressing room. A shoe changing area with cubbies for shoe or slipper storage will be provided upstage left, immediately upon entering the backstage area of the Music Theater.

Dressing Room Locations

Depending on the production, Chorus Dressing Rooms may be located in the Production Wing behind (upstage of) the Music Theater and/or in the Basement accessed off of down stage left of the Music Theater. From the stage door, look for orange signage with the MNOP logo to help guide you. You’ll likely take the following path:

- Once you pass the inner security doors, proceed straight ahead down the hallway. The **MNOP Callboard** will be to your left at the beginning of this hallway.
 - Stop here to sign-in on your MNOP Sign-In Sheet.
 - Check the Dressing Room Assignments List for the location of your dressing room.
- At the end of this hall, enter the door labeled “**Music Theater, Stage Left.**” You will now be upstage left in the backstage area. Your next steps depend on the location of your dressing room.
- To access the **Production Wing Dressing Rooms**:
 - Continue straight ahead a few paces until you reach the corner where you can turn right and see the door further upstage labeled “**Dressing Rooms.**” If you get to the wings/stage itself, you’ve gone too far.
 - Pass through the set of two doors to the Dressing Rooms and you’re now in the Production Wing. Take the elevator or staircase up to your dressing room floor (indicated on the Dressing Room Assignments List).
 - When you emerge from the elevator or this stairwell on your floor, you’ll turn right down the hallway to your dressing rooms.
- To access the **Basement Dressing Rooms**:
 - Turn left towards downstage.
 - Pass through the double doors marked “**Restrooms.**” You’ll now be in a vestibule with two restrooms.
 - From the vestibule, turn right through the double doors marked “Pit/Dressing Rooms” and take the stairwell down one floor to the basement.
 - At the bottom of the staircase, pass through the double doors and turn right. You’re now at the basement dressing rooms.

Warm-Up Location

Chorus Warm-Ups are usually held in the Drake Room (large rehearsal room) on Level 2.

To access the Drake Room directly from the stage door:

- Turn left inside the inner doors rather than proceeding straight ahead.
- Turn right at the first corner, then proceed up the central staircase one floor to Level 2.
- The Drake Room is directly ahead at the top of the stairs.

To access the Drake Room from the Production Wing Rooms:

- Follow the MNOP signage to Level 2 of the Production Wing.
- Proceed down the hall in the opposite direction from your dressing rooms (so turn left out of the elevator area instead of right), walk down the ramp and through the double doors.
- Turn left out of the double doors, and the Drake Room is just past the central staircase.

To access the Drake Room from the Basement Dressing Rooms:

- Retrace your steps up the stairwell from the basement to the vestibule with the two restrooms.
- Proceed through the double doors marked “Concert Hall” – directly opposite the stairwell doors.
- Walk a few paces ahead to the central staircase. Proceed up the central staircase one floor to Level 2.
- The Drake Room is directly ahead at the top of the stairs.

Warm-Up & Notes Sessions

Starting with the first dress rehearsal and continuing through all performances, chorus will be scheduled for a warm-up and notes session in the Drake Room prior to your first appearance onstage. This is an opportunity to review material as an ensemble and work through specific notes as needed. Please arrive having already completed any individual warm-up you need vocally prior to a performance and **kindly refrain from warming up in your dressing room when your colleagues are present.**

As with other rehearsals, the warm-up start time is the time that you should be in the room and ready to rehearse. Please heed the five-minute warning which will be given over the PA system and promptly proceed to the Drake Room. Time for these pre-show sessions is very limited and we appreciate your promptness.

Staging Notes

Notes from the Stage Director or Assistant Director from the previous rehearsal or performance will be given in writing and posted on the main callboard and in each chorus dressing room. You are responsible for reading and applying these notes. If you have questions about a note, please see the Assistant Director or a member of stage management. When possible, staging notes will also be emailed to you.

Safety

The stage can be a dangerous place, with heavy moving scenery and dark spaces. We work very hard to choreograph both backstage and onstage movement to ensure a safe environment. Please pay careful attention to stage management's instructions backstage and onstage, as part of their job is to help keep you safe! If you see a safety hazard, please report it immediately to stage management. You should never come to the stage unless you have been called, including before and after the show and during intermissions, as the crew is often working and moving scenery at these times. Close-toed shoes are required for safety at all onstage rehearsals.

Backstage Etiquette

Please do NOT touch the audio monitors in the dressing rooms. If your monitor is not working properly or requires an adjustment to the sound level, notify stage management. The Ordway staff is responsible for adjusting monitors as needed.

Costumes

Your costume(s) will be waiting for you in your dressing room. A dresser is available to assist you with getting in and out of costume, as needed. Depending on your costume you may have a call time when your dresser will get you into your clothes. Please do not dress in costume before your dresser is present. When you take off your costume, please hang it on the rack and return any accessories to the bags or counter space where you found them.

Please wear your costume as directed, with no modifications. This means no personal jewelry (including wedding rings), wristwatches, eyeglasses, or nail polish, unless approved by the costume director or costume designer. If you encounter a problem with a costume piece – a hem is too long, a helmet is obscuring your vision, etc. – notify your dresser. They will work with the costume director to correct the problem.

Please do not eat or drink anything (except water), smoke, or chew gum while in costume. Many, many hours have gone into the preparation of your garments and they should be kept in excellent condition. While in costumes, wigs, or stage make-up, please do not leave the theater or go into any public areas of the theater.

Wigs and Make-Up

You may be asked to wear a wig or to have your own hair specially dressed by the hair and make-up crew. If you are assigned a specific time to report to the wig room to have this done, please be prompt. Only hair and make-up crew may put on or remove your wig for you. Do not attempt to do so yourself, as improper handling or pinning of wigs can cause permanent damage. Do not modify your wig or hairstyle once the crew has finished preparing you for the stage.

Depending on your role, you may have stage make-up applied by a crewmember, or you may be given instruction on how to apply make-up yourself. Make-up is applied based on the designer's and the director's specifications, so please follow all directions exactly. If specialty make-up is required, it will be provided for you. You will generally be expected to provide basic make-up essentials for yourself. A list of required essentials for each production will be communicated no later than the Final Room Run at the Opera Center. You must provide your own cold cream, washcloth, and towel for make-up removal.

If deemed necessary by the Hair & Make-Up Designer, artists may be asked to shave facial hair or modify hair length or style. During the production period artists should not alter hair style or facial hair without prior permission of the Hair & Make-Up Designer. Facial hair requirements will be communicated to you prior to the first dress rehearsal. If specific facial hair has been requested, please shave into the shape no later than second piano dress.

Props

The props you carry onstage will be located on shelves or tables backstage right and left, near your entrance location. If you have a question about where to find your prop, ask an assistant stage manager. Please pick up your prop just before your entrance and replace it on a table as soon as you exit. Your prop might be used by someone else later in the opera, so do not take it out of the immediate backstage area.

Photography & Recording

Photography is permitted in the dressing rooms (once everyone is dressed, of course!) and the hallways. Please remember that courtesy dictates asking an individual's permission prior to photographing them. Photography is not permitted backstage or onstage, so please do not bring cameras or cell phones into the wings. Video and audio recording of any kind are prohibited.

Guests

Please meet your guests post-performance outside the stage door after you have changed out of costumes, wigs, and make-up. Choristers are not permitted to have guests in any backstage areas at any time. Please remember to sign out of the building at the Stage Door kiosk when you exit the building.

➤ **COMPENSATION & TICKETS**

The terms of your compensation will be outlined in your contract with Minnesota Opera. Please note that unexcused absences, including but not limited to consistent lateness to rehearsals, not appearing for a scheduled performance, refusal to perform, and unexcused conflicts with other engagements resulting in absence, may result in a reduction to final compensation. Questions regarding payroll should be directed to Salvatore Vasta, Artistic Administrator, at svasta@mnopera.org.

All choristers cast in Minnesota Opera productions must possess a valid social security or tax identification number. Upon being cast, you will be required to complete a W9 Taxpayer Identification Number form or W8BEN form, if you do not already have one on file with Minnesota Opera. If your personal information has changed since you last performed with us (i.e. name or address change), you will need to complete a new form.

Choristers may be eligible for discount tickets, subject to availability. The Patron Services department will determine the nature of the discount to be offered and performance dates at their discretion. Discounted ticket information and purchasing links will be emailed to you by the Production Stage Manager after staging rehearsals begin. Productions sometimes sell out, so we recommend you purchase your tickets early.

➤ **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Celeste Marie Johnson, Principal Coach & Chorus Director

cmjohnson@mnopera.org

(507) 358-2341 Cell

Sal Vasta, Artistic Administrator

svasts@mnopera.org

(612) 342-9598 Office

Luci Burdick, Production Stage Manager

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Box Office - Located at the Minnesota Opera Center

(612) 333-6669, Hours: 10a – 5p, Monday through Friday

Minnesota Opera Offices

(612) 333-2700 Main Switchboard

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EDI Feedback Form: <https://mnopera.org/edi/edi-feedback/>

➤ PARKING OPTIONS NEAR THE ORDWAY CENTER

All directions assume that you are approaching downtown St. Paul from the 5th Street exit off of I-94 eastbound. Average fees are listed, but fees may be higher depending on special events occurring in the area.

Traveler's Insurance Company Lot (385 Washington St.) | [Google Map Link](#)

\$10 - \$40 flat rate event parking

Surface lot about ½ block from the Ordway stage door. Go straight through the light at 5th Street and 7th Street West. The entrance to the lot is on your left side just past the intersection. Automated kiosks at the entrance accept credit cards only (no cash). There is also an entrance off of W 6th Street.

Kellogg Parking Ramp (129 W. Kellogg Blvd.) | [Google Map Link](#)

\$15 - \$40 flat rate event parking

Underground ramp with pedestrian exit next to the front doors of the Ordway. Proceed straight through the light at 5th Street and 7th Street West. Make the next possible right turn onto Washington Street and pass the Ordway. Make the next right onto Kellogg Blvd. The entrance to the ramp is immediately on your right side off of Kellogg.

River Centre Ramp (150 W. Kellogg Blvd.) | [Google Map Link](#)

\$10 - \$25 flat rate event parking

Surface lot and underground ramp across Kellogg Blvd. from the Ordway. At the intersection of 5th Street and 7th Street West turn right onto 7th Street West. Make the next left turn onto Kellogg Blvd. The entrance to the ramp is ahead on your right.

Lawson Ramp (11 W. 5th St.) | [Google Map Link](#)

Hourly fee, \$4 - \$28 (up to 24 hours) OR flat event rate depending on events.

Above ground ramp about 2 ½ blocks from the Ordway. Proceed straight through the intersection at 5th Street and 7th Street West. Continue straight ahead through the subsequent intersections at Washington St., Market St., and St. Peter St. The entrance to the ramp is on your left side past St. Peter St., next to the Starbucks.

Smith Avenue Parking Ramp (145 Smith Ave.) | [Google Map Link](#)

\$10 - \$25 flat rate event parking

Above ground ramp about 3 blocks from the Ordway. When exiting I-94 eastbound onto 5th Street, make the first right turn onto North Smith Avenue. The ramp entrance is ahead on your right.

Science Museum Ramp (120 W. Kellogg Blvd., enter via Eagle St.) | [Google Map Link](#)

\$10 - \$20 flat rate event parking. (closes at 10pm daily, closes at 12am on Ordway performance nights)

Above ground ramp about 1 block from the Ordway. When exiting I-94 eastbound onto 5th street, make the second right turn onto W. 7th St., the next left onto Kellogg Blvd., and an immediate slight right onto Eagle St. Proceed straight through the light at Chestnut St., then follow the signs for a left turn into the Science Museum Ramp.

Treasure Island Center/TRIA Rink Parking Ramp (21 E. 6th Street, enter via 6th St. or Wabasha St.) | [Google Map Link](#)

\$8 - \$15 based on time parked, or flat event rate (depending on date) – Save money via Spot Hero App

Follow I-94 to 10th Street exit (exit 241B). Continue straight on 10th St., then turn right on Cedar and right on 6th St. Turn right into the ramp.

Parking Apps

- SpotHero (<https://spothero.com/>): book in advance for better garage rates and save money by booking multiple days at a time.
- ParkWhiz (<https://www.parkwhiz.com/>): book in advance at lots in the area (often open air).
- Passport (<https://www.passportparking.com/>): use to add money to meters around the Ordway