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Press Release

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See the Next Great Stars of the Opera World!

WAUSAU, WI – September 18, 2015 – On September 25, 2015 at 7:30 PM, four future stars of the opera world come to The Grand Theater for one night only when The Rising Stars of the Metropolitan Opera take the stage. For more than 125 years, the Metropolitan Opera has been the artistic home of the greatest singers in the world, but the Met is also the launching pad for the opera stars of the future.

“We are excited to be a part of the inaugural tour of the Rising Stars of the Metropolitan Opera. These are the true next stars of the opera world, destined for leading roles at the world’s greatest opera houses. To be able to see them on their way to stardom is a unique opportunity that cannot be missed,” says Executive Director Sean Wright.

These four amazing singers: Soprano, Amanda Woodbury; Mezzo, Cecelia Hall; Baritone, David Won; and Bass-Baritone, Kevin Short, have combined for over a dozen appearances at The Met. The evening will include selections from classic operas such as: *Romeo et Juliette*, *Don Giovanni*, *La Rondine*, and *Il Barbiere Di Siviglia*.

Amanda Woodbury was most recently honored with the second place award and an Audience Choice award in Plácido Domingo's prestigious Operalia Competition. Earlier this year, she also won the 2014 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, and this spring, Amanda made her Met debut as Tebaldo in Verdi's *Don Carlo*.

Cecelia Hall's recent roles have included Zerlina in *Don Giovanni* with Opera Philadelphia, a Spotlight Recital with *The Song Continues* at Carnegie Hall, and a return to Lyric Opera of Chicago to sing Annio in *La Clemenza di Tito*. She also has returned to the Metropolitan Opera as Javotte in *Manon*.

David Won made his Seattle Opera debut in the spring 2010 in two roles: Ford in *Falstaff* and the Doctor in Daron Hagen's world premiere of *Amelia*, as well as his Opera Carolina debut as Marcello in *La Bohème*. Mr. Won recently returned to The Metropolitan Opera to perform Gregorio in *Romeo et Juliette* and cover Belcore in *L'Elisir d'Amore*. He also marked his debuts with the Nashville Opera in *Carmen*, and his Lyric Opera of Kansas City in *Così Fan Tutte*.

Kevin Short is thrilling audiences around the globe in a wide range of repertoire ranging from Mozart's *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* and Monteverdi's *L'incoronazione di Poppea*, to Verdi's *Attila* and *Don Carlos*, and Bizet's *Carmen*. Kevin has performed multiple roles with the over 25 companies in North America and has performed with over 20 companies throughout Europe.

Be among the first to hear the great voices of tomorrow hand-picked by the Metropolitan Opera, where these young performers are perfecting their craft and living out their dreams.

Tickets are on sale now, at The Grand Ticket Office (401 4th Street in Downtown Wausau), via phone at 715-842-0988 and online at www.grandtheater.org. There is still time to subscribe to 2015-16 season, which features 19 outstanding shows. Select four or more shows to become a subscriber, which includes discounts on tickets, free ticket exchanges and numerous other subscriber-only benefits.

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