



florentine opera
company®
William Florescu • General Director

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Photos available upon request

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Sister Carrie

Money is life. Money can do everything.

THE FLORENTINE OPERA COMPANY

**World Premiere Commission of a new opera by Grammy® Award winners
composer Robert Aldridge and librettist Herschel Garfein**

Starring Mezzo-soprano Adriana Zabala and Baritone Keith Phares

Production to be recorded live and released on the NAXOS label

Based on Theodore Dreiser's Controversial 1900 Novel

**Set at the dawn of the Leisure Society, Dreiser's novel caused a sensation
for its sexual frankness and unflinching depiction of the haves and have-nots in America**

**Milwaukee Wisconsin June 1, 2016 — *Sister Carrie*, a new American opera
commissioned by Florentine Opera from the creators of *Elmer Gantry*, comes to
Milwaukee's Marcus Center for the Performing Arts for two performances: Friday
October 7 at 7:30 PM and Sunday October 9 at 2:30 PM.** The celebrated mezzo-soprano
Adriana Zabala (*The Adventures of Pinocchio, Doubt, The Manchurian Candidate*) creates
the role of Carrie, the young woman born into poverty who defies social and sexual norms to
rise to stardom on the New York stage. The brilliant lyric baritone **Keith Phares** ("a strong
contender for iconographic recognition"-- *Opera News*) creates the role of Hurstwood, one of
the great tragic characters of American literature: the established middle-class man who
throws away his life in pursuit of Carrie.

Theodore Dreiser, an ardent lifelong Socialist, presented a view of the gulf separating the
Leisure Class from the Working Class that was originally condemned as 'sordid.' His bleak

and uncompromising depiction is newly relevant, as America once again veers between extremes of politics and class identity.

This World Premiere production reunites the creative team that won double GRAMMY® awards for the Florentine Opera recording of *Elmer Gantry**, as **conductor William Boggs** once again leads the **Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra** and the **Florentine Opera Chorus**. The large cast of *Sister Carrie* includes Milwaukee favorites **soprano Alissa Jordheim** (*Elmer Gantry* 2015, *Albert Herring* 2013) and **tenor Matt Morgan** (*Haroun and the Sea of Stories*, *Elmer Gantry* 2015). The production will be directed by **William Florescu** with scenic design by **Kris Stone**.

*GRAMMY® awards for Best Contemporary Classical Composition and Best Engineered Classical Recording

JOIN US IN NEW YORK FOR EXCERPTS FROM *SISTER CARRIE*

with Adriana Zabala and Keith Phares, featuring a discussion with the creative team

moderated by Laura Lee Everett of Opera America

Tuesday, July 19 6-7 PM

Steinway Hall, 1133 Ave of the Americas (at 43rd St)

Call or email to RSVP rclark@florentineopera.org

Florentine Opera General Director (stage director) William Florescu stated “The Florentine Opera Company is honored to be a part of the creation of a new American Opera, *Sister Carrie*. We are grateful for the community support that has driven this company to create and present ‘new opera’ as a part of ‘popular’ repertory, on a level that supports the production of this world premiere, and the recording and worldwide release of this new work.”

Composer Robert Aldridge and **Librettist Herschel Garfein** made US opera history when *Elmer Gantry* opened to rave reviews at Nashville Opera in 2008. Opera outsiders, they had undertaken a full-length grand opera on a classic American novel without a commission. Their seventeen-year ordeal searching for a full production was the basis of a front-page article in the *New York Times* Arts and Leisure (“Behold! An Operatic Miracle!”).

"Few recent American operas have been so dramatically and musically assured at every turn, or so perfectly paced and musically inviting." --*The Philadelphia Inquirer*

"Aldridge and Garfein have accomplished here what opera rarely achieves: taking a dated US cultural relic and making it relevant again." -- *Gramophone*

Sister Carrie is their second opera.

SISTER CARRIE

The World Premiere Performances and Recording

Friday, October 7, 2016 at 7:30pm

Sunday, October 9, 2016 at 2:30pm

Uhlein Hall, Marcus Center for the Performing Arts
929 N Water St, Milwaukee, WI 53202

Sung in English with English supertitles projected above the stage.

Get tickets by phone **1-800-32-OPERA**

M-F | 9am-4pm

Purchase online [@www.florentineopera.org](http://www.florentineopera.org)

Cast and Creative team:

Carrie: Mezzo-soprano [Adriana Zabala](#)

Hurstwood: Baritone [Keith Phares](#)

Lola: Soprano [Alisa Jordheim](#)

Drouet: Tenor [Matt Morgan](#)

Composer: [Robert Aldridge](#)

Librettist: [Herschel Garfein](#)

Director: [William Florescu](#)

Conductor: [William Boggs](#)

Scenic Designer: [Kris Stone](#)

Lighting Designer: [Noele Stollmack](#)

Costume Designer: [Rachel Laritz](#) (debut)



Visit florentineopera.org/subscribe or call 1 800 32 OPERA TODAY to reserve your tickets or a subscription to our Mainstage Series

INFORMATION / INTERVIEWS

For additional biographies or to schedule an interview, please contact Richard Clark, Director of Marketing & Communications, by telephone at 414/291.5700 ext 213, or via email at rclark@florentineopera.org