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## **Mozart's Timeless Tale of Courage, Love, and Wonder.** MSU Opera Theatre brings back celebrated classic, *The Magic Flute*.

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**EAST LANSING, Mich.** – MSU Opera Theatre proudly presents Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's beloved opera *The Magic Flute* as part of its [Worthington Family Foundation Opera Theatre Season](#). The performances will be held at Fairchild Theatre in the MSU Auditorium, running **November 13–17**, with shows on Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday at 7 PM, and Sunday at 3 PM.

Directed by MSU Professor of Voice [Melanie Helton](#), with the MSU Symphony Orchestra conducted by MSU Associate Professor of Music [Octavio Más-Arocas](#), *The Magic Flute* promises to enchant audiences with its captivating music and mystical storytelling. This year's production will be sung in English with English surtitles and feature imaginative set design by MSU Theatre Alumna Thalia Lara with dynamic lighting by Brent Wrobel, creating a visual spectacle that enhances the opera's fantastical elements.

The story follows Prince Tamino as he embarks on a heroic quest to rescue Pamina, the daughter of the Queen of the Night, with help from the endearing bird-catcher Papageno. Their journey tests their wisdom, courage, and resilience in a battle between light and darkness. The production features some of opera's most iconic moments, including the Queen of the Night's famous aria, "Der Hölle Rache," sung by seven vocalists in high F!

"We are thrilled to bring *The Magic Flute* back to the Fairchild Theatre stage," said Melanie Helton, Director of MSU Opera Theatre. "This opera has long been a favorite for audiences and performers alike, with its timeless message of love, enlightenment, and the triumph over adversity. Our talented cast and crew have poured their hearts into creating a visually stunning and musically rich experience."

The last time *The Magic Flute* was performed by MSU Opera Theatre in 2014, it received high praise, winning first place in its division from the National Opera Association (NOA). With theatrical visuals inspired by "Game of Thrones," this year's production aims to match that acclaim, alongside Mozart's magical score with powerful performances by MSU's vocalists and the whimsical elements that have made *The Magic Flute* a timeless masterpiece.

Interested attendees are encouraged to arrive early for a preview lecture led by stage director Melanie Helton, starting 45 minutes before each performance, offering insights into the opera's themes and history.

*The entire MSU Opera Theatre season is generously supported by the Worthington Family Foundation with additional support thanks to sponsors James and Susan Bonfiglio, the Eleanor H. and Harold E. Leichenko Opera Endowment established by Lauren Julius Harris, and the Richard and Joan Witter Endowment for MSU Opera Theatre.*

Tickets for *The Magic Flute* at the Fairchild Theatre are available through the MSU Music box office at [music.msu.edu/events](https://music.msu.edu/events) or by phone at 517-353-5340. Reserved seating tickets are \$22 for adults, \$20 for seniors (age 60 and older) and \$7 for students. Information about other concerts, recitals and performances in the 2023-2024 MSU Music Season can be found online.

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