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MEDIA RELEASE

March 3, 2014

**Skylight Music Theatre produces its first-ever work by influential composer Philip Glass with *Hydrogen Jukebox***

**Milwaukee, WI** – Skylight Music Theatre performs *Hydrogen Jukebox*, the eclectic and fascinating result of collaboration in the late 1980s between composer Philip Glass and beat poet Allen Ginsberg. The production runs March 14 through March 30 in the Cabot Theatre at the Broadway Theatre Center (158 N. Broadway, Milwaukee WI).

*Hydrogen Jukebox* is a portrait of America from the 1950s to 1980s, covering social issues such as the sexual revolution, drugs and eastern philosophy. The chamber opera features music from Philip Glass created to incorporate the rhythmic expression of Allen Ginsberg's poems, notably "Howl", from which the title of the piece was derived. Throughout the production, six actors representing American archetypes take the audience on the psychological journey through Ginsberg's America.

"Ultimately, the motif of *Hydrogen Jukebox*, the underpinning, the secret message, secret activity, is to relieve human suffering by communicating some kind of enlightened awareness of various themes, topics, obsessions, neuroses, difficulties, problems, perplexities that we encounter as we end the millennium," said Ginsberg.

*Jukebox* continues Skylight's 2013-14 season focused on revolution and freedom by exploring the revolution of an American generation as it struggles with the social issues pivotal to that period of our country's history. Utilizing innovative and state-of-the-art projection images and a stark set, *Jukebox* will leave audiences mesmerized and moved as they experience this dynamic, avant-garde production.

"Fundamentally it strikes me as a truly American story. It opens with Ginsberg traveling through Texas on a train and it talks about his journeys through the Midwest. It is a metaphor for the journey we take as a country – one of hope for the future and the unity we share as Americans," said Skylight Artistic Director, Viswa Subbaraman.

"Yes, on the surface, *Jukebox* speaks to a generation past, but the issues, the themes, are ever present in our current society. This is a piece for all generations and speaks to those both young and old as only Ginsberg and Glass can achieve."

Skylight is once again joining forces with the ACLU of Wisconsin and the Cream City Foundation to build a bigger conversation, one that spans generations and is still wildly relevant.

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# PHILIP GLASS' HYDROGEN JUKEBOX AT SKYLIGHT

## CREDITS

Music by Philip Glass

Poetry by Allen Ginsberg

## PRODUCTION TEAM

Stage Director .....Ted Huffman  
Stage Director/Choreographer ..... Zack Winokur  
Music Director ..... Viswa Subbaraman  
Projection Designer .....Sven Ortel  
Costume Designer ..... Jason Orlenko  
Lighting Designer .....Carrie Calvins  
Assistant Director ..... Daniel J. Brylow  
Associate Music Director ..... Robert Frankenberry  
Assistant Project Designer ..... Matt Young  
Production Stage Manager ..... Kimberly Ann McCann  
Assistant Stage Manager ..... Lauren Pekel

## CAST

Soprano ..... Erica Schuller  
Soprano ..... Megan Williams  
Mezzo ..... Kristen DiNinno  
Tenor ..... Ben Robinson  
Baritone ..... Dan Kempson  
Bass ..... Michael Scarcelle

## ORCHESTRA

Soprano Saxophone, Flute ..... John Hibler  
Soprano Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Bass Clarinet ..... Ron Foster  
Percussion ..... Michael Lorenz  
Percussion ..... Andrew Cierny  
Keyboard ..... Mark Carlstein

## PHILIP GLASS' HYDROGEN JUKEBOX AT SKYLIGHT

### BIOGRAPHIES



**Erica Schuller (Soprano)** – Praised for her "lively personality, abundant charm, and luscious vocalism," (Chicago Tribune) and "gossamer interpretive style" (SF Classical Voice), Erica Schuller brings committed artistry to a broad musical repertory. This season, Erica made her Chicago debut with Haymarket Opera Company as Vespetta in *Pimpinone*, recently rated one of the top 5 operas of 2013 by Newcity Stage. In October, she also debuted with Skylight Music Theatre as Marzelline in *Fidelio*. Upcoming engagements include concerts with Second City Musik and Rockefeller Chapel Music Series, roles in the 2015 Boston Early Music Festival, and a recital of Italian Baroque cantatas in San Francisco. Ms. Schuller has garnered acclaim as Elvira in Rossini's *L'Italiana in Algeri*, and as the soprano soloist with the MSO in their presentations of Handel's *Messiah* (2010, 2011). She has also appeared twice with the Boston Early Music Festival. She can be heard as Marte in *Duron's Salir el Amor del Mundo*, recorded for the Dorian Record Label. Other credits: Mrs. Gleaton (*Susannah*), Armida (*Rinaldo*), Pamina (*Die Zauberflöte*), Belinda (*Dido and Aeneas*), Amor (*L'Egisto*), Noémie (*Cendrillon*), Lazuli (*L'Étoile*), and Euridice (*L'Orfeo*).



**Megan Williams (Soprano)** – Megan Rose Williams has been praised for her "very beautiful timbre, excellent projection, and beautifully heartfelt interpretations" (*Pro---Opera México Magazine*). A native of Corvallis, Oregon, Megan made her international debut as the soprano soloist in Mahler's *Symphony No. 2* with the Jalisco Philharmonic Orchestra (2012). Megan made her solo debut at Orchestra Hall in Chicago's Symphony Center, performing Ravel's *Shéhérazade* with the CCPA symphony orchestra (2012). Megan was a Young Artist with Chicago Opera Theater for four seasons, while completing her M.M. and Artist Diploma degrees at CCPA. Roles covered include: Créuse and Cléone in Charpentier's *Medée*; Vava in Shostakovich's *Moscow: Cheryomushki*; Clizia in Handel's *Teseo*; and Pamina and Papagena in Mozart's *The Magic Flute*. She was also featured as a principal ballet dancer in *Moscow: Cheryomushki*. Recently, Megan was seen in COT's controversial, yet critically acclaimed production of *Giovanna d'Arco*. She currently studies with Judith Haddon.



**Kristen DiNinno (Mezzo)** – Kristen DiNinno most recently performed the role of Mercedes in *Carmen* and Mrs. Herring in *Albert Herring* with The Florentine Opera Company. With the Des Moines Metro Opera, she performed as Suzy in Puccini's *La Rondine*. At the Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, she covered the three roles of the Swiss Grandmother, Austrian Woman, and British Dancing Girl in John Adam's *The Death of Klinghoffer*. With the Shreveport Opera Company, she performed in *Don Giovanni* as Zerlina. She received third prize in the Mary Jacobs Smith Singer of the Year Competition in 2010. Kristen was involved in a new contemporary chamber opera through the American Opera Projects in New York City called *Love/Hate* by Jack Perla where she debuted the role of Laura. She performed the principal role of The Girl in The Manhattan School of Music's *Griffelkin* by Lukas Foss, where she was highly praised by the *New York Times*.



**Ben Robinson (Tenor)** – Benjamin Robinson, described as a "sweet and lyrical tenor," is a native of Raleigh, North Carolina and is becoming known for his "emphatic characterizations," "easy vocal production" and "luscious instrument." This season Benjamin appeared in the title role of Light Opera of New Jersey's season opening *Orpheus in the Underworld*, as Nanki-Poo (*The Mikado*) at Mobile Opera, and as Kaspar (*Amahl and the Night Visitors*) at Amarillo Opera before making his role debut as Don Ottavio (*Don Giovanni*) with Martha Cardona Theater in New York. He returns to Raylynmor Opera in April as Rinuccio (*Gianni Schicchi*) before appearing as Ernesto (*Don Pasquale*) with Lyric Opera of the North. Recent appearances include Frederic (*The Pirates of Penzance*) with Anchorage Opera, Charles (*Hotel Casablanca*) with Abilene Opera Association, Antinoo (*Antigona Furiosa*) with Contempo at the University of Chicago, Christopher (Morcom) in the world premiere workshop of *The Turing Project* with American Lyric Theater, and Don Anchise (*La Finta Giardiniera*) and Henrik (*A Little Night Music*) with Opera Theatre of Pittsburgh. [www.benjaminrobinsontenor.com](http://www.benjaminrobinsontenor.com)

## PHILIP GLASS' HYDROGEN JUKEBOX AT SKYLIGHT



**Dan Kempson (Baritone)** – Dan Kempson recently joined the roster of the Metropolitan Opera for the US premiere of Nico Muhly's *Two Boys*. Career highlights include performances with the Santa Fe Opera, Spoleto Festival USA, Pittsburgh Opera, Fort Worth Opera, Syracuse Opera, Shreveport Opera, Caramoor Festival, Opera Saratoga, and St. Petersburg Opera in a wide variety of roles including Figaro (*Il barbiere di Siviglia*), Count Almaviva (*Le nozze di Figaro*), Marcello (*La Bohème*), and Papageno (*Die Zauberflöte*). In concert, he has been a soloist with the Pittsburgh Symphony, Wichita Symphony, Erie Philharmonic, Asheville Symphony, and Savannah Philharmonic in repertoire such as *Carmina Burana*, Handel's *Messiah*, and the Brahms *Requiem*. Winner of awards from the Sullivan Foundation, Gerda Lissner Foundation, and Opera Index, Dan is a graduate of the Merola Opera Program, Manhattan School of Music, and Peabody Conservatory. Mr. Kempson lives in New York City.



**Michael Scarcelle (Bass)** – Michael Scarcelle's recent performances include Poo-Bah *The Mikado* with both Shreveport Opera and Mobile Opera; Demetrius *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with Opera Naples; Alidoro *La Cenerentola* with Salt Marsh Opera; Pirate King *The Pirates of Penzance* with Anchorage Opera; Don Pedro *Pèrichole* with Amarillo Opera; Death *Savitri* with Little Opera Theater of New York, for which the New York Times praised his "forbidding, resonant bass-baritone". Other highlights include Elviro in *Serse* with Boston Baroque; Herrmann Augustus in *Candide* with both Munich Philharmonic and London Symphony Orchestra; Schaunard in *La Bohème* and Crespel in *Les Contes D'hoffmann* with Lyrique-en-mer in France; Beaupertuis in *The Italian Straw Hat* with Amarillo Opera; Hanezo in *L'amico Fritz* with Sarasota Opera; as well as Escamillo in *Carmen* and Figaro in *Le Nozze di Figaro* with Volkstheater Rostock in Germany. Future performances include Marco in *Gianni Schicchi* with both Salt Marsh Opera and Raylnmora Opera. For more information, visit [www.michaelscarcelle.com](http://www.michaelscarcelle.com).

**BIOGRAPHIES** (end)

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## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Skylight Music Theatre's performances of *Hydrogen Jukebox* are sponsored by **Cream City Foundation** and in partnership with the **America Civil Liberties Union of Wisconsin Foundation**.

Additional information can be found at <http://www.skylightmusictheatre.org/shows-events/on-stage/hydrogen-jukebox>

## PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Performances of *Hydrogen Jukebox* will take place March 14th through March 30th in the Cabot Theatre at the Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway in the Historic Third Ward of Milwaukee. **Tickets are generally \$22.50 - \$65.50 (plus tax)** and can be purchased in person at the Broadway Theatre Center Box Office or by calling (414) 291-7800 Monday – Sunday from noon – 6:00 p.m. Tickets may also be purchased online at [www.skylightmusictheatre.org](http://www.skylightmusictheatre.org). Group, student, senior and other discounts may also be available.

Fri. Mar 14th, 2014	7:30 p.m.
Sat. Mar 15th, 2014	7:30 p.m.
Sun. Mar 16th, 2014	2:00 p.m.
Wed. Mar 19th, 2014	7:30 p.m.
Fri. Mar 21st, 2014	7:30 p.m.
Sat. Mar 22nd, 2014	7:30 p.m.
Sun. Mar 23rd, 2014	7:30 p.m.
Wed. Mar 26th, 2014	7:30 p.m.
Fri. Mar 28th, 2014	7:30 p.m.
Sat. Mar 29th, 2014	7:30 p.m.
Sun. Mar 30th, 2014	2:00 p.m.

## PRE SHOW TALKS

*Skylight Insights* are an engaging opportunity to learn more about the production. Talks will be led by Viswa Subbaraman before every performance of *Hydrogen Jukebox* in the Salon.

## POST SHOW CABARET

The Cabaret is a free post-show performance that takes place in the Bar following every Friday and Saturday evening performance. The Cabaret for *Hydrogen Jukebox* is EVERYTHING GOES! An original show that celebrates the full-spectrum of music theatre! Featuring Susie Wiedmeyer, Tim Rebers and Maggie Rebers on piano.