

T A C O M A OPERA

For Release: March 1, 2023

Opera reflects on the past to heal the future in world premiere of *Tacoma Method* March 31 – Apr 2, 2023

Work examines the 1885 expulsion of Tacoma's Chinese populations and the actions that destroyed a community

Tacoma — March 1, 2023 — Tacoma Opera's *Tacoma Method*, a bold new work by **composer Gregory Youtz and librettist Zhang Er**, reflects on the city's past to heal the future with a world premiere at the **Rialto Theater in Tacoma March 31 – April 2, 2023**.

"Recognizing the incident that tore down an emerging city is the reconciliation needed for generations to heal," said Tacoma Opera General Manager Limuel Forgey. "The discord is part of Tacoma's history – acknowledging history through the arts and reflecting on, rather than repeating, is what inspires a future of caring and community."

What is *Tacoma Method*?

Directed by opera tenor Barry Johnson, the *Tacoma Method* features an all-star cast who, along with chamber orchestra and chorus, bring to life the tragic true story about the expulsion of Tacoma's Chinese community during the late 19th century.

More than 100 years after the expulsion, ***Tacoma Method* comes to Tacoma's Rialto Theater March 31 through April 2, 2023** less than a mile away from where then-mayor Jacob Weisbach held his first rally. Composed by Pacific Lutheran University Professor of Music Greg Youtz and librettist Zhang Er, a Beijing born-and-raised Chinese poet teaching at Evergreen College, ***Tacoma Method* features Soon Cho as Mrs. May, Allan Palacios Chan as Sing Lee, Ivy Zhou as Mrs. Lee, Robert McPherson as Mayor Weisbach and Zachary Lenox as Ezra Meeker** as some of the era's key figures.

In February 1885, at an Alpha Opera House meeting in what is now downtown Tacoma, Mayor Weisbach roused a hostile crowd of white citizens to discuss how to expel the community's Chinese residents. By November, rioting ensued as a mob of more than 500 marched through the nearby Chinatown, stopping at every Chinese business and residence and forcing the occupants to leave their belongings, except for what they could carry. Most left, a few resisted, and what remained of the once prominent Chinese community was ransacked and eventually burned to the ground. The incident left fear and sorrow for the city of Tacoma and the Chinese people who still carry the emotional burden of what happened to their ancestors.

Tickets for *Tacoma Method* at the Rialto Theater (310 S 9th St, Tacoma) on **March 31 and April 1 at 7pm and at 2pm on April 2** range from \$37.50 - \$127.50. For more information and to purchase tickets online, visit tacomaopera.org.

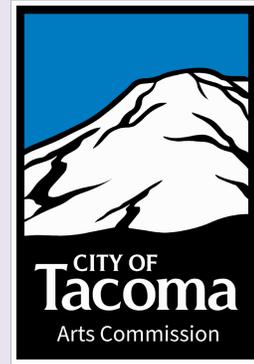
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Established in 1968, Tacoma Opera is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to inspire, educate and excite audiences with grand operatic productions of high artistic quality. As the second-largest opera company in the Pacific Northwest, Tacoma Opera seeks to heighten awareness of the value of arts and music by providing dynamic

productions and music education programs for diverse audiences.

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