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University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations

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SEATTLE OPERA PRESENTS
"TOSCA" AT UM APRIL 5

MISSOULA---

Grand opera comes to Missoula on April 5 when the Northwest's major professional opera company, the Seattle Opera under the direction of Glynn Ross, arrives here for a full-scale production of Puccini's "Tosca" at the University of Montana Theater.

The 200-strong group includes full orchestra, conductor, chorus, eight soloists, lighting technicians, stagehands and wardrobe people, bringing with them three full acts of scenery and many trunks of costumes and props. They will descend on Missoula via airways, railroads and bus for the performance. Curtain time is 8:15 p.m. April 5.

The five-year-old Seattle Opera is rated fourth in the nation with New York, San Francisco and Chicago and has been performing to sold-out houses in Seattle.

First stops on the Opera's initial road tour are Spokane and Missoula. Visits to other communities previously limited to rare appearances of small-budget touring groups are expected.

Such a venture which ordinarily is prohibited by very high costs has been made possible by the fusion of several factors. The UM School of Fine Arts and the Associated Students of the University of Montana are sponsoring the Seattle Opera's appearance and the National Endowment for the Arts is contributing funds which are set aside to assist touring programs throughout the region.

The fact that the Spokane Symphony and Chorus will perform in Spokane with the Seattle Opera and have agreed to collaborate with the Seattle Opera in Missoula has further made it possible to present a high quality production of "Tosca" on a lower than normal budget this first year.

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Admission to the April 5 performance is \$3.50, \$3 and \$2, with students paying 50 cents less in each price category. Tickets may be purchased at the University Center Information Desk, at the School of Fine Arts office (phone 243-4971) and at the Missoula Mercantile Record Shop.

"Tosca" will be performed in English, featuring leading singers from the Seattle Opera's National Artists Program. Soprano Marisa Galvany stars in the title role with tenor Erik Townsend as Cavaradossi and baritone Haroldo Lara as Scarpia. The rest of the cast includes William Rhodes as Angelotti, Hans Solvig as the Sacristan, Norman Mikelson as Spoletta, John Beauchamp as Sciarrone and Alfonse Hill as the Jailer.

In the pit, will be the Spokane Symphony under the direction of Seattle Opera Conductor Henry Holt. The chorus is the Spokane Choral Society. Settings are by Ercole Sormani, leading designer for La Scala in Milan, Italy.

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