



NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT:

Flynn Hanners (217) 652-6918

isphanners@hotmail.com

The Muni to close it's 2011 season with children's classic, "The Wizard of Oz"

Springfield, IL – August 9, 2011 – The Springfield Municipal Opera (The Muni) will close its 2011 season with the children's classic *The Wizard of Oz* sponsored by Bank of Springfield. The Muni will present *The Wizard of Oz* August 12-14 and August 17-21, 2011 at its outdoor amphitheater located at 815 East Lake Drive in Springfield.

One of the most beloved musicals of all time, *The Wizard of Oz*, is blowing into the Springfield Muni Opera this weekend. Follow the yellow brick road as Dorothy Gale, a young girl from Kansas is transported by a cyclone into the magical land of Oz and is desperately searching for a way home. Join Dorothy, the Scarecrow, the Tin Man, the Cowardly Lion, and Toto, too, as they travel "Somewhere over the Rainbow" in the Land of Oz. Bring the whole family and experience the magic under the stars with lavish costumes, flying monkeys, and the classic story teaching us all "There's no place like home."

"It's an iconic show," says director Matthew Vala. "Children see it over and over and adults hold it close to their heart, so it's a lot of responsibility putting it on stage. Audiences have high expectations. The actors in our show have added some new twists and turns along the way."

Reserved seating tickets for *The Wizard of Oz* are \$12 and available by calling (217) 793-MUNI.

General admission tickets (lawn seating) are available before each show at the Muni box office for \$8 adults, \$7 students, \$5 children (3-12), and ages 2 and under are free. "Family Nights" at the Muni are designated as the first Sunday and Wednesday night performances of each show's run. Children under 12 are free with the purchase of a paid general admission ticket on "Family Nights".

About The Muni

The Springfield Municipal Opera (The Muni) is a not-for-profit theatrical organization that has become

a Springfield tradition, providing the best of Broadway to enthusiastic audiences for more than 50 years. Entertaining 40,000+ each year at its lakeside, outdoor amphitheater, The Muni is one of the largest all-volunteer community theatre organizations in the nation. For more information on The Muni, please visit www.TheMuni.org.

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