

Minnesota Opera plans benefit at Guthrie

ST. PAUL, Minn. — An afternoon of musical fun welcomes in the New Year when "An Opera Home Companion" comes to the stage of the Guthrie Theater on Sunday, Jan. 4.

Scheduled for 4 p.m., the event is a benefit for the Minnesota Opera.

"An Opera Home Companion" is written by Garrison Keillor of Minnesota Public Radio's "A Prairie Home Companion," Conductor Philip Brunelle, Artistic Director of Minnesota Opera, and tenor Vern Sutton.

Sutton sang the role of Prince Danilo in Minnesota Opera's recent production of Lehar's "The Merry Widow," and is in his 17th season with the opera company. All three men will perform in the Jan. 4 program.

Also taking part in the variety and musical numbers will be mezzo-soprano Janis Hardy, the Butch Thompson Trio, former Guthrie Artistic Director Michael Langham, WCCO Television anchorman Dave Moore, Wendy Lehr of the Children's Theater Company, and former Whippet Jim Ed Poole (of "Prairie Home Companion" fame).

Finally, there will be a special performance by a little-known, but sincere talent — Freckles the Dog.

Tickets are priced at \$25 (Patron — \$15 tax deductible); \$15 (\$5 tax deductible); \$10 and \$5. All seating is reserved. Proceeds will help Minnesota Opera fund its current season of performances.

Tickets are available at Minnesota Opera, (612) 221-0256, 850 Grand Ave., St. Paul, Minn., 55105, and at all Dayton's ticket offices.