

The Whiting, 1241 E. Kearsley St., Flint, MI 48503

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

September 12, 2008

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Experience Bohemian Cabaret, Paris Hot Jazz, Swing and Tango with Vagabond Opera Presented by The Whiting

Flint, MI – The Whiting is pleased to present Vagabond Opera on **Friday, October 10 at 8pm** at UM-Flint Theatre. Meet a world of riverboat gambling queens and Turkish belly dancers, and experience rich musical phrasing and sparkling lyrics, all played with a gritty Vagabond edge. A Vagabond Opera show your chance to time-travel to 1920s Paris on a wild riverboat full of fun and laughter. All seats are just \$26 and student rush tickets are available the day of the performance for \$12. To order tickets to this dazzling performance simply visit TheWhitng.com, call (810) 237-7333 or (800) 8-CENTER, or visit the Ticket Center located at 1241 E. Kearsley St. just off I-475 between the University of Michigan Flint and Mott Community College. For a complete schedule and full details on the entire 2008-09 season line-up, visit TheWhiting.com or phone the Ticket Center and request a free brochure.

European Cabaret! Vintage Americana! Balkan Belly Dance! Neo-Classical Opera! Old World Yiddish Theater! Welcome to the six-piece, Portland, Oregon-based Vagabond Opera.

Based in the Pacific Northwest, yet encompassing the world, Vagabond Opera delivers passionate offerings of Bohemian cabaret. Paris hot Jazz, gut bucket swing, Tangos, Ukrainian folk-punk ballads, Klezmer and vigorous originals meet a world of riverboat gambling queens, Turkish belly dancers, and the enigmatic Marlene Dietrich. Weaving elements of Kurt Weil,

Duke Ellington and Edith Piaf with absurdist flair, theatrics and an old world mood, Vagabond Opera presents the new wave of opera—lusty (trained) voices singing in 13 languages and presenting a cabaret of rich musical phrasing, sparkling lyrics and indomitable stage presence, all played with exuberance, skill and a gritty Vagabond edge. This is Opera liberated and reinvented for everyone.

The band's lineup features trained operatic tenor and soprano vocals, accordion, tenor and alto saxophones, cello, stand-up bass, drums, and, when the mood is right, a burlesque hoola-hooping fire performer.

Vagabond Opera is at the vanguard of a growing popularity in the Neo-cabaret phenomenon, and through their theatrical performances, lyrics in 13 languages, and an eclectic repertoire, they liberate opera from its usual construct, expanding musical and theatrical biodiversity. Vagabond Opera has performed all over the USA, including the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. They have been featured on NPR, in the Washington Post and Jazziz Magazine, and have shared stages and players with Pink Martini, The Decembrists, Al Franken and the Oregon Symphony. Vagabond opera has two full length albums and just released their third album this summer.

Vagabond Opera was created in 2002 by European-trained opera singer and composer Eric Stern. Then disillusioned with the classical opera world, Stern created a new context for opera: Performance on a more intimate scale incorporating not only opera but elements of Weimar Cabaret, Arabic and Balkan forms, and the original music that springs from the ensemble's fertile creative work. This is not your granny's opera, but a visceral artistic ensemble that features powerful instrumental and vocal performances coupled with a highly eclectic and theatrical experience.

This performance is generously sponsored by Ruth Mott Foundation, McLaren Regional Medical Center, ABC12, CARS 108 and CLUB 93.7.

The Whiting is a member organization of the Flint Cultural Center Corporation and is dedicated to bringing the performing arts to the community. The Whiting is a nonprofit organization and an

Equal Opportunity Employer providing programs and services without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, sex or handicap.

****High Res Images are available upon request.**

**To secure tickets or request images, please contact Wendi Fournier at
(810) 237-8689 or wfournier@thewhiting.com****

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