

SAN FRANCISCO OPERA ANNOUNCES 2009–10 SEASON REPERTORY AND CASTING

NICOLA LUISOTTI BEGINS INAUGURAL SEASON AS COMPANY MUSIC DIRECTOR AND CONDUCTS IL TROVATORE, SALOME, OTELLO AND THE GIRL OF THE GOLDEN WEST

DISTINGUISHED ARTISTS INCLUDE MARCO BERTI, STEPHANIE BLYTHE, JOHAN BOTHA, DIANA DAMRAU, JUAN DIEGO FLÓREZ, ROBERTO FRONTALI, PAOLO GAVANELLI, GREER GRIMSLEY, DMITRI HVOROSTOVSKY, SALVATORE LICITRA, NADJA MICHAEL, EWA PODLEŚ, MATTHEW POLENZANI, PATRICIA RACETTE, SONDRA RADVANOVSKY, JOHN RELYEA, STEFANO SECCO, SVETLA VASSILEVA, DEBORAH VOIGT, MARCO VRATOGNA AND CONDUCTORS MAURIZIO BENINI, MICHELE MARIOTTI, CORNELIUS MEISTER AND PATRICK SUMMERS

DONALD RUNNICLES TO CONDUCT *DIE WALKÜRE*, FEATURING NINA STEMME, EVA-MARIA WESTBROEK, CHRISTOPHER VENTRIS AND MARK DELAVAN COMPLETE *RING* CYCLE SET FOR JUNE 2011

SFO ANNOUNCES PLANS TO COMMISSION NEW OPERAS BY CHRISTOPHER THEOFANIDIS, MARK ADAMO AND JENNIFER HIGDON AND TO PRESENT BAY AREA STAGE PREMIERES OF JOHN ADAMS' NIXON IN CHINA AND JAKE HEGGIE'S MOBY-DICK

PATRICK SUMMERS REAPPOINTED PRINCIPAL GUEST CONDUCTOR GIUSEPPE FINZI APPOINTED ASSISTANT MUSIC DIRECTOR

FREE SIMULCAST PERFORMANCES OF TOSCA AND IL TROVATORE PLANNED FOR AT&T PARK

SAN FRANCISCO, January 26, 2009—San Francisco Opera General Director David Gockley, joined by Music Director Designate Nicola Luisotti and Chairman of the Board of Directors John Gunn, today announced artistic details for the upcoming 2009–10 repertory season; plans to commission three operas by American composers Christopher Theofanidis, Mark Adamo and Jennifer Higdon; the presentation of Richard Wagner's magnum opus *Der Ring des Nibelungen* for June 2011; the appointments of Patrick Summers as principal guest conductor and Giuseppe Finzi as assistant music director; and a return to AT&T Park, home of the San Francisco Giants baseball team, for free community simulcast performances of *Tosca* and *Il Trovatore*.

Today's announcement occurred at a reception in the historic War Memorial Opera House Rhoda Goldman foyer before a distinguished gathering of press, the Company's board of directors and donors, civic and corporate leaders, cultural arts directors, and members of the Bay Area diplomatic corps. Gockley and Maestro Luisotti laid out a bold artistic vision of repertory and artists underscoring their new working relationship, while Gunn reaffirmed the Company's strategic financial planning reflective of the evolving international economic climate. Members of the San Francisco Opera Center's Adler Fellowship Program performed musical excerpts from the 2009–10 repertory.

"The 2009–10 season launches our new relationship with incoming Music Director Nicola Luisotti, a wonderfully talented and charismatic conductor who I believe will be warmly embraced by the community," said General Director David Gockley. "With Maestro Luisotti, San Francisco Opera will return to its heritage of an emphasis on the Italian opera repertory."

"We all acknowledge that this economic environment is very serious and challenging. After careful financial and artistic planning, including many modifications to the budget, I am very pleased to announce that we have assembled a season of grand opera productions with a roster of world renowned singers, conductors and directors. While there may be fewer and less elaborate productions, I will not shrink away from the musical values for which this Company is regarded around the globe, and I believe the new season emphasizes this point."

"In its 86 years of existence, San Francisco Opera has remained a bastion of artistic excellence and innovation," said Chairman John Gunn, "and the new season is no exception. The financial realities now confronting our global economy have forced us to reduce expenses in the coming seasons and work within a tighter and leaner budget. The reduction of our endowment in particular has precipitated this strategic financial repositioning of the Company. That said, San Francisco Opera remains fully committed to our core values of offering a superior grand opera experience to our audiences both inside the War Memorial and out in the community. In short, we are managing confidently but remain ambitious."

San Francisco Opera's forthcoming 87th season commences on Friday, September 11, 2009 and showcases Music Director Nicola Luisotti on the podium leading an international cast in Giuseppe Verdi's popular *Il Trovatore* in a production by David McVicar.

In addition to *Il Trovatore*, Maestro Luisotti conducts *Salome*, *Otello* and *The Girl of the Golden West* in his inaugural season as San Francisco Opera's music director. He is the Company's third music director and follows the acclaimed musical legacy of Sir John Pritchard (1985–89) and Donald Runnicles, who concludes his 17-year tenure in the summer of 2009. Luisotti made his Company debut in 2005 with *La Forza del Destino* and returned in 2008 for *La Bohème*. Since his professional debut with Stuttgart Opera in 2002, Luisotti's meteoric rise in the classical music world has brought him to leading opera houses and concert halls, including London's Royal Opera, New York's Metropolitan Opera, Milan's Teatro alla Scala, the Vienna State Opera, Munich's Bavarian State Opera and Tokyo's Suntory Hall, where his performances have been unanimously acclaimed.

"It was love at first sight with this company and with this beautiful city of San Francisco," said Luisotti. "I cannot imagine a more *simpatico* place to make my life and my music, especially with such a talented group of musicians as the San Francisco Opera Orchestra and Chorus. My job as music director and conductor is to serve the composer—and the community. Life is short, and we have to use music to improve the lives of the people around us. That is my mission."

From popular classics to operatic works long absent from the War Memorial Opera House stage, the 2009–10 season offers Verdi's *Il Trovatore*, Giacomo Puccini's three one-act operas that comprise *Il Trittico* (*Il Tabarro*, *Suor Angelica* and *Gianni Schicchi*), Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's *The Abduction from the Seraglio*, Gaetano Donizetti's *The Daughter of the Regiment*, Richard Strauss' *Salome*, Verdi's *Otello*, Charles François Gounod's *Faust*, Puccini's *The Girl of the Golden West* and Richard Wagner's *Die Walküre*. Previously announced plans to present a new production of Benjamin Britten's *Peter Grimes*, as well as Puccini's *La Boheme*, have been cancelled as a result of the current financial challenges. The 2009–10 season runs September 11 through December 2, 2009 and June 5 through July 2, 2010 and features the critically acclaimed San Francisco Opera Chorus, led by Chorus Director Ian Robertson, and the San Francisco Opera Orchestra.

The 2009–10 season includes the Company debuts of several renowned artists, such as sopranos Diana Damrau (Marie/*The Daughter of the Regiment*), Nadja Michael (title role of *Salome*), Sondra Radvanovsky (Leonora/*Il Trovatore*), Svetla Vassileva (Desdemona/*Otello*) and Eva-Maria Westbroek (Sieglinde/*Die Walküre*); mezzo-sopranos Janina Baechle (Fricka/*Die Walküre*) and Malgorzata Walewska (Azucena/*Il Trovatore*); contraltos Meredith Arwady (The Marquise of Berkenfeld/*The Daughter of the Regiment*, The Abbess/*Suor Angelica*, Zita/*Gianni Schicchi*) and Ewa Podleś (The Princess/*Suor Angelica*); tenors Johan Botha (title role of *Otello*), Beau Gibson (Cassio/*Otello*), Salvatore Licitra (Dick Johnson/*The Girl of the Golden West*) and Garrett Sorenson (Narraboth/*Salome*); baritone Marco Vratogna (Iago/*Otello*); and basses Burak Bilgili (Ferrando/*Il Trovatore*), and Bruno Praticò (Sulpice/*The Daughter of the Regiment*); and conductors Maurizio Benini (*Faust*), Michele Mariotti (*The Daughter of the Regiment*), and Cornelius Meister (*The Abduction from the Seraglio*), who makes his U.S. opera debut with the Company.

San Francisco Opera welcomes back many acclaimed singers to the War Memorial Opera House, including sopranos Anna Christy, Mary Dunleavy, Patricia Racette, Nina Stemme and Deborah Voigt; mezzo-sopranos Stephanie Blythe (Blythe makes her Company debut in May 2009 with the Verdi Requiem), Catherine Cook, and Irina Mishura; tenors Kim Begley, Marco Berti, Juan Diego Flórez, Brandon Jovanovich, Matthew Polenzani, Stefano Secco (Secco also makes his Company debut in the Verdi Requiem this May) and Christopher Ventris; baritones Mark Delavan, Roberto Frontali, Paolo Gavanelli, Greer Grimsley, Dmitri Hvorostovsky and Brian Mulligan; and basses Raymond Aceto, Jake Gardner, Eric Halfvarson, John Relyea and Peter Rose.

San Francisco Opera Artistic Adviser Francesca Zambello continues her relationship with the Company and directs the second installment of the "American" *Ring* cycle, *Die Walküre*, in 2010. Acclaimed directors Laurent Pelly (*The Daughter of the Regiment*), Walter Sutcliffe (*Il Trovatore*, in a production by David McVicar), Chas Rader-Shieber (*The Abduction from the Seraglio*) and Seán Curran (*Salome*) make their San Francisco Opera debuts, and the Company welcomes back James Robinson (*Il Trittico, Salome*) and Stephen Barlow (*Otello, Faust*).

SFO APPOINTS CONDUCTORS SUMMERS AND FINZI

Patrick Summers, a longtime veteran of numerous San Francisco Opera productions, former music director of the San Francisco Opera Center and current music director of Houston Grand Opera, has been re-appointed principal guest conductor to San Francisco Opera. In this capacity, Maestro Summers will lead at least one production in each of the next three seasons and will advise David Gockley and Nicola Luisotti as a key member of the artistic team. Summers previously served as the Company's principal guest conductor from 2000 to 2004. In the 2009–10 season, Maestro Summers conducts Puccini's *Il Trittico*.

Giuseppe Finzi, assistant conductor, coach and pianist at Milan's La Scala, has been appointed San Francisco Opera's assistant music director. Finzi recently made his Company debut with the *The Elixir of Love for Families* and *La Bohème*. He made his professional debut in 2003 with *Tosca* at the Teatro Rendano in Cosenza and has led productions at many of Italy's regional opera theaters.

PLANS FOR NEW WORKS AND BAY AREA PREMIERES

David Gockley's commitment to presenting new works includes plans to commission operas by composers Christopher Theofanidis, Mark Adamo and Jennifer Higdon. In the 2011–12 season, San Francisco Opera plans to present the world premiere of a new opera by Christopher Theofanidis, with a libretto by Donna DiNovelli, that deals with themes of heroism and the September 11, 2001 attacks. Conducted by Principal Guest Conductor Patrick Summers, this opera is expected to have its premiere in September 2011. Mark Adamo creates the music and libretto for *The Gospel of Mary Magdalene*, scheduled for June 2013. According to the composer, this opera "draws on the Gnostic gospels, the canonical gospels and fifty years of new Biblical scholarship to reimagine the loves and conflicts of the New Testament through the eyes of its leading female character." Composer Jennifer Higdon will work with librettist Gene Scheer for the creation of a new work—Higdon's first full-length opera—slated to have its premiere in Fall 2013. The subject of Higdon and Scheer's work will be announced at a later date.

San Francisco Opera also plans to present Bay Area stage premieres of two American operas: *Nixon in China* by John Adams, set to a libretto by Alice Goodman, and *Moby-Dick* by Jake Heggie and librettist Gene Scheer, a co-commission with the opera companies of Dallas, San Diego, and Calgary. Considered one of the seminal operas of the 20th century and a cornerstone of minimalist music since its 1987 premiere at Houston Grand Opera, *Nixon in China* has been performed around the world and receives its fully staged Bay Area premiere in the summer of 2012. Heggie and Scheer's eagerly anticipated opera based on Herman Melville's landmark of 19th-century American fiction receives its premiere by the Dallas Opera in the 2009–10 season and features world renowned tenor Ben Heppner as Captain Ahab and Patrick Summers on the podium; Heppner and Summers return to San Francisco Opera for the work in the fall of 2012.

RING CYCLE SET FOR JUNE 2011

"With Washington National Opera's recent announcement to postpone the final installment of our joint *Ring* production indefinitely, it has fallen to San Francisco Opera to take the leadership role in completing the project by creating *Götterdämmerung*," said David Gockley. "Company Artistic Adviser Francesca Zambello and Maestro Donald Runnicles will work with us on the artistic direction of *Götterdämmerung* and the presentation of the complete *Der Ring des Nibelungen—Das Rheingold*, *Die Walküre*, *Siegfried* and *Götterdämmerung* —in three cycles set for June 2011."

Tickets for the 2011 *Ring* cycle go on sale in Fall 2009 and will be initially offered to San Francisco Opera subscribers and donors. Complete details about the cycle will be announced at a later date.

FREE SIMULCASTS AT AT&T PARK

San Francisco Opera and the San Francisco Giants partner with Webcor Builders to present two free live simulcasts at AT&T Park in 2009. Puccini's *Tosca* will be simulcast live from the War Memorial Opera House to AT&T Park's high definition scoreboard on Friday, June 5 as part of the Company's Summer 2009 season. On Saturday, September 19 the Company celebrates the opening of the Fall 2009 season with a simulcast of Verdi's *Il Trovatore*, conducted by Music Director Nicola Luisotti. Baseball and opera fans alike have the rare opportunity to enjoy glorious opera in the beautiful and convivial outdoor setting of AT&T Park. *Webcor Presents Opera at the Ballpark* is made possible through the extraordinary technology of the Koret-Taube Media Suite. The Company's previous simulcasts in September 2007 and June 2008 were enjoyed by more than 38,000 attendees. [See related news release for further details.]

OPENING WEEKEND FESTIVITIES

San Francisco Opera's 87th season opens on Friday, September 11 with Verdi's *Il Trovatore* conducted by Music Director Nicola Luisotti and featuring an illustrious cast, including Marco Berti, Dmitri Hvorostovky, Sondra Radvanovsky and Stephanie Blythe. A highlight of the City's cultural and philanthropic season, the opening night gala festivities include *Opera Ball 2009*, presented by San Francisco Opera Guild and benefiting San Francisco Opera and the Opera Guild's education outreach programs, and BRAVO! CLUB's *Opening Night Gala*, geared especially toward young professionals.

The season-opening weekend culminates with *San Francisco Opera in the Park* on Sunday, September 13 in Golden Gate Park's Sharon Meadow. A beloved San Francisco tradition, the free annual concert features acclaimed artists from the Company's Fall 2009 season and the San Francisco Opera Orchestra conducted by Maestro Luisotti.

SAN FRANCISCO OPERA'S 2009-10 SEASON

Il Trovatore – Giuseppe Verdi

San Francisco Opera's 2009–10 season opens September 11, 2009 with **Nicola Luisotti** on the podium in his first production as the Company's music director. Italian tenor **Marco Berti** stars in the title role of this suspenseful story of a corrupt count, a dashing warrior and a Gypsy who plots to avenge her mother's wrongful death. Russian baritone **Dmitri Hvorostovsky** returns to the Company as Count di Luna and **Sondra Radvanovsky**, whose exquisite soprano voice has thrilled audiences from Vienna to New York, makes her San Francisco Opera debut as Leonora. They are joined by mezzo-soprano **Stephanie Blythe**, recently named *Musical America's* 2009 "Vocalist of the Year," who makes her first appearance in a fully staged San Francisco Opera production in these performances as Azucena. Blythe shares the role with **Malgorzata Walewska** in this visually striking production by David McVicar directed by **Walter Sutcliffe**. *Il Trovatore* has been a staple of the Company's repertoire since 1926, and San Francisco audiences have witnessed the role debuts of Leontyne Price (1958) and Joan Sutherland (1975) as Leonora and the first Manrico of Luciano Pavarotti's career (also in 1975).

Il Trittico - Giacomo Puccini

A triptych that runs the gamut from heart-wrenching tragedy to sparkling comedy, Puccini's masterwork returns to the War Memorial stage in its entirety after an absence of more than fifty years. Soprano **Patricia Racette** makes role debuts in each of these three one-act operas—*Il Tabarro, Suor Angelica* and *Gianni Schicchi*. Italian baritone **Paolo Gavanelli** and tenor **Brandon Jovanovich** return to San Francisco Opera in this inventive production, and celebrated contralto **Ewa Podleś** makes her

long-awaited Company debut. Principal Guest Conductor **Patrick Summers** leads these performances, and **James Robinson** directs this contemporary production from New York City Opera.

The Abduction from the Seraglio (Die Entführung aus dem Serail) – Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart A Spanish nobleman sets out to rescue his beloved from the clutches of a tenacious Turk in this witty tale set to Mozart's exuberant score. Mary Dunleavy and Matthew Polenzani head a world-class cast with Anna Christy, Peter Rose and Adler Fellow Andrew Bidlack. Exciting young conductor Cornelius Meister makes his U.S. operatic debut in this charming co-production with Lyric Opera of Chicago directed by Chas Rader-Shieber.

The Daughter of the Regiment (La Fille du Régiment) – Gaetano Donizetti

A rambunctious tomboy raised by a group of soldiers is forced to assume the airs of an aristocrat in this delectable soufflé of an opera. Making her Company debut, acclaimed soprano **Diana Damrau** sings the title role of Donizetti's classic opera for the first time and joins the roster of luminaries that have sung this role at San Francisco Opera, including Lily Pons and Beverly Sills. Damrau is joined by Peruvian tenor **Juan Diego Flórez**, who made the *New York Times* front page when he encored his rendition of the opera's most challenging aria—hitting all nine high Cs not once but twice. Renowned director **Laurent Pelly** and conductor **Michele Mariotti** make their Company debuts in a production that has delighted audiences in New York, London and Vienna.

Salome – Richard Strauss

Set in biblical times, this erotically charged opera adapted from Oscar Wilde's scandalous play of the same name centers on a tangled triangle: the imprisoned John the Baptist, a lecherous King Herod and the monarch's pathologically seductive stepdaughter, Salome. German soprano **Nadja Michael** is "indolent, sexy, [and] scary" in the title role, giving a performance that "blazes with dramatic intensity" according to London critics. She makes her San Francisco Opera debut as Salome opposite returning artists **Kim Begley** (Herod) and **Greer Grimsley** (Jokanaan). Music director **Nicola Luisotti** leads this opera for the first time in a production directed by **Seán Curran** and **James Robinson**.

Otello – Giuseppe Verdi

In Verdi's masterful adaptation of Shakespeare's tragedy, a great warrior encounters the one enemy against which he has no defense—his own jealousy. South African tenor **Johan Botha** makes his Company debut as the ill-fated Moor, joining the roster of previous San Francisco Opera Otellos that includes Lauritz Melchior, Mario Del Monaco, and Plácido Domingo. **Svetla Vassileva** (Desdemona) and **Marco Vratogna** (Iago) also make their San Francisco Opera debuts. **Stephen Barlow** directs this Lyric Opera of Chicago production conducted by Maestro **Luisotti.**

Faust - Charles François Gounod

A forlorn philosopher regains his youth by making a dubious deal with the Devil in this ever-popular opera that has been performed in 18 previous San Francisco Opera seasons and featured such legends as Jussi Björling, Ezio Pinza, Licia Albanese, and Samuel Ramey. **Stefano Secco** stars in the title role in his first fully-staged Company production opposite **Patricia Racette** (Marguerite) and **John Relyea** (Méphistophélès). Conductor **Maurizio Benini** leads his first production at San Francisco Opera and **Stephen Barlow** directs.

The Girl of the Golden West (La Fanciulla del West) – Giacomo Puccini

A love triangle set during the California Gold Rush, the work Puccini considered "the best of my operas" returns home for the first time in three decades in celebration of its 100th anniversary. **Nicola Luisotti** conducts a stellar cast led by **Deborah Voigt**, making her role debut as Minnie, and **Roberto**

Frontali as Sheriff Jack Rance, with **Salvatore Licitra** making his Company debut as the bandit Dick Johnson.

Die Walküre – Richard Wagner

A powerful god finds himself torn by conflicting loyalties as the second installment of Wagner's majestic *Ring* cycle comes to San Francisco in this new co-production with Washington National Opera. San Francisco Opera Artistic Adviser and director **Francesca Zambello** gives this epic tale of an emotionally volatile father and his disobedient children a distinctly American touch while honoring its mythic roots. **Donald Runnicles** leads an all-star cast headed by **Nina Stemme** as Brünnhilde, **Eva-Maria Westbroek** as Sieglinde (in her Company debut) and **Christopher Ventris** as Siegmund, with former Adler Fellow **Mark Delavan** returning as Wotan. This production of *Die Walküre* will be part of the complete *Der Ring des Nibelungen*—in addition to *Das Rheingold*, *Siegfried* and *Götterdämmerung*—presented in three cycles in June 2011.

TICKETS AND INFORMATION

Subscriptions for San Francisco Opera's 2009–10 Season are priced from \$120 to \$2,700 for Full Series and \$60 to \$1,500 for Half Series; these prices reflect discounts of up to 30% over single ticket prices. The Company is also offering Mini Series of 3- and 4-opera packages, priced from \$45 to \$1,060, with 10% discounts in many areas. Subscriptions go on sale to renewing subscribers on January 26, 2009. Patrons interested in new subscriptions may call or visit the Opera Box Office starting January 27, 2009. New subscriptions will be available online at sfopera.com beginning March 17, 2009. Single tickets for San Francisco Opera's 2009–10 season performances range from \$15 to \$360 and will go on sale July 12, 2009 at 10am. Please visit *sfopera.com* for further details, or call the Opera Box Office at **(415) 864-3330**. San Francisco Opera Box Office winter hours: Monday 10am–5pm; Tuesday through Friday 10am–6pm. All casting, repertoire and dates are subject to change.

All War Memorial Opera House performances (except the September 11 season opening) feature an informative Pre-Opera Talk 55 minutes prior to curtain. Pre-Opera Talks are presented free of charge to patrons with tickets for the corresponding performance.

Opera Guild Preview Lectures are scheduled in communities throughout the greater Bay Area by local Guild chapters. Renowned musicologists lead presentations to familiarize the audience with repertoire from the current season. Admission prices vary.

Opera Guild Insight Panel Discussions feature renowned artists and personalities from the world of opera, who share their insights and experiences during informal panel discussions. Free to Opera Guild members, \$5 for non-members.

The War Memorial Opera House is located at 301 Van Ness Avenue. Patrons are encouraged to use public transportation to attend San Francisco Opera performances. The War Memorial Opera House is within walking distance of the Civic Center BART station and near numerous bus lines, including 5, 21, 47, 49 and the F Market Street. For further public transportation information, visit *bart.gov* and *sfmuni.com*.

2009-10 OPERA SEASON: CASTING AND CALENDAR

* San Francisco Opera Debut ** U.S. Opera Debut † Current Adler Fellow ◊ Alternate Cast ♪ Role Debut • Opera Vision Performance

IL TROVATORE by Giuseppe Verdi

Co-production with Lyric Opera of Chicago and the Metropolitan Opera

PRODUCTION NEW TO SAN FRANCISCO September 11 (7 p.m.), 16° (7:30 p.m.), 19° (8 p.m.),

PRODUCTION NEW TO SAN FRANCISCO

22° (8 p.m.), **25** (8 p.m.); **October** 1° (7:30 p.m.), 4 (2 p.m.),

6[⋄] (7:30 p.m.) **2009**

Libretto by Salvadore Cammarano

First performance: Rome, January 19, 1853

First San Francisco Opera performance: October 6, 1926 Last San Francisco Opera performance: 2002–03 season Approximate running time: three hours, with one intermission

Sung in Italian with English supertitles

Cast: Production Team:

Manrico Conductor Nicola Luisotti Marco Berti Sondra Radvanovsky* **David McVicar** Leonora Director Stephanie Blythe Revival Director Walter Sutcliffe* Azucena Malgorzata Walewska*[◊] Charles Edwards* Set Designer **Dmitri Hvorostovsky** Costume Designer Count di Luna **Brigitte Reiffenstuel***

Ferrando

Burak Bilgili*

Choreographer

Chorus Director

Brighte Refirence

Leghting Designer

Chorus Director

Brighte Refirence

Jennifer Tipton

Leah Hausman

Ian Robertson

IL TRITTICO by Giacomo Puccini

 September 15 (8 p.m.), 18 (8 p.m.), 24° (7:30 p.m.),

 New York City Opera production
 27° (2 p.m.), 30° (7:30 p.m.); October 3 (8 p.m.), 2009

Libretto by Giuseppe Adami (Il Tabarro) and Giovacchino Forzano (Suor Angelica, Gianni Schicchi)

First performance: New York, December 14, 1918

First San Francisco Opera performance: September 29, 1923

Last San Francisco Opera performance: 1952 season (complete); Il Tabarro, 1975 season; Suor Angelica, 1990 season;

Gianni Schicchi, 1979 season

Approximate running time: three hours, 30 minutes, with two intermissions

Sung in Italian with English supertitles

IL TABARRO (The Cloak)

MichelePaolo GavanelliLa FrugolaCatherine CookLuigiBrandon JovanovichIl TalpaAndrea SilvestrelliGiorgettaPatricia RacetterSong VendorThomas Glenn

SUOR ANGELICA

Sister Angelica
The Princess
The Abbess
Patricia Racette
Sister Monitor
Sister Monitor
Sister Monitor
Catherine Cook
Rebekah Camm*
Mistress of the Novices
Daveda Karanas

Daveda Karanas

The Abbess
Sister Monitor
Rebekah Camm*
Mistress of the Novices
Daveda Karanas

Daveda Karanas

GIANNI SCHICCHI

Rebekah Camm* Gianni Schicchi Paolo Gavanelli Nella Lauretta Patricia Racette Gherardo Thomas Glenn David Lomelí† Andrea Silvestrelli Rinuccio Simone Meredith Arwady* La Ciesca **Catherine Cook** Zita

Production Team:

ConductorPatrick SummersCostume DesignerBruno Schwengl*DirectorJames RobinsonChorus DirectorIan Robertson

Set Designer Allen Moyer

THE ABDUCTION FROM THE SERAGLIO Die Entführung aus dem Serail

by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

PRODUCTION NEW TO SAN FRANCISCO **September 23** (7:30 p.m.), **26** (8 p.m.); 29° (8 p.m.); October 2° (8 p.m.), 11 (2 p.m.), 17 (2 p.m.), 23 (8 p.m.), 2009

PRODUCTION NEW TO SAN FRANCISCO

Co-production with Lyric Opera of Chicago

Libretto by Johann Gottlieb Stephanie First performance: Vienna, July 16, 1782

First San Francisco Opera performance: September 27, 1990 Last San Francisco Opera performance: 2002-03 season

Approximate running time: three hours, 15 minutes, with two intermissions

Sung in German with English supertitles

Cast: Production Team:

Mary Dunleavy Conductor **Cornelius Meister**** Constanze **Anna Christy** Chas Rader-Shieber* Blonde Director

Matthew Polenzani David Zinn* Belmonte Designer

Andrew Bidlack† Lighting Designer **Christopher Akerlind** Pedrillo

Chorus Director Osmin **Peter Rose** Ian Robertson

THE DAUGHTER OF THE REGIMENT La Fille du Régiment

by Gaetano Donizetti

October 13 (8 p.m.), 16 (8 p.m.), 19 (7:30 p.m.), 22° (7:30 p.m.), 25 (2 p.m.), 28° (7:30 p.m.), 31° (8 p.m.), 2009

Co-production of the Metropolitan Opera; the Royal Opera, Covent Garden; and the Vienna State Opera

Libretto by J.H. Vernoy de Saint-Georges and F. Bayard

First performance: Paris, February 11, 1840

First San Francisco Opera performance: October 16, 1941 Last San Francisco Opera performance: 1993 season

Approximate running time: two hours, 45 minutes, with one intermission

Sung in French with English supertitles

Cast: Production Team:

Diana Damrau*[↑] Marie Conductor Michele Mariotti* Tonio Juan Diego Flórez Director Laurent Pellv* Sulpice Bruno Praticò* Set Designer Chantal Thomas* Marquise of Berkenfeld **Meredith Arwady** Costume Designer Laurent Pelly* Duchess of Krakenthorp Sheila Nadler Original Lighting Designer Joël Adam* Hortensius Jake Gardner Chorus Director Ian Robertson

SALOME by Richard Strauss

PRODUCTION NEW TO SAN FRANCISCO October 18 (2 p.m.), 21 (7:30 pm), 24° (8 p.m.), 27° (8 p.m.), 30° (8 p.m.); November 1 (2 p.m.), 2009

Co-production with Opera Theatre of Saint Louis

Based on the play by Oscar Wilde

First performance: Dresden, December 9, 1905

First San Francisco Opera performance: September 12, 1930 Last San Francisco Opera performance: 1996–97 season

Approximate running time: one hour, 45 minutes, with no intermission

Sung in German with English supertitles

Cast: Production Team:

Salome Nadja Michael* Conductor Nicola Luisotti Herodias Irina Mishura Co-Directors Seán Curran* Jokanaan **Greer Grimsley James Robinson**

Kim Begley **Bruno Schwengl** Herod Production Designer Narraboth **Garrett Sorenson*** Chorus Director Ian Robertson

A Page Elizabeth DeShong*

OTELLO by Giuseppe Verdi

PRODUCTION NEW TO SAN FRANCISCO **November 8** (2 p.m.), **13** (8 p.m.), **17** (8 p.m.), Lyric Opera of Chicago production 21° (8 p.m.), 25° (7:30 p.m.), 29 (2 p.m.);

December 2 (7:30 p.m.), 2009

Libretto by Arrigo Boito

First performance: Milan, February 5, 1887

First San Francisco Opera performance: December 5, 1934 Last San Francisco Opera performance: 2002-03 season

Approximate running time: three hours, 30 minutes, with one intermission

Sung in Italian with English supertitles

Cast: Production Team:

Otello Johan Botha* Conductor Nicola Luisotti Svetla Vassileva* **Peter Hall** Desdemona Original Director Marco Vratogna* Revival Director **Stephen Barlow** Iago Cassio Beau Gibson* **Production Designer** John Gunter Renée Tatum*† Lighting Designer Emilia **Duane Schuler Eric Halfvarson** Chorus Director Lodovico Ian Robertson

FAUST by Charles François Gounod

Lyric Opera of Chicago production

PRODUCTION NEW TO SAN FRANCISCO

June 5 (7:30 p.m.), 8 (7:30 p.m.), 11 (7:30 p.m.),
16 (7 p.m.), 20 (1:30 p.m.), 23° (7 p.m.),
26° (1:30 p.m.); July 1° (7 p.m.) 2010

Libretto by Jules Barbier and Michel Carré First performance: Paris, March 19, 1859

First San Francisco Opera performance: September 23, 1926 Last San Francisco Opera performance: 1995 season

Approximate running time: three hours, 45 minutes, with two intermissions

Sung in French with English supertitles

Cast: Production Team:

Faust
Marguerite
Méphistophélès
Valentin
Siebel
Marthe
Marthe
Vagner

Stefano Secco
Patricia Racette
John Relyea
Brian Mulligan
Daniela Mack
Catherine Cook
Austin Kness*†

Conductor Maurizio Benini*
Director Stephen Barlow
Production Designer Robert Perdziola
Chorus Director Ian Robertson

THE GIRL OF THE GOLDEN WEST La Fanciulla del West

by Giacomo Puccini

Libretto by Guelfo Civinini and Carol Zangarini First performance: New York, December 10, 1910

First San Francisco Opera performance: September 15, 1930 Last San Francisco Opera performance: 1979 season

Approximate running time: three hours Sung in Italian with English supertitles

Cast:

Minnie
Dick Johnson
Sheriff Jack Rance
Nick
Ashby

Deborah Voigt
Salvatore Licitra*
Roberto Frontali
Steven Cole
Kevin Langan

Jake Wallace Trevor Scheunemann*

PRODUCTION NEW TO SAN FRANCISCO June 9 (7:30 p.m.), 12 (8 p.m.), 15° (8 p.m.), 18° (8 p.m.), 24° (7:30 p.m.), 27 (2 p.m.), 29 (7:30 p.m.); July 2 (8 p.m.), 2010

Production Team:

Conductor Nicola Luisotti
Chorus Director Ian Robertson

DIE WALKÜRE by Richard Wagner

PRODUCTION NEW TO SAN FRANCISCO June 10° (7 p.m.), 13° (1 p.m.), 19° (7 p.m.), 22 (7 p.m.), 25 (7 p.m.), 30 (7 p.m.), 2010

Co-production with Washington National Opera

Libretto by the composer

First performance: Munich, June 26, 1870

First San Francisco Opera performance: November 4, 1935 Last San Francisco Opera performance: 1999 *Ring* Festival

Approximate running time: four hours, 30 minutes, with two intermissions

Sung in German with English supertitles

Cast: Production Team:

Brünnhilde Nina Stemme Conductor **Donald Runnicles** Sieglinde Eva-Maria Westbroek* Director Francesca Zambello Michael Yeargan Fricka Janina Baechle* Set Designer Siegmund **Christopher Ventris** Costume Designer Catherine Zuber Wotan Mark Delavan Lighting Designer Mark McCullough Hunding **Raymond Aceto** Projection Designer Jan Hartley

Choreographer Denni Sayers
Dramaturg Cori Ellison

Please see the Season Summary packet for 2009–10 season summary information and biographies on David Gockley, Nicola Luisotti, Francesca Zambello, Patrick Summers, Giuseppe Finzi and composers and librettists for upcoming commissioned works.

2009–10 SPECIAL EVENTS

OPENING NIGHT CELEBRATIONS – Friday, September 11, 2009

Opera Ball 2009

Presented by the San Francisco Opera Guild, the evening begins with a cocktail reception followed by the season-opening performance of Verdi's *Il Trovatore* and an elegant post-performance dinner with dancing. A highlight of the city's cultural and philanthropic season, *Opera Ball* raises funds to benefit San Francisco Opera and the Opera Guild's education and outreach programs.

Co-chairs: Teesa Medearis and Adrianna Pope Sullivanr

5 pm Cocktail Reception

7 pm Opening night performance of *Il Trovatore*

10 pm Dinner and dancing

For tickets or more information about *Opera Ball 2009*, call (415) 565-3204.

BRAVO! CLUB Opening Night Gala

Join BRAVO! CLUB's young professionals as they kick off the season in style with a cocktail reception at City Hall followed by the season opening performance of *Il Trovatore* and post-performance dinner and dancing.

Co-chairs: Alexandra Siliezar and Marie Carr

5 pm Cocktail Reception

7 pm Opening night performance of *Il Trovatore*

10 pm Dinner and dancing

For tickets or more information about the BRAVO! CLUB Opening Night Gala, call (415) 565-3285.

SAN FRANCISCO OPERA IN THE PARK

Sunday, September 13, 2009 at 1:30 p.m.

Sharon Meadow, Golden Gate Park

A beloved San Francisco tradition, the annual *San Francisco Opera in the Park* concert features artists from the Company's 2009–10 season and members of the San Francisco Opera Orchestra conducted by Music Director Nicola Luisotti. The free event, sponsored by Opening Weekend Grand Sponsor Diane B. Wilsey and the William and Gretchen Kimball Fund, is held in Sharon Meadow at Golden Gate Park. This concert is free and open to the public; no tickets required. For more information visit *sfopera.com*

WEBCOR PRESENTS OPERA AT THE BALLPARK – Free Simulcasts of *Tosca* and *Il Trovatore* at AT&T Park – 24 Willie Mays Plaza in San Francisco

TOSCA - Friday, June 5, 2009 at 8 p.m. IL TROVATORE - Saturday, September 19, 2009 at 8 p.m.

Baseball and opera fans alike have the rare opportunity to enjoy world-class opera in the beautiful and convivial outdoor setting of AT&T Park as San Francisco Opera continues its highly successful partnership with the San Francisco Giants to present Puccini's *Tosca* and Verdi's *Il Trovatore* in 2009.

These events are free and open to the public, however advance online registration assures early entrance into the ballpark for preferred seating and entry into a special prize drawing. Online registration for the June 5 *Tosca* simulcast begins April 6, 2009 at *sfopera.com*. AT&T Park is located at 24 Willie Mays Plaza in San Francisco. For further information, visit *sfopera.com*.

San Francisco Opera is sponsored, in part, by the Ann and Gordon Getty Foundation, John A. and Cynthia Fry Gunn, Franklin and Catherine Johnson, Mrs. Edmund W. Littlefield, Bernard and Barbro Osher and Grants for the Arts/San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund.

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San Francisco Opera simulcasts are made possible through the extraordinary technology of the Company's Koret-Taube Media Suite. A grant from the **Koret Foundation** provided lead funding for the Koret-Taube Media Suite, with additional support provided by **Tad and Dianne Taube**. Webcor Presents Opera at the Ballpark is supported by Presenting Sponsor **Webcor Builders**, Platinum Sponsor **Charles Schwab** and Gold Sponsor **Chevron**. **CBS 5**, the **CW Bay Area**, **Classical 102.1 KDFC**, and **ClearChannel Outdoor** join with San Francisco Opera as media partners for the Company's 2009-2010 Season Community Events.

Yamaha is the official piano of San Francisco Opera. Pianos provided by Music Exchange.



2009–10 Season Sponsor

For further press information or to obtain 2009–10 Season announcement–related photographs, please visit_sfopera.com/press or contact:

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