SAN FRANCISCO
OPERA CENTER

2011 SCHWABACHER DEBUT RECITALS CONTINUE WITH EUGENE CHAN ON MARCH 6

SAN FRANCISCO (February, 7 2011)– San Francisco Opera Center continues the 29th season of the Schwabacher Debut Recitals on Sunday, March 6, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. with baritone Eugene Chan performing works by Schumann, Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninov and Medtner, as well as a collection of American songs. Eugene Chan will be accompanied by San Francisco Opera music staff member and pianist John Churchwell.

A 2008 Merola alumnus, Eugene Chan made his San Francisco Opera debut in 2007 as Prince Yamadori in *Madama Butterfly*. He recently made his European debut as Count Almaviva in *Le Nozze di Figaro* in Basel, Switzerland. He returned to Theater Basel for the 2010–11 season to perform Yeletsky in Tchaikovsky's *Pique Dame* and Count Almaviva. He has performed at Opera Theater of St. Louis, Shanghai National Grand Theater, Sacramento Opera, Music Academy of the West, and Opera Santa Barbara. An avid recitalist, Mr. Chan made his Carnegie Hall debut in 2008, and that same year was a featured soloist at the San Francisco Symphony and Los Angeles Philharmonic

Eugene Chan returns to San Francisco on March 6 for an eclectic evening of music, beginning with Schumann's song cycle *Dichterliebe* Op. 48, followed by a collection of Russian romances by Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninov and Medtner. The recital will conclude with a compilation of American songs.

The Schwabacher Debut Recitals have been endowed in perpetuity by the generosity of the late James Schwabacher. A celebrated Bay Area singer, recitalist, scholar and teacher, Schwabacher was a co-founder of the Merola Opera Program. The Schwabacher Debut Recitals have introduced the artistry of many world-renowned opera singers, including Susan Graham, Anna Netrebko, Deborah Voigt,

Brian Asawa and Thomas Hampson. The recitals offer a rare opportunity to hear a wealth of song literature, ranging from Baroque masterpieces and Romantic-era classics to newly commissioned works, performed by gifted young artists in an intimate setting.

Tickets & Information

All performances take place at Temple Emanu-El's Martin Meyer Sanctuary (Two Lake Street, at Arguello, in San Francisco). Tickets for the Schwabacher Debut Recitals are $25. Tickets may be purchased by calling the San Francisco Opera Box Office (Mon. 10 am-5 pm, Tues.-Fri. 10 am-6 pm) at (415) 864-3330. Student Rush tickets are available for $10 at Temple Emanu-El 30 minutes prior to each recital (limit of two tickets per person; valid ID is required), subject to availability.

2011 Schwabacher Debut Recitals
Temple Emanu-El's Martin Meyer Sanctuary

PROGRAM 1: **Sunday, February 20, 5:30 p.m.**
Sidney Outlaw, baritone
John Churchwell, piano
Merola Opera Program alumnus Sidney Outlaw presents the West Coast premiere of Wayne Oquin's song cycle *A Time to Break Silence: Songs Inspired by the Words and Writings of Martin Luther King, Jr.* Outlaw will be accompanied by San Francisco Opera music staff member John Churchwell.

PROGRAM 2: Sun. March 6, 5:30 pm
Martin Meyer Sanctuary, Temple Emanu-El, 2 Lake Street, San Francisco
Eugene Chan, baritone
John Churchwell, pianist
Baritone Eugene Chan presents works by Schumann, Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninov, and Medtner as well as a group of American songs. Chan will be accompanied by San Francisco Opera music staff member John Churchwell.

PROGRAM 3: Sunday, March 27, 5:30pm
Steven Blier, piano
Sara Gartland, soprano
Daniel Montenegro, tenor
Austin Kness, baritone
New York Festival of Song's Steven Blier presents *Amores Nuevos* with Adler Fellows Sara Gartland and Daniel Montenegro, and former Adler Fellow Austin Kness. This program is made possible, in part, by Robert & Laura Cory.

PROGRAM 4: Sunday April 10, 5:30pm
Daveda Karanas, mezzo-soprano
Allen Perriello, piano
Former Adler Fellows **Daveda Karanas** and **Allen Perriello** present Wagner's *Wesendonck Lieder*.

About the Artists

Baritone **EUGENE CHAN** made his San Francisco Opera debut in 2007 as Prince Yamadori (*Madama Butterfly*). A graduate of the 2008 Merola Opera Program, Chan recently made his European debut as Count Almaviva (*Le Nozze di Figaro*) in Basel, Switzerland. In the 2010–11 season, he returns to Basel to perform Yeletsky (*Pique Dame*) and Count Almaviva. He will make his debut at Bologna's Teatro Comunale, and performs a recital in Carnegie Hall. Chan's repertoire includes the title roles of *Don Giovanni* and *Eugene Onegin*, Ottone (*L'incoronazione di Poppea*), Papageno (*Die Zauberflöte*), Danilo (*The Merry Widow*), Schaunard (*La Bohème*), and Albert (*Werther*), among others. He has performed throughout the world with companies such Opera Theater of St. Louis, Shanghai National Grand Theater, Sacramento Opera, Opera Santa Barbara, West Bay Opera and Music Academy of the West. He has been featured as soloist with orchestras such as the San Francisco Symphony, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and the Toscanini Orchestra of Parma. Chan holds a bachelor's degree in music from Sacramento State University and is a graduate of the Theater Basel *OperAvenir,* Seattle Opera Young Artists Program, Music Academy of the West, the Steans Institute at the Ravinia Festival, and OperaWorks! He has received awards from the Premio Spiros Argiris International Competition, the Washington International Competition, the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, the Liederkranz Foundation, Houston Opera's Eleanor McCollum Competition, the Marilyn Horne Foundation, and the William Matheus Sullivan Foundation.

JOHN CHURCHWELL enjoys a career as pianist, conductor and coach at opera houses around the world. An assistant conductor for both San Francisco Opera and the Metropolitan Opera, Churchwell has worked on more than 80 productions with such conductors as James Levine, Nello Santi, Nicola Luisotti, Donald Runnicles, and Sir Charles Mackerras. A champion of American music Mr. Churchwell has participated in the world premieres of John Harbison's *The Great Gatsby*, Jake Heggie's *Dead Man Walking*, Phillip Glass' *Appomattox*, and the recent collaboration between Stewart Wallace and Amy Tan, *The Bonesetter's Daughter.* On the recital stage, Churchwell has partnered with world-renowned vocalists, including Joyce DiDonato, Diana Damrau, Carol Vaness, Dawn Upshaw, David Pittsinger, Patricia Schuman, and Jill Grove. He also appears regularly in chamber music concerts with members of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. John Churchwell earned his doctorate from the University of Minnesota and also holds bachelor degrees from the New England Conservatory and Tufts University and a master's degree in accompanying from the University of Minnesota. Beginning in the 2011-12 Season, John Churchwell will take on the new role of Head of Music Staff at San Francisco Opera.

About San Francisco Opera Center and Merola Opera Program

San Francisco Opera Center was created in 1982 by then–General Director Terence A. McEwen to oversee the operation and administration of the education and training programs initiated by Kurt Herbert Adler in 1954. Providing a coordinated sequence of performance and study opportunities for young artists, San Francisco Opera Center represents a new era in which young artists of major operatic potential can develop through intensive training and performance, under the aegis of a major international opera company. Now under the guidance of its fourth director, Sheri Greenawald, and San Francisco Opera General Director David Gockley, the Opera Center has trained and introduced many young stars from around the world to the international opera stage through its resident artist programs such as the Adler Fellowship.

Initially founded as the San Francisco Opera/Affiliate Artists program, the Adler Fellowship Program is one of the nation's most prestigious training programs for advanced singers. Each year, Adler Fellows are sponsored by individual donors to help cover the cost of their fellowship. Sponsorships range from $5,000–$100,000, and sponsors affiliated with the Adler Program have the opportunity to attend private studio classes with the Fellows and develop nurturing relationships with them. Alumni from the Adler Fellowship Program include sopranos Laura Claycomb, Nicolle Foland, Nancy Gustafson, Mary Mills, Patricia Racette, Ruth Ann Swenson and Deborah Voigt; mezzo-sopranos Zheng Cao and Dolora Zajick; countertenor Brian Asawa; baritones Mark Delavan and David Okerlund; and bass-baritones Monte Pederson and John Relyea.

One of the oldest and most acclaimed training programs of its kind, the Merola Opera Program for aspiring opera professionals offers up-and-coming singers, coach-accompanists and stage directors the opportunity of intense study and performance during an 11-week summer program. Each year, hundreds of artists from throughout the world vie for approximately 30 coveted spots in the summer program. Admission is based solely on talent rather than financial ability; there is no charge to the participants. Named for San Francisco Opera's first general director, Gaetano Merola, the program began during the 1954–55 Season and established its full training program in 1957. Alumni of the program include Sylvia McNair, Anna Netrebko, Patricia Racette, Ruth Ann Swenson, Carol Vaness, Deborah Voigt, Susan Graham, Dolora Zajick, Brian Asawa, Thomas Hampson, Rolando Villazón, and Patrick Summers. An independent non-profit organization, the Merola Opera Program operates in collaboration with San Francisco Opera Center and San Francisco Opera.

For more information on the San Francisco Opera Center and the Adler Fellowship and Merola Opera Program, visit www.sfopera.com.

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This press release and downloadable Schwabacher Debut Recital artist photographs are available at sfopera.com/press. For further press information, please contact: Julia Inouye [415.565.6430 / jinouye@sfopera.com] or Robin Freeman [415.565.6451 / rfreeman@sfopera.com].