SAN FRANCISCO OPERA ANNOUNCES 2010–11 SEASON REPERTORY AND CASTING

Music Director Nicola Luisotti Launches 88th Season September 10 with Verdi's *Aida*, Featuring Micaela Carosi, Marcello Giordani, Dolora Zajick, Marco Vratogna and Hao Jiang Tian

Ten Productions Including *Cyrano de Bergerac* with Plácido Domingo; *Werther* with Ramón Vargas and Elīna Garanča; *The Makropulos Case* with Karita Mattila and Miro Dvorsky; and *Le Nozze di Figaro* with Danielle de Niese and Luca Pisaroni

Richard Wagner's *Der Ring des Nibelungen*, Summer 2011: Donald Runnicles Conducts Three Cycles of Francesca Zambello's New Production; Renowned Cast Includes Nina Stemme, Mark Delavan, Ian Storey, Anja Kampe, Larissa Diadkova, Brandon Jovanovich, Stefan Margita and Gordon Hawkins

All Performances at War Memorial Opera House
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SAN FRANCISCO, January 19, 2010—San Francisco Opera General Director **David Gockley** today announced repertory and casting for the Company's 88th season to begin Friday, September 10 with Music Director **Nicola Luisotti** leading a gala opening performance of Giuseppe Verdi's grand Egyptian opera, *Aida*. Highlights of the 2010–11 Season include the return of legendary tenor **Plácido Domingo** in the title role of Franco Alfano's *Cyrano de Bergerac* and **Karita Mattila**'s role debut as Emilia Marty in Leoš Janáček's *The Makropulos Case*. The season will culminate with three complete cycles of Richard Wagner's magnum opus for the lyric stage, *Der Ring des Nibelungen (The Ring of the Nibelung)*, as conceived by director **Francesca Zambello** and conducted by **Donald Runnicles**.

Sixty-six performances of ten opera productions—seven of which are new to San Francisco audiences—are planned for the 2010–11 Season, bringing internationally renowned opera singers, conductors and directors together with the acclaimed San Francisco Opera Orchestra and Chorus, the latter directed by Ian Robertson. The operas are Giuseppe Verdi's ***Aida***; a new production of Jules Massenet's ***Werther***; Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's ***Le Nozze di Figaro* (*The Marriage of Figaro*)**; Giacomo Puccini's ***Madama Butterfly***; the Company premiere of Franco Alfano's ***Cyrano de Bergerac***; a

new production of Leoš Janáček's ***The Makropulos Case***; and Richard Wagner's epic four-opera cycle ***Der Ring des Nibelungen (The Ring of the Nibelung),*** comprised of ***Das Rheingold, Die Walküre, Siegfried*** and ***Götterdämmerung***. The season runs September 10 through December 5, 2010 and May 29 through July 3, 2011. Subscriptions go on sale to renewing subscribers on January 19, 2010. [See accompanying press release for *Ring* ticket information.]

Music Director **Nicola Luisotti**, the Company's "ideal new maestro" (*The New York Times),* will conduct *Aida, Le Nozze di Figaro* and *Madama Butterfly*. Former Company music director and acknowledged Wagner authority **Donald Runnicles** will return for the complete *Ring* cycle in the summer of 2011. Making their San Francisco Opera debuts will be conductors **Jiří Bělohlávek**, a renowned Janáček specialist, for *The Makropulos Case*; French conductor **Patrick Fournillier** for *Cyrano de Bergerac*; and **Julian Kovatchev** conducting the November performances of *Madama Butterfly*. San Francisco Opera welcomes back **Emmanuel Villaume** to lead *Werther* and the Company's Assistant Music Director **Giuseppe Finzi** to conduct encore performances of *Aida* in November and December.

San Francisco Opera Artistic Adviser **Francesca Zambello** continues her relationship with the Company by directing the first complete performances of her new production of Wagner's *Ring* cycle in 2011. Acclaimed directors **Jo Davies** (*Aida*), **Petrika Ionesco** (*Cyrano de Bergerac*) and **Francisco Negrin** (*Werther*) make their San Francisco Opera debuts, and the Company welcomes back **John Copley** (*Le Nozze di Figaro*), **Jose Maria Condemi** (*Madama Butterfly*) and **Olivier Tambosi** (*The Makropulos Case*).

"Despite the challenging economy, I believe the timing is right to move ahead with our plans to present the complete *Ring* next year directed by Francesca Zambello and conducted by Donald Runnicles," said **David Gockley**. "With the *Ring* requiring so many of our resources, I'm excited that we could offer such quality and quantity in the balance of the fall season. In fact, I'm proud to say that five of our six fall season productions will be new to San Francisco audiences. We also look forward to the return of Plácido Domingo, who returns to the War Memorial Opera House to perform on the stage that he identifies with so many of his earlier successes."

"As I have said many times during this challenging financial period," continued Gockley, "I remain committed to presenting some of the world's leading artists and next year is no exception, especially with the Company debuts of Micaela Carosi, Elīna Garanča, Anja Kampe, Danielle de Niese, Ian Storey and conductor Jiří Bělohlávek among so many others. And finally, I am very happy to welcome back our new music director Nicola Luisotti, who will be at the helm of the San Francisco Opera Orchestra and Chorus."

"I am very honored to return to San Francisco Opera next season and for the opportunity to conduct *Aida, Figaro* and *Butterfly*, three extraordinary operas that will feature some of the most important singers of today," said Nicola Luisotti. "I love this company, the city and the whole Bay Area community, and want to encourage everyone to take pride in their opera company and to attend a performance. Music, and opera in particular, is truly one of the great universal gifts that we can all enjoy. I believe we have created a very attractive opera season that will inspire all of us and offer many unforgettable evenings in this great theater."

The 2010–11 Season features the Company debuts of many renowned artists, including sopranos Michele Capalbo (Aida/*Aida*), Micaela Carosi (Aida/*Aida*), Melissa Citro (Freia, Ortlinde and Gutrune/ *Der Ring des Nibelungen*), Ellie Dehn (Countess Almaviva/*Le Nozze di Figaro*), Anja Kampe

(Sieglinde/*Der Ring des Nibelungen*), Danielle de Niese (Susanna/*Le Nozze di Figaro*) and Heidi Stober (Sophie/*Werther*, Susanna/*Le Nozze di Figaro*); mezzo-sopranos Elīna Garanča (Charlotte/*Werther*), Michèle Losier (Cherubino/*Le Nozze di Figaro*), Ronnita Miller (Erda and First Norn/*Der Ring des Nibelungen*) and Guang Yang (Amneris/*Aida*); tenors Thiago Arancam (Christian/*Cyrano de Bergerac*), and Ian Storey (Siegfried/*Der Ring des Nibelungen*); baritones Gerd Grochowski (Jaroslav Prus/*The Makropulos Case*, Gunther/*Der Ring des Nibelungen*) and Gordon Hawkins (Alberich/*Der Ring des Nibelungen*); and bass-baritones Kostas Smoriginas (Figaro/*Le Nozze di Figaro*) and Christian Van Horn (King of Egypt/*Aida,* The Bailiff/*Werther*, The Bonze/*Madama Butterfly*).

Many acclaimed singers will be returning to the War Memorial Opera House, including sopranos Ainhoa Arteta (Roxane/*Cyrano de Bergerac*), Daniela Dessì (Cio-Cio-San/*Madama Butterfly*), Karita Mattila (Emilia Marty/*The Makropulos Case*), Heidi Melton (Sieglinde and Third Norn/*Der Ring des Nibelungen*), Nina Stemme (Brünnhilde/*Der Ring des Nibelungen*) and Svetla Vassileva (Cio-Cio-San/*Madama Butterfly*); mezzo-sopranos Larissa Diadkova (Fricka/*Der Ring des Nibelungen*), Daveda Karanas (Suzuki/*Madama Butterfly*, Waltraute and Second Norn/*Der Ring des Nibelungen*) and Dolora Zajick (Amneris/*Aida*); tenors David Cangelosi (Mime/*Der Ring des Nibelungen*), Plácido Domingo (Cyrano de Bergerac/*Cyrano de Bergerac*), Miro Dvorsky (Albert Gregor/*The Makropulos Case*), Marcello Giordani (Radames/*Aida*), Brandon Jovanovich (Siegmund and Froh/*Der Ring des Nibelungen*), Stefan Margita (Loge/*Der Ring des Nibelungen*), Stefano Secco (Pinkerton/*Madama Butterfly*), Ramón Vargas (Werther/*Werther*) and Carlo Ventre (Radames/*Aida*); baritones Mark Delavan (Wotan/*Der Ring des Nibelungen*), Quinn Kelsey (Sharpless/*Madama Butterfly,* Amonasro/*Aida*), Lucas Meachem (Count Almaviva/*Le Nozze di Figaro*), Trevor Scheunemann (Count Almaviva/*Le Nozze di Figaro*) and Marco Vratogna (Amonasro/*Aida*); bass-baritones Eric Owens (Ramfis/*Aida*), Luca Pisaroni (Figaro/*Le Nozze di Figaro*) and Daniel Sumegi (Fafner and Hunding/*Der Ring des Nibelungen*); and basses Andrea Silvestrelli (Fasolt and Hagen/*Der Ring des Nibelungen*) and Hao Jiang Tian (Ramfis/*Aida*).

OPENING WEEKEND FESTIVITIES

San Francisco Opera's 88th season opens on Friday, September 10 with Verdi's *Aida,* conducted by Music Director Nicola Luisotti and featuring an illustrious cast that includes Micaela Carosi, Marcello Giordani, Dolora Zajick, Marco Vratogna and Hao Jiang Tian. A highlight of the City's cultural and philanthropic season, the Opening Night Gala festivities include *Opera Ball 2010*, presented by San Francisco Opera Guild and benefiting San Francisco Opera and the Opera Guild's education and community programs, and BRAVO! CLUB's *Opening Night Gala*, geared toward young professionals.

The season-opening weekend concludes with *San Francisco Opera in the Park* on Sunday, September 12 at 1:30 p.m. in Golden Gate Park's Sharon Meadow. This free annual concert features artists from the Company's Fall 2010 season and the San Francisco Opera Orchestra conducted by Maestro Luisotti.

RING FESTIVAL IN 2011

San Francisco Opera's 88th season culminates with the May–July 2011 presentation of Richard Wagner's *Der Ring des Nibelungen* (*The Ring of the Nibelung*), the composer's epic four-opera cycle. The four operas in this new production by internationally celebrated director Francesca Zambello—*Das Rheingold, Die Walküre, Siegfried* and *Götterdämmerung*—will be presented in San Francisco for the first time as a complete cycle. These performances mark the world premiere of Zambello's new production of *Götterdämmerung*. In conjunction with other Bay Area cultural institutions, San Francisco Opera will

present a series of events for patrons to connect with the work in new and compelling ways and to interact with fellow *Ring* cycle subscribers. Ancillary activities will include lectures, performances and exhibits throughout 2011. A complete calendar of events will be announced in May 2010.

Maestro Donald Runnicles will lead the San Francisco Opera Orchestra and Chorus in these performances that feature an international roster of singers, including Nina Stemme (Brünnhilde), Mark Delavan (Wotan), Stefan Margita (Loge), Ian Storey (Siegfried), Gordon Hawkins (Alberich), Larissa Diadkova (Fricka), David Cangelosi (Mime), Anja Kampe (Sieglinde) and Brandon Jovanovich (Siegmund and Froh). [See related news release for further details.]

WEBCOR BUILDERS PRESENTS OPERA AT THE BALLPARK

Continuing what has become a beloved Bay Area tradition, San Francisco Opera and the San Francisco Giants partner with Webcor Builders to present the Company's fifth free live simulcast at AT&T Park on Friday, September 24, 2010. Verdi's *Aida*, featuring a celebrated cast of singers and conducted by Music Director Nicola Luisotti, will be simulcast live from the War Memorial Opera House to AT&T Park's high-definition scoreboard. As a unique opportunity for fans to enjoy the sights and sounds of San Francisco Opera in one of the nation's foremost ballparks, the Company's simulcasts at AT&T Park have drawn over 90,000 people, many experiencing opera for the first time. *Webcor Builders Presents Opera at the Ballpark* is made possible through the extraordinary technology of the Koret-Taube Media Suite. This event marks the eighth free simulcast presented by San Francisco Opera under David Gockley's leadership.

SAN FRANCISCO OPERA FALL 2010 SEASON

***Aida* – Giuseppe Verdi**
San Francisco Opera's 2010–11 Season opens with Verdi's classic masterpiece *Aida*. A compelling tale of conflicting loyalties and forbidden passions, this spectacular production, previously seen at English National Opera and Houston Grand Opera, is designed by **Zandra Rhodes** and directed by **Jo Davies**. The cast features Italian soprano **Micaela Carosi** making her Company debut in the title role, renowned Verdian mezzo-soprano and former Adler Fellow **Dolora Zajick** as Amneris, and **Marcello Giordani** making his role debut as Radames. Returning after his highly-praised performance in last season's *Otello* is **Marco Vratogna** as Amonasro; baritone **Hao Jiang Tian** returns to San Francisco Opera as Ramfis after his 2008 Company debut as Chang the Coffinmaker in *The Bonesetter's Daughter*. Music Director **Nicola Luisotti** leads the San Francisco Opera Orchestra and Chorus.

San Francisco Opera will present five additional performances of *Aida* in November/December 2010. These performances feature the San Francisco Opera debuts of Canadian soprano **Michele Capalbo** as Aida and Chinese mezzo-soprano **Guang Yang** as Amneris. Tenor **Carlo Ventre** returns as Radames after his recent Company appearance in 2009's *Tosca*; **Quinn Kelsey** and **Eric Owens** return as Amonasro and Ramfis. Assistant Music Director **Giuseppe Finzi** conducts.

***Werther* – Jules Massenet**
Bringing one of his signature roles to San Francisco Opera, renowned Mexican tenor **Ramón Vargas** appears as Werther, a poet who cannot bear the pain of unfulfilled love. Making her San Francisco Opera debut as Werther's beloved Charlotte is *Musical America*'s 2010 Vocalist of the Year, Latvian mezzo-soprano **Elīna Garanča**. Soprano **Heidi Stober** makes her Company debut as Charlotte's sister Sophie

and baritone **Brian Mulligan** returns as Albert, Charlotte's betrothed. Massenet's opera, which is based on Goethe's novel *The Sorrows of Young Werther*, was last presented at the War Memorial Opera House in 1985. This new co-production with Lyric Opera of Chicago, directed by **Francisco Negrin,** debuts in San Francisco and is led by French conductor **Emmanuel Villaume**.

***Le Nozze di Figaro (The Marriage of Figaro)* – Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**
Mozart's eternally popular comedy *Le Nozze di Figaro* features a cast of vivid characters headlined by young Italian bass-baritone **Luca Pisaroni** as Figaro and soprano **Danielle de Niese** in her highly-anticipated Company debut as Susanna. American soprano **Ellie Dehn** debuts as the Countess Almaviva and former Adler Fellow **Lucas Meachem** is her philandering husband. Making her Company debut as Cherubino is Canadian mezzo-soprano **Michèle Losier**. Performing in the final three performances of this production are **Kostas Smoriginas** as Figaro, **Heidi Stober** as Susanna and **Trevor Scheunemann** as Count Almaviva. Music Director **Nicola Luisotti** conducts the Company's beloved production directed by **John Copley**.

***Madama Butterfly* – Giacomo Puccini**
Giacomo Puccini's tragic love story stars Bulgarian soprano **Svetla Vassileva** as the geisha Cio-Cio-San, a role she will share with Italian soprano **Daniela Dessì;** former Adler Fellow **Daveda Karanas** is Butterfly's maid and confidante, Suzuki. Following his Summer 2010 appearances in the title role of *Faust* is tenor **Stefano Secco** as Lieutenant B. F. Pinkerton, with baritone **Quinn Kelsey** as the American consul Sharpless, a role he shares with **Brian Mulligan**. This production from Lyric Opera of Chicago, which is presented at San Francisco Opera for the first time and directed by **Jose Maria Condemi**, was created by legendary Tony Award winning Broadway stage director **Harold Prince** and inspired by traditional Japanese theater. San Francisco Opera Music Director **Nicola Luisotti** and **Julian Kovatchev** conduct.

***Cyrano de Bergerac* – Franco Alfano**
Legendary tenor **Plácido Domingo** makes his long-awaited return to San Francisco Opera after a 10-year absence, portraying Cyrano de Bergerac, the swordsman-poet with an enormous heart and even larger nose. Domingo, who made his San Francisco Opera debut in 1969, has appeared in more than a dozen roles with the Company over the past forty years. Domingo last appeared in a San Francisco Opera main stage production as John the Baptist in 1994's *Hérodiade* and in a special gala concert in 2000. This production marks the Company premiere of Alfano's opera, based on the famed play of the same name written by French poet Edmond Rostand. Roxane, the beautiful object of Cyrano's affection, is sung by Spanish soprano **Ainhoa Arteta,** and **Thiago Arancam** makes his San Francisco Opera debut as Christian de Neuveville. French conductor **Patrick Fournillier** and director **Petrika Ionesco** are reunited to lead to this large-scale production which premiered at Paris's Théâtre du Châtelet in May 2009.

***The Makropulos Case* – Leoš Janáček**
Following her triumphs in the title roles of *Jenůfa* and *Káťa Kabanová*, Finnish soprano **Karita Mattila** returns to San Francisco Opera to star in one of Janáček's most intriguing operas—*The Makropulos Case*. Making her role debut as the mysterious Emilia Marty, Mattila reunites with **Olivier Tambosi**, director of her triumphant San Francisco Opera *Manon Lescaut* in 2006. Tenor **Miro Dvorsky** returns to the Company as Albert Gregor and bass-baritone **Gerd Grochowski** is Baron Jaroslav Prus, in his San Francisco Opera debut. Czech conductor and Janáček expert **Jiří Bělohlávek** conducts these performances, which mark the premiere of this co-production with Finnish National Opera.

SAN FRANCISCO OPERA SUMMER 2011 SEASON – *DER RING DES NIBELUNGEN*

***Der Ring des Nibelungen (The Ring of the Nibelung)* – Richard Wagner**
(Das Rheingold, Die Walküre, Siegfried, Götterdämmerung)
In Summer 2011, San Francisco Opera presents director **Francesca Zambello**'s highly anticipated new presentation of *Der Ring des Nibelungen,* featuring an internationally renowned cast. Wagner's epic four-opera cycle explores the lust for power, the lure of gold, the sacred beauty of nature and the destructive impulses of mankind through the gradual unfolding of a timeless mythical tale. The four operas will be presented in three complete cycles, each over the course of one week. In advance of the complete cycles, the Company will present one performance of *Siegfried* and one performance of *Götterdämmerung*. Swedish soprano and Wagner specialist **Nina Stemme** sings Brünnhilde in her complete *Ring* cycle role debut after she appears with the Company this summer in *Die Walküre*. Baritone **Mark Delavan** returns to sing his complete *Ring* cycle debut as Wotan after his triumphant role debut with the Company in 2008's *Das Rheingold* and his upcoming performance in this summer's *Die Walküre*. Tenor **Ian Storey** makes his Company debut and his role debut as Siegfried and **Gordon Hawkins** also makes his Company debut as Alberich, a role he sang to great acclaim at Washington National Opera. Russian mezzo-soprano **Larissa Diadkova** appears as Fricka and **David Cangelosi** returns as Mime. Soprano **Anja Kampe** sings Sieglinde, which she recently performed at Washington National Opera; American tenor **Brandon Jovanovich** makes his role debut as Siegmund. Maestro **Donald Runnicles** will be on the podium for these cycles. *Das Rheingold, Die Walküre,* and *Siegfried* are co-productions with Washington National Opera and *Götterdämmerung* is a new San Francisco Opera production premiere. [See related news release for further details.]

TICKETS AND INFORMATION

Subscriptions for San Francisco Opera's Fall 2010 Season are priced from $96 to $1,824 for Full Series (6 operas) and $48 to $1,216 for Half Series (3 or 4 operas); these prices reflect discounts of up to 30% over single ticket prices. Subscriptions go on sale to renewing subscribers on January 19, 2010. Patrons interested in new subscriptions may call or visit the Opera Box Office starting January 19, 2010. New subscriptions will be available online at ***sfopera.com*** beginning February 17, 2010. Single tickets for San Francisco Opera's Fall 2010 Season performances are priced from $20 to $320 and will go on sale July 11, 2010 at 10am.

Tickets for Richard Wagner's *Der Ring des Nibelungen* are offered in complete four-opera cycles only. Complete cycles are priced from $120 to $2,800 and may be purchased through the San Francisco Opera Box Office. Tickets to the non-subscription performances of *Siegfried* (May 29, 2011) and *Götterdämmerung* (June 5, 2011) will be available for purchase to renewing subscribers and donors to the 2010–11 San Francisco Opera Season beginning March 19, 2010.

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, dates, and ticket prices are subject to change.

All War Memorial Opera House performances (except the September 10 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.

San Francisco Opera introduced OperaVision in Summer 2007 as an innovative way to give balcony audiences a better view of the stage. OperaVision screens, hung from the ceiling of the balcony section at selected perfomances, provide close-up and mid-range ensemble shots in high-definition video. English subtitles appear at the bottom of each screen. OperaVision is offered at three performances of each opera and for all performances of the *Ring* cycle. See calendar listing for more information.

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.***

2010–11 OPERA SEASON CASTING AND CALENDAR

* San Francisco Opera Debut † Current Adler Fellow ♪ Role Debut ● OperaVision Performance

FALL 2010 OPERA SEASON

AIDA (I) by Giuseppe Verdi

Co-production with English National Opera, Houston Grand Opera, and Norwegian National Opera

PRODUCTION NEW TO SAN FRANCISCO
September 10 (8 p.m.)**, 16•** (7:30 p.m.)**, 19•** (2 p.m.)**, 24•** (8 p.m.)**, 29•** (7:30 p.m.)**; October 2•** (8 p.m.)**, 6•** (7:30 p.m.), **2010**

Libretto by Antonio Ghislanzoni
Approximate running time: 3 hours with one intermission
Sung in Italian with English supertitles

First Performance:	Cairo, December 24, 1871
First SFO Performance:	October 3, 1925
Most Recent SFO Performances:	June 2001

Cast:

Aida	**Micaela Carosi***
Amneris	**Dolora Zajick**
Radames	**Marcello Giordani ♪**
Amonasro	**Marco Vratogna**
Ramfis	**Hao Jiang Tian**
King of Egypt	**Christian Van Horn***
Priestess	**Leah Crocetto†**
Messenger	**David Lomelí†**

Production Team:

Conductor	**Nicola Luisotti**
Director	**Jo Davies***
Production Designer	**Zandra Rhodes**
Lighting Designer	**Christopher Maravich**
Choreographer	**Lawrence Pech**
Chorus Director	**Ian Robertson**

WERTHER by Jules Massenet

Co-production with Lyric Opera of Chicago

NEW PRODUCTION PREMIERE
September 15 (7:30 p.m.)**, 18•** (8 p.m.)**, 22•** (7:30 p.m.)**, 26•** (2 p.m.)**, 28** (8 p.m.)**; October 1** (8 p.m.)**, 2010**

Libretto by Édouard Blau, Paul Milliet and Georges Hartmann
Approximate running time: 2 hours, 30 minutes with one intermission
Sung in French with English supertitles
First Performance: Vienna, February 16, 1892
First SFO Performance: November 22, 1935
Most Recent SFO Performances: October 1985

Cast:

Werther	**Ramón Vargas**
Charlotte	**Elīna Garanča***
Sophie	**Heidi Stober*♪**
Albert	**Brian Mulligan ♪**
The Bailiff	**Christian Van Horn ♪**
Schmidt	**Robert MacNeil**
Kätchen	**Maya Lahyani*†♪**
Brühlmann	**Austin Kness†**

Production Team:

Conductor	**Emmanuel Villaume**
Director	**Francisco Negrin***
Production Designer	**Louis Désiré***
Lighting Designer	**Duane Schuler**
Chorus Director	**Ian Robertson**

LE NOZZE DI FIGARO by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
(THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO)

San Francisco Opera Production

September 21 (8 p.m.)**, 23** (7:30 p.m.)**, 25** (8 p.m.)**, 30•** (7:30 p.m.)**; October 3•** (2 p.m.)**, 5•** (7:30 p.m.), **10** (2 p.m.), **16** (8 p.m.), **22** (8 p.m.), **2010**

Libretto by Lorenzo Da Ponte
Approximate running time: 3 hours, 30 minutes with one intermission
Sung in Italian with English supertitles
First Performance: Vienna, May 1, 1786
First SFO Performance: November 9, 1936
Most Recent SFO Performances: June 2006

Cast:

Figaro	**Luca Pisaroni**
	Kostas Smoriginas* (10/10, 16, 22)
Susanna	**Danielle de Niese***
	Heidi Stober (10/10, 16, 22)
Countess Almaviva	**Ellie Dehn***
Cherubino	**Michèle Losier***
Count Almaviva	**Lucas Meachem**
	Trevor Scheunemann (10/10, 16, 22)
Doctor Bartolo	**John Del Carlo**
	Dale Travis (10/10, 16, 22)
Marcellina	**Catherine Cook**
Don Basilio	**Greg Fedderly**
Don Curzio	**Robert MacNeil**
Barbarina	**Sara Gartland*†**

Production Team:

Conductor	**Nicola Luisotti**
Director	**John Copley**
Lighting Designer	**Christopher Maravich**
Chorus Director	**Ian Robertson**

MADAMA BUTTERFLY by Giacomo Puccini

Lyric Opera of Chicago Production

PRODUCTION NEW TO SAN FRANCISCO
October 12 (8 p.m.)**, 15** (8 p.m.)**, 20** (7:30 p.m.)**,**
23 (8 p.m.), **26•** (7:30 p.m.), **29•** (8 p.m.)**; November 5** (8 p.m.)**,**
11 (7:30 p.m.), **14•** (2 p.m.), **17** (7:30 p.m.), **21** (2 p.m.),
27 (8 p.m.), **2010**

Libretto by Giuseppe Giacosa and Luigi Illica
Approximate running time: 2 hours, 45 minutes with one intermission
Sung in Italian with English supertitles
First Performance: Milan, February 17, 1904
First SFO Performance: September 26, 1924
Most Recent SFO Performances: December 2007

Cast:

Cio-Cio-San	**Svetla Vassileva**
	Daniela Dessi (11/5, 11, 14, 17, 21, 27)
Pinkerton	**Stefano Secco**
Suzuki	**Daveda Karanas ♪**
Goro	**Thomas Glenn**
Sharpless	**Quinn Kelsey**
	Brian Mulligan (11/17, 21, 27)
Prince Yamadori	**Austin Kness†**
The Bonze	**Christian Van Horn**
Kate Pinkerton	**Sarah Gartland†**

Production Team:

Conductor	**Nicola Luisotti**
	Julian Kovatchev* (11/5, 11, 14, 17, 21, 27)
Original Director	**Harold Prince**
Director	**Jose Maria Condemi**
Set Designer	**Clarke Dunham***
Costume Designer	**Florence Klotz***
Original Lighting Design	**Ken Billington**
Chorus Director	**Ian Robertson**

CYRANO DE BERGERAC by Franco Alfano

Théâtre du Châtelet (Paris) Production

SAN FRANCISCO OPERA PREMIERE
October 24 (2 p.m.)**, 27** (7:30 p.m.)**, 30** (8 p.m.)**; November**
2 (8 p.m.)**, 6•** (2 p.m.), **9•** (7:30 p.m.), **12•** (8 p.m.), **2010**

Libretto by Henri Cain
Approximate running time: 2 hours, 45 minutes with one intermission
Sung in French with English supertitles
First Performance: Rome, January 22, 1936 (Italian translation)
Paris, May 29, 1936 (original French text)

Cast:

Cyrano de Bergerac	**Plácido Domingo**
Roxane	**Ainhoa Arteta ♪**
Christian de Neuveville	**Thiago Arancam*♪**
De Guiche	**Stephen Powell ♪**
Ragueneau	**Brian Mulligan ♪**
Le Bret	**Timothy Mix ♪**
Carbon	**Lester Lynch ♪**
Vicomte de Valvert, The Spanish Official, A Cook	**Austin Kness†**
The Duenna, Sister Marta	**Maya Lahyani†♪**
Lisa, A Lay Sister	**Leah Crocetto†**

Production Team:

Conductor	**Patrick Fournillier***
Director	**Petrika Ionesco***
Set Designer	**Petrika Ionesco***
Costume Designer	**Lili Kendaka***
Lighting Designer	**Petrika Ionesco***
Fencing Choreographer	**François Rostain***
Chorus Director	**Ian Robertson**

THE MAKROPULOS CASE by Leoš Janáček

NEW PRODUCTION PREMIERE

Co-Production with Finnish National Opera

November 10 (7:30 p.m.)**, 13** (8 p.m.), **16** (8 p.m.), **20•** (8 p.m.), **24•** (7:30 p.m.), **28•** (2 p.m.), **2010**

Libretto by Leoš Janáček
Approximate running time: 2 hours, 30 minutes with one intermission
Sung in Czech with English supertitles

First Performance:	Brno, December 18, 1926
First SFO Performance:	November 19, 1966 (*first U.S. performance of the work*)
Most Recent SFO Performances:	October 1993

Cast:

Emilia Marty	**Karita Mattila ♪**
Albert Gregor	**Miro Dvorsky**
Baron Jaroslav Prus	**Gerd Grochowski*♪**
Doctor Kolenaty	**Dale Travis ♪**
Vitek	**Thomas Glenn ♪**
Kristina	**Susannah Biller*†♪**
Count Hauk-Šendorf	**Matthew O'Neill ♪**
Janek	**Brian Jagde*† ♪**
A Stagehand	**Austin Kness†**
A Chambermaid, A Cleaning Woman	**Maya Lahyani†**

Production Team:

Conductor	**Jiří Bělohlávek***
Director	**Olivier Tambosi**
Production Designer	**Frank Philipp Schlössmann**
Lighting Designer	**Duane Schuler**
Chorus Director	**Ian Robertson**

AIDA (II) by Giuseppe Verdi

Co-Production with English National Opera, Houston Grand Opera and Norwegian National Opera

November 23 (8 p.m.)**, 26** (8 p.m.)**, 29** (8 p.m.)**; December 2** (7:30 p.m.)**, 5** (2 p.m.), **2010**

Libretto by Antonio Ghislanzoni
Approximate running time: 3 hours with one intermission
Sung in Italian with English supertitles

First Performance:	Cairo, December 24, 1871
First SFO Performance:	October 3, 1925
Most Recent SFO Performances:	June 2001

Cast:

Aida	**Michele Capalbo***
Radames	**Carlo Ventre**
Amneris	**Guang Yang***
Amonasro	**Quinn Kelsey**
Ramfis	**Eric Owens**
King of Egypt	**Christian Van Horn**
Priestess	**Leah Crocetto†**
Messenger	**Brian Jagde†**

Production Team:

Conductor	**Giuseppe Finzi**
Director	**Jo Davies**
Production Designer	**Zandra Rhodes**
Lighting Designer	**Christopher Maravich**
Choreographer	**Lawrence Pech**
Chorus Director	**Ian Robertson**

SUMMER 2011 OPERA SEASON: *DER RING DES NIBELUNGEN (The Ring of the Nibelung)*

CYCLE 1: **June 14** (8 p.m.); **June 15** (7 p.m.); **June 17** (6:30 p.m.); **June 19** (1 p.m.)
CYCLE 2: **June 21** (8 p.m.); **June 22** (7 p.m.); **June 24** (6:30 p.m.); **June 26** (1 p.m.)
CYCLE 3: **June 28** (8 p.m.); **June 29** (7 p.m.); **July 1** (6:30 p.m.); **July 3** (1 p.m.)

DAS RHEINGOLD by Richard Wagner

Co-production with Washington National Opera **June 14•** (8 p.m.), **21•** (8 p.m.), and **28•** (8 p.m.)**, 2011**

Libretto by Richard Wagner
Approximate running time: 2 hours, 35 minutes with no intermission
Sung in German with English supertitles
First Performance: Munich, September 22, 1869
First SFO Performance: November 1, 1935
Most Recent SFO Performance: June 2008

Cast:

Wotan	**Mark Delavan**
Loge	**Stefan Margita**
Alberich	**Gordon Hawkins***
Fricka	**Larissa Diadkova**
Erda	**Ronnita Miller*♪**
Mime	**David Cangelosi**
Fasolt	**Andrea Silvestrelli**
Fafner	**Daniel Sumegi**
Froh	**Brandon Jovanovich ♪**
Freia	**Melissa Citro*♪**
Woglinde	**Stacey Tappan***
Wellgunde	**Lauren McNeese**
Flosshilde	**Renée Tatum ♪**

Production Team:

Conductor	**Donald Runnicles**
Director	**Francesca Zambello**
Set Designer	**Michael Yeargan**
Costume Designer	**Catherine Zuber**
Lighting Designer	**Mark McCullough**
Projection Designer	**Jan Hartley**
Dramaturg	**Cori Ellison**
Choreographer	**Lawrence Pech**

DIE WALKÜRE by Richard Wagner

Co-production with Washington National Opera **June 15•** (7 p.m.), **22•** (7 p.m.), and **29•** (7 p.m.)**, 2011**

Libretto by Richard Wagner
Approximate running time: 4 hours, 30 minutes with two intermissions
Sung in German with English supertitles
First Performance: Munich, June 26, 1870
First SFO Performance: November 4, 1935
Most Recent SFO performance: 1999 *Ring* Festival (Will be performed in June 2010)

Cast:

Brünnhilde	**Nina Stemme**
Wotan	**Mark Delavan**
Sieglinde	**Anja Kampe***
	Heidi Melton ♪ (6/29)
Siegmund	**Brandon Jovanovich ♪**
Fricka	**Larissa Diadkova**
Hunding	**Daniel Sumegi**

Production Team:

Conductor	**Donald Runnicles**
Director	**Francesca Zambello**
Set Designer	**Michael Yeargan**
Costume Designer	**Catherine Zuber**
Lighting Designer	**Mark McCullough**
Projection Designer	**Jan Hartley**
Dramaturg	**Cori Ellison**
Choreographer	**Lawrence Pech**

SIEGFRIED by Richard Wagner

Co-production with Washington National Opera

PRODUCTION NEW TO SAN FRANCISCO
Non-subscription performance on **May 29, 2011** (1 p.m.)
June 17• (6:30 p.m.)**, 24•** (6:30 p.m.), and **July 1•** (6:30 p.m.)**, 2011**

Libretto by Richard Wagner
Approximate running time: 4 hours, 50 minutes with two intermissions
Sung in German with English supertitles
First Performance: Bayreuth, August 16, 1876
First SFO Performance: November 6, 1935
Most Recent SFO Performance: 1999 *Ring* Festival

Cast:

Siegfried	**Ian Storey*♪**
The Wanderer (Wotan)	**Mark Delavan ♪**
Brünnhilde	**Nina Stemme**
Mime	**David Cangelosi**
Alberich	**Gordon Hawkins**
Fafner	**Daniel Sumegi**
Erda	**Ronnita Miller ♪**
Forest Bird	**Stacey Tappan**

Production Team:

Conductor	**Donald Runnicles**
Director	**Francesca Zambello**
Set Designer	**Michael Yeargan**
Costume Designer	**Catherine Zuber**
Lighting Designer	**Mark McCullough**
Projection Designer	**Jan Hartley**
Dramaturg	**Cori Ellison**
Choreographer	**Lawrence Pech**

GÖTTERDÄMMERUNG by Richard Wagner

San Francisco Opera Production

NEW PRODUCTION PREMIERE
Non-subscription performance on **June 5, 2011** (1 p.m.)
June 19• (1 p.m.)**, 26•** (1 p.m.), and **July 3•** (1 p.m.)**, 2011**

Libretto by Richard Wagner
Approximate running time: 5 hours, 15 minutes with two intermissions
Sung in German with English supertitles
First Performance: Bayreuth, August 17, 1876
First SFO Performance: November 9, 1935
Most Recent SFO Performance: 1999 *Ring* Festival

Cast:

Brünnhilde	**Nina Stemme ♪**
Siegfried	**Ian Storey ♪**
Gunther	**Gerd Grochowski**
Hagen	**Andrea Silvestrelli**
Waltraute	**Daveda Karanas♪**
Gutrune	**Melissa Citro ♪**
Alberich	**Gordon Hawkins**
First Norn	**Ronnita Miller ♪**
Second Norn	**Daveda Karanas ♪**
Third Norn	**Heidi Melton ♪**
Woglinde	**Stacey Tappan**
Wellgunde	**Lauren McNeese**
Flosshilde	**Renée Tatum ♪**

Production Team:

Conductor	**Donald Runnicles**
Director	**Francesca Zambello**
Set Designer	**Michael Yeargan**
Costume Designer	**Catherine Zuber**
Lighting Designer	**Mark McCullough**
Projection Designer	**Jan Hartley**
Dramaturg	**Cori Ellison**
Choreographer	**Lawrence Pech**
Chorus Director	**Ian Robertson**

Please see the Season Summary release for 2010–11 Season summary information and biographies of David Gockley and Nicola Luisotti.

Please see *Ring* cycle release for further information about *Der Ring des Nibelungen (The Ring of the Nibelung)* and artist/production team biographies.

High resolution downloadable photographs of 2010-11 Season productions and artists are available at *sfopera.com/press*

2010–11 SPECIAL EVENTS

OPENING NIGHT CELEBRATIONS – Friday, September 10, 2010

Opera Ball 2010
Presented by San Francisco Opera Guild, the evening begins with an elegant pre-performance cocktail reception and sumptuous dinner followed by the season-opening performance of Verdi's *Aida* and dancing at San Francisco City Hall. 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 community programs.
Co-chairs: Charlot Malin and Mary Poland
5 p.m. Cocktail Reception and Dinner
8 p.m. Opening Night performance of *Aida*
11 p.m. Dancing at City Hall

For tickets or more information about *Opera Ball 2010*, 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 glamorous pre-performance cocktail reception and seated dinner at City Hall followed by the season-opening performance of *Aida* and post-performance dancing.
Co-chairs: Jane Burkhard and Anjelika Koulebakina
5 p.m. Cocktail Reception and Dinner
8 p.m. Opening Night performance of *Aida*
11 p.m. Dancing at City Hall

Tickets are available only to current BRAVO! CLUB members. For tickets and membership information, email bravoclub@sfopera.com or call (415) 565-3285.

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SAN FRANCISCO OPERA IN THE PARK
Sunday, September 12, 2010 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 2010–11 Season and the San Francisco Opera Orchestra conducted by Music Director Nicola Luisotti. This concert, held in Sharon Meadow at Golden Gate Park, is free and open to the public; no tickets required. For more information visit ***sfopera.com/park***.

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WEBCOR BUILDERS PRESENTS OPERA AT THE BALLPARK
Free Live Simulcast of *Aida* at AT&T Park; Friday, September 24, 2010 at 8 p.m.
24 Willie Mays Plaza in San Francisco

Baseball and opera fans alike have the rare opportunity to enjoy 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 Verdi's *Aida* in 2010. This event is 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. For further information, visit ***sfopera.com/simulcast***.

THE FUTURE IS NOW: ADLER FELLOWS GALA CONCERT
Wednesday, December 1, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.
Herbst Theatre, War Memorial Veterans Building

This annual concert showcases the talented young artists from San Francisco Opera Center's prestigious young artist training program in a gala concert of opera scenes and arias.

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SAN FRANCISCO OPERA AT STERN GROVE
Sunday, July 4, 2010 at 2 p.m.
Sigmund Stern Grove, 19th Avenue and Sloat Boulevard

San Francisco Opera returns to the beautiful outdoor setting of Sigmund Stern Grove for the 73rd season of the Stern Grove Festival. This annual free concert featuring the San Francisco Opera Orchestra, members of the Adler Fellowship Program and a special guest artist is one of San Francisco Opera's most popular community engagements, attracting thousands of Bay Area opera lovers.

# # #

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.** San Francisco Opera is sponsored, in part, by a grant from **Grants for the Arts/San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund.**

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Opening Weekend Grand Sponsor **Diane B. Wilsey** is proud to support *Aida.* **Company Sponsor Mrs. Edmund W. Littlefield** and **John A. and Cynthia Fry Gunn** are proud to support *Werther*. **Company Sponsors John A. and Cynthia Fry Gunn** are proud to support *Le Nozze di Figaro*. This production is made possible, in part, by **San Francisco Opera Guild** and **The Thomas Tilton Production Fund**. *Madama Butterfly* is made possible, in part, by **Elizabeth and Burgess Jamieson**. **Company Sponsors John A. and Cynthia Fry Gunn** are proud to support *Cyrano de Bergerac*. This production is made possible, in part, by **The Bernard Osher Endowment Fund**. *The Makropulos Case* is made possible by the **Phyllis C. Wattis Fund for New Productions**.

The Ring of the Nibelung is made possible, in part, by the **Edgar Foster Daniels Foundation**, **Roberta and David Elliott**, **Kristina Flanagan**, **Mary and Nicholas Graves**, **John A. and Cynthia Fry Gunn**, **The Bernard Osher Endowment Fund**, **Betty and Jack Schafer** and an **Anonymous donor.** The *Ring* Circle Chairs are **Kristina Flanagan, Mary and Nicholas Graves** and **Betty and Jack Schafer.** The National Patron Program Chairs are **The Honorable and Mrs. George P. Shultz**

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 Builders Presents Opera at the Ballpark* is supported by Presenting Sponsor **Webcor Builders,** Platinum Sponsor **Charles Schwab** and Gold Sponsor **Chevron**.

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2010–11 Season Sponsor

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San Francisco Opera Communications:
Jon Finck 415.565.6472 / jfinck@sfopera.com
Julia Inouye 415.565.6430 / jinouye@sfopera.com
Robin Freeman 415.565.6451 / rfreeman@sfopera.com

National Press Representation:
Shuman Associates 212.315.1300 / shumanpr@shumanassociates.net