

SAN FRANCISCO OPERA JANUARY-MAY 2011 RADIO BROADCASTS ON CLASSICAL 102.1 KDFC

Monthly broadcast series continues with Verdi's *Aida*, Massenet's *Werther*, Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*, Puccini's *Madama Butterfly* and a special General Director's Choice broadcast

SAN FRANCISCO, December 17, 2010 – San Francisco Opera's radio broadcast series on Classical 102.1 KDFC continues in the new year with a host of new broadcasts of San Francisco Opera productions recorded live at the War Memorial Opera House and airing on Classical 102.1 KDFC on the first Sunday of each month at 8 p.m. Popular KDFC radio announcer Dianne Nicolini serves as program host, offering lively introductions to each opera along with accompanying facts and plot synopses.

The Winter-Spring 2011 broadcast series begins on Sunday, January 2 with Verdi's Egyptian masterpiece *Aida*, conducted by San Francisco Opera Music Director Nicola Luisotti. The celebrated cast includes soprano Micaela Carosi as Aida, a signature role that she has sung around the world to great acclaim, tenor Marcello Giordani in his role debut as Radames, Verdian mezzo-soprano Dolora Zajick as Amneris, baritone Marco Vratogna as Amonasro and baritone Hao Jiang Tian as Ramfis.

The Classical 102.1 KDFC broadcast series continues on February 6 with Massenet's *Werther*, featuring renowned lyric tenor Ramón Vargas in the title role opposite acclaimed mezzo-soprano Alice Coote as Charlotte; a special General Director's Choice broadcast on March 6 celebrating David Gockley's fifth anniversary at the helm of San Francisco Opera; Mozart's eternally popular comedy *The Marriage of Figaro* on April 3, with a cast headlined by dazzling lyric soprano Danielle de Niese as Susanna, captivating young bass-baritone Luca Pisaroni as Figaro, soprano Ellie Dehn as Countess Almaviva and Lucas Meachem as Count Almaviva; and Puccini's tragic tale of colliding hearts and

cultures, *Madama Butterfly*, starring soprano Svetla Vassileva as Cio-Cio-San alongside tenor Stefano Secco as Lieutenant B. F. Pinkerton, Daveda Karanas as Suzuki and baritone Quinn Kelsey as Sharpless, on May 1.

Launched in 2007 under the leadership of General Director David Gockley, San Francisco Opera's partnership with Classical 102.1 KDFC marked the return of regular San Francisco Opera broadcasts to Bay Area radio after a then-absence of 25 years. San Francisco Opera radio broadcasts are also distributed nationally and internationally through a partnership with the WFMT Radio Network in Chicago. For more information about San Francisco Opera radio broadcasts, please visit sfopera.com/broadcasts.

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SAN FRANCISCO OPERA WINTER-SPRING 2011 BROADCASTS ON CLASSICAL 102.1 KDFC:

All broadcasts are recorded live at the War Memorial Opera House and feature the San Francisco Opera Orchestra and San Francisco Opera Chorus (Ian Robertson, Chorus Director).

Tune in to 102.1 FM or go to <u>kdfc.com</u> for live streaming. Schedule is subject to change; for further details and broadcast information, visit <u>sfopera.com/broadcasts</u>.

Sunday, January 2 at 8 p.m. – Guiseppe Verdi's Aida

A compelling tale of conflicting loyalties and forbidden passions, Verdi's classic masterpiece stars soprano Micaela Carosi in the title role, with mezzo-soprano Dolora Zajick as Amneris and tenor Marcello Giordani in his role debut as Radames. The cast also features baritone Marco Vratogna (Amonasro), bass Hao Jiang Tian (Ramfis) and bass-baritone Christian van Horn (King of Egypt). San Francisco Opera Music Director Nicola Luisotti leads the San Francisco Opera Orchestra and Chorus. Jo Davies, director. [Recorded Fall 2010]

Sunday, February 6 at 8 p.m. – Jules Massenet's Werther

Bringing one of his signature roles to San Francisco Opera, renowned tenor Ramón Vargas appears as Werther, the poet who cannot bear the pain of unfulfilled love, alongside acclaimed mezzo-soprano Alice Coote as Charlotte. Massenet's opera, based on Goethe's novel *The Sorrows of Young Werther*, also features soprano Heidi Stober (Sophie), baritone Brian Mulligan (Albert) and bass-baritone Christian van Horn (The Bailiff). Emmanuel Villaume, conductor; Francisco Negrin, director. [Recorded Fall 2010]

Sunday, March 6 at 8 p.m. – General Director's Choice

In celebration of the start of his sixth year as general director of San Francisco Opera, David Gockley will select a radio broadcast from the past five years that has been particularly meaningful to him. KDFC's Dianne Nicolini will announce the selection at a later date; tune into Classical 102.1 KDFC or visit kdfc.com for more information.

Sunday, April 3 at 8 p.m. – Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's The Marriage of Figaro

Mozart's sparkling comedy stars a dazzling young cast headlined by bass-baritone Luca Pisaroni as Figaro and soprano Danielle de Niese as Susanna. The cast also features soprano Ellie Dehn (Countess Almaviva), mezzo-soprano Michèle Losier (Cherubino), baritone Lucas Meachem (Count Almaviva), mezzo-soprano Catherine Cook (Marcellina), tenor Greg Fedderly (Don Basilio) and bass-baritone John Del Carlo (Doctor Bartolo). San Francisco Opera Music Director Nicola Luisotti, conductor; John Copley, director. [Recorded Fall 2010]

Sunday, May 1 at 8 p.m. – Giacomo Puccini's Madama Butterfly

Puccini's tragic love story stars soprano Svetla Vassileva as the geisha Cio-Cio-San opposite tenor Stefano Secco as Lieutenant B. F. Pinkerton. The cast also features mezzo-soprano Daveda Karanas (Suzuki), baritone Quinn Kelsey (Sharpless), tenor Thomas Glenn (Goro) and bass-baritone Christian Van Horn (The Bonze). San Francisco Opera Music Director Nicola Luisotti conducts; Jose Maria Condemi, director. [Recorded Fall 2010]

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This press release and downloadable photographs of these San Francisco Opera productions are available at www.sfopera.com/press.

For further press information, please contact San Francisco Opera Communications: Jon Finck (415) 565.6472 / jfinck@sfopera.com
Robin Freeman (415) 565-6451 / rfreeman@sfopera.com