SAN FRANCISCO OPERA AND CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENT TENOR JONAS KAUFMANN IN RECITAL SUNDAY, MARCH 13 AT ZELLERBACH HALL

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT (415) 864-3330 OR SFOPERA.COM

SAN FRANCISCO (February XX, 2011)— San Francisco Opera and Cal Performances co-present the highly-anticipated Bay Area debut of tenor Jonas Kaufmann, "perhaps the finest German lyric tenor since the great Fritz Wunderlich" (*Sunday Times*, London). Kaufmann will sing an all-German lieder program consisting of songs by Robert Schumann and Richard Strauss on Sunday, March 13 at 7 p.m. at Zellerbach Hall in Berkeley. Kaufmann will perform with his longtime accompanist, pianist Helmut Deutsch.

One of the most in-demand tenors performing today, Jonas Kaufmann frequently appears with opera companies around the world, including Royal Opera, Covent Garden; Berlin State Opera; Vienna State Opera; Lyric Opera of Chicago; Paris Opera and Teatro alla Scala. Kaufmann earned rave reviews for his sold-out performances as Don José (*Carmen*) and Cavaradossi (*Tosca*) at the Metropolitan Opera and will appear this spring as Siegmund in the Met's Robert Lepage production of *Die Walküre*. The *New York Times* wrote of his recent Met appearances: "He has everything: intelligence, musicianship, and resourceful technique." Other roles in the tenor's repertoire include Florestan in *Fidelio*, Alfredo in *La Traviata*, Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly*, Tamino in *Die Zauberflöte*, and the title role of both Gounod's *Faust* and Berlioz's *La Damnation de Faust*.

German pianist Helmut Deutsch has been Jonas Kaufmann's accompanist since 2002 and can be heard on Kaufmann's 2010 recording of Franz Schubert's song cycle *Die schöne Müllerin*. A

professor at the Hochschule für Musik in Munich, he was previously the accompanist for soprano Irmgard Seefried and baritone Hermann Prey, and he has performed with singers Barbara Bonney, Grace Bumbry, Matthias Goerne, Thomas Moser and Andreas Schmidt, among others. Deutsch has travelled extensively with Kaufmann giving recitals throughout Europe and Japan.

Jonas Kaufmann will open his recital program with four songs from Robert Schumann's *Zwölf Gedichte,* Op. 35, a collection of songs set to poems by the German poet and physician Justinus Kerner. Of the twelve songs Schumann wrote for the set, Kaufmann will sing "Wanderlied" (Song of Travel); "Erstes Grün" (First Green); "Wanderung" (Wandering); and "Stille Thränen" (Silent Tears). Kaufmann will also sing selections from Schumann's *Dichterliebe* Op. 48, musical settings of German poet Heinrich Heine's *Lyrisches Intermezzo.*

After an intermission, the tenor will return to sing *Schlichte Weisen* Op. 21 by Richard Strauss. The text of the five songs are by German lawyer and historian Felix Dahn and include "All' mein Gedanken, mein Herz und mein Sinn" (All My Thoughts, My Heart and My Mind), "Du meines Herzens Krönelein" (You, My Heart's Little Crown), "Ach Lieb, ich muss nun scheiden" (Ah Love, I Must Now Leave), "Ach weh, mir unglückhaften Mann" (Ah Me, Unlucky Man), and "Die Frauen sind oft fromm und still" (The Women are Often Quiet and Still).

The recital will conclude with two more sets of Strauss lieder. First Kaufmann will sing a collection of four songs written between 1896 and 1900: "Sehnsucht" (Longing) from Op. 32, "Nachtgang" (Night Stroll) from Op. 29, "Freundliche Vision" (Pleasant Vision) from Op. 48, and "Ich liebe dich" (I Love You) from Op. 37. Lastly, he will sing the four songs of Strauss' *Vier Lieder,* Op. 27: "Ruhe, meine Seele!" (Rest, My Soul), the famous "Cäcilie" (Cecily), "Heimliche Aufforderung" (Secret Invitation), and "Morgen" (Morning). Written in 1894, these four songs were dedicated to Strauss's wife, soprano Pauline de Ahna and presented to her on their wedding day.

Tickets and Information

Tickets for the Jonas Kaufmann Recital on Sunday, March 13 in Zellerbach Hall are priced at $40, $56, $70, $86 and $100 and may be purchased at www.sfopera.com or through the San Francisco Opera Box Office [301 Van Ness Avenue (at Grove Street), or by phone at (415) 864-3330]. Tickets can also be purchased through Cal Performances' Box Office [Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus, or by phone at (510) 642-9988] or online at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu.

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

TENOR JONAS KAUFMANN IN RECITAL

Sunday, March 13, 2011, 7 p.m.
Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

Jonas Kaufmann, tenor
Helmut Deutsch, piano

Program:

Schumann Selections from *Zwölf Gedichte*, Op. 35

Dichterliebe, Op. 48

R. Strauss *Schlichte Weisen*, Op. 21;

"Sehnsucht", Op. 32, No. 2
"Nachtgang," Op. 29, No. 3
"Freundliche Vision" Op. 48, No. 1;
"Ich liebe dich," Op. 37, No. 2;

Vier Lieder, Op. 27

Tickets: $40, $56, $70, $86, and $100, available at sfopera.com or through the San Francisco Opera Box Office [301 Van Ness Avenue (at Grove Street), or by phone at (415) 864-3330]. Tickets also available at calperformances.org or through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall.

About the Artists

Jonas Kaufmann was born in Munich, Germany and studied at the Hochschule für Musik in that city. While in school Kaufmann made his professional debut at the Staatstheater Saarbruecken in 1994, and was soon invited to appear at other important German theaters, including the Stuttgart and Hamburg State operas, as well as international opera venues including the Lyric Opera of Chicago, the Paris Opera, and the Teatro alla Scala. His operatic career has since included appearances at the Metropolitan Opera, the Royal Opera Covent Garden, the Berlin State Opera, and the Vienna State Opera, in roles ranging from Florestan (*Fidelio*), Don Jose (*Carmen*), Alfredo (*La Traviata*), Cavaradossi (*Tosca*), Pinkerton (*Madama Butterfly*), Tamino (*TheMagic Flute*), and *Faust* (both Gounod's and Berlioz' versions). "He can bend a plaintive phrase with tender pianissimos and then stun you with the visceral power of his full-voiced top notes," raved the *New York Times* in 2009. "He has everything: intelligence, musicianship, and resourceful technique. As an actor, he is both savvy and uninhibited." Kaufmann has worked with leading orchestras and conductors, including the Berlin Philharmonic with Sir Simon Rattle, the Cleveland Orchestra with Franz Welser-Möst, and the Vienna Philharmonic with Helmut Rilling. In 2007 he sang Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 in Lucerne under Claudio Abaddo, and that same year made his Carnegie Hall debut singing the same work. His recital tours, including a tour of Japan, have been to sold-out crowds and rave reviews. Kaufmann's recent discography includes *Verismo Arias* (2010), *Wagner: Lohengrin* (DVD set with Anja Harteros, Michaela Schuster, and Wolfgang Kochs, directed by Kent Nagano, 2010), *Schubert: Die Schöne Müllerin* (with Helmut Deutsch, 2009), and *Sehnsucht* (featuring arias and scenes by Mozart, Schubert, Beethoven und Wagner, directed by Claudio Abbado, 2009).

Pianist **Helmut Deutsch** is a professor at the Hochschule für Musik in Munich, Germany—the same school where Jonas Kaufmann studied. His career as an accompanist began with German soprano Irmgard Seefried, and for 12 years Deutsch was the regular recital partner of German baritone Hermann Prey. He has accompanied Kaufmann in recital since 2002, and has accompanied singers including Juliane Banse, Barbara Bonney, Grace Bumbry, Ileana Cotrubas, Olaf Bär, Matthias Goerne, Thomas Moser, and Andreas Schmidt. Deutsch has performed at music festivals around the world, appeared on numerous prize-winning recordings, and given master classes throughout Europe and Japan. He taught for more than a decade at the Musikhochschule Wien.

# # # # # # #

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

Wells Fargo is San Francisco Opera's Season Sponsor. San Francisco Opera is proud to recognize its corporate partners: United Airlines, the Official Airline of San Francisco Opera, and Chevron, fueling great performances everywhere.

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

2010–11 Season Sponsor

- SFO -

This press release and downloadable 2010–11 Season photographs are available at sfopera.com/press

For further press information, please contact:

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**