



**SAN FRANCISCO OPERA, WEBCOR BUILDERS AND THE SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS PARTNER TO BRING *AIDA* FREE TO AT&T PARK ON SEPTEMBER 24**

**TICKET REGISTRATION FOR *WEBCOR BUILDERS PRESENTS OPERA AT THE BALLPARK* AVAILABLE AT [SFOPERA.COM/SIMULCAST](http://SFOPERA.COM/SIMULCAST)**

**Soprano Micaela Carosi stars in the title role of *Aida* with Dolora Zajick, Marcello Giordani and Marco Vratogna in Live Simulcast from the War Memorial Opera House**

SAN FRANCISCO, September, 10, 2010– San Francisco Opera partners with the San Francisco Giants and Webcor Builders once again to bring grand opera to AT&T Park, home of the San Francisco Giants baseball team on Friday, September 24 at 8 p.m. This free live simulcast of Giuseppe Verdi’s *Aida* features Micaela Carosi, Dolora Zajick, Marcello Giordani and Marco Vratogna and is conducted by Music Director Nicola Luisotti. Baseball and opera fans will have a chance to experience this FREE event with seating both on the field and in the stands. Register now for early entry and to assure best seating at [sfopera.com/simulcast](http://sfopera.com/simulcast).

Through state-of-the-art technology, the simulcast will be transmitted in 1920x1080 high definition (HD) to AT&T Park’s 103-foot wide Mitsubishi Electric Diamond Vision scoreboard—one of the highest quality outdoor scoreboards in the nation—live from the stage of the War Memorial Opera House. Concert quality audio combined with AT&T Park’s huge screen creates an unmatched operatic experience for attendees sitting in the stands and on the baseball field itself.

Only registered ticket holders will be allowed early entrance for best seating beginning at 6:30 p.m. Field seating is limited and will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis. All others who have

not pre-registered and do not have pre-printed tickets will be allowed to enter AT&T Park beginning at 7 p.m. Fans registered for tickets in advance will automatically be entered in a drawing to win a night at night at the San Francisco Opera.

AT&T Park concessions will be open for the simulcast, providing audiences the rare opportunity to partner hot dogs, peanuts and popcorn with world-class opera. No lawn chairs will be allowed for field seating, and glass containers, alcohol, and hard-sided coolers are not permitted into the ballpark. For a complete list of AT&T Park rules and restrictions please visit [sfopera.com/simulcast](http://sfopera.com/simulcast). AT&T Park in San Francisco is easily accessible by public transportation. For directions and public transit information, please visit [sfopera.com/simulcast](http://sfopera.com/simulcast).

San Francisco Opera and Classical 102.1 KDFC partner again this year to host the “KDFC Star-Spangled Sing-Off,” a public singing competition that accepted video submissions in search of a winner who will sing the National Anthem at AT&T Park prior to *Webcor Builders Presents Opera at the Ballpark* on September 24. Over 80 contestants submitted videos to KDFC’s website, where they will be whittled down to the top three by online voters. Finalists will be judged by San Francisco Opera General Director David Gockley and Music Director Nicola Luisotti, as well as KDFC Program Director Bill Leuth, and the winner will perform “The Star Spangled Banner” a cappella. prior to the simulcast.

San Francisco Opera presents Giuseppe Verdi’s famed saga *Aida*, a tale of conflicting loyalties and forbidden passions. The grandest of grand operas, *Aida* evokes a brilliant balance of spectacular pageantry and emotional intimacy. This dazzling production, previously seen at Houston Grand Opera and English National Opera, is designed by renowned fashion designer Zandra Rhodes and directed by Jo Davies. Italian soprano Micaela Carosi stars as Aida, a signature role that she has sung around the world to great acclaim. Verdian mezzo-soprano and former Adler Fellow Dolora Zajick returns to sing Amneris, and tenor Marcello Giordani makes his role debut as Radames. Returning after his highly-praised performances in last season’s *Otello* is baritone Marco Vratogna as Amonasro and baritone Hao Jiang Tian sings the role of Ramfis. For more information, please visit [www.sfopera.com](http://www.sfopera.com).

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Free live simulcasts are among the first innovations of David Gockley’s tenure and part of the Company’s campaign to bring opera into the community and to wider audiences. The first simulcast

debuted in May 2006 with Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*, drawing 8,000 people to San Francisco's Civic Center Plaza. An audience of approximately 14,000 gathered in October 2006, for Verdi's *Rigoletto* at Civic Center Plaza and Frost Amphitheatre at Stanford University. In June 2007 a live simulcast of Mozart's *Don Giovanni* played to capacity crowds at four venues (San Francisco's Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, Cal Performances at UC Berkeley, Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts at UC Davis, and the Wells Fargo Center for the Arts in Santa Rosa). In September 2007, Saint-Saëns's *Samson and Delilah* wowed nearly 15,000 opera fans at the first AT&T Park simulcast; 23,000 fans enjoyed summer madness at the ballpark with *Lucia di Lammermoor* in June 2008; *Tosca* brought tears and cheers to over 27,000 in June 2009; and *Il Trovatore* brought the ballpark crowd of 25,000 to its feet in September 2009.

*Aida* is made possible, in part, by Opening Weekend Grand Sponsor Diane B. Wilsey. Additional support provided by United Airlines. 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 and United Airlines. Funding for this simulcast is made possible by an Excellence Award from The Wallace Foundation.

Media sponsors include San Francisco Examiner, 102.1 KDFC Radio FM, CBS 5 / The CW Bay Area, and Clear Channel

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For further press information or to obtain photographs of the production of *Aida* and the September 2010 Simulcast at AT&T Park, please visit [www.sfopera.com/press](http://www.sfopera.com/press), or contact:

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