



SAN FRANCISCO  
OPERA

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**MEDIA ADVISORY**

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***RING* CASTING CHANGE ANNOUNCED**

**TENOR JAY HUNTER MORRIS TO SING TITLE ROLE OF *SIEGFRIED*,  
REPLACING PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED ARTIST IAN STOREY**

**IAN STOREY NOW SCHEDULED TO SING *GÖTTERDÄMMERUNG* ONLY  
IN SAN FRANCISCO OPERA'S SUMMER 2011 PRESENTATION  
OF WAGNER'S FOUR-OPERA DRAMA, *DER RING DES NIBELUNGEN***

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (April 20, 2011)—San Francisco Opera General Director David Gockley today announced a casting change in the Company's upcoming presentation of Richard Wagner's *Der Ring des Nibelungen* (*The Ring of the Nibelung*). American tenor Jay Hunter Morris will now sing the title role of *Siegfried* replacing acclaimed Wagerian tenor Ian Storey, who was originally announced to sing the role of Siegfried in both *Siegfried* and *Götterdämmerung*, the third and fourth operas of the composer's epic four-opera cycle. With today's announcement, Mr. Storey will only sing in *Götterdämmerung*, a performance that will mark both his Company and role debuts.

The *Siegfried* premiere is slated for Sunday, May 29 followed by the *Götterdämmerung* premiere a week later on Sunday, June 5. Three complete cycles of the *Ring* will be presented at the War Memorial Opera House from June 14 to July 3, 2011.

"Over recent months, Ian Storey was dealing with an illness which greatly interrupted his learning period for the role of Siegfried. When he arrived in San Francisco, he realized he could not catch up with both operas, choosing instead to focus his attention on the role of Siegfried in *Götterdämmerung*. We are fortunate that we had a very capable cover for the role in the person of Jay Hunter Morris, a talented artist who knows the role of Siegfried very well. It was a unanimous and enthusiastic choice to put Jay Hunter Morris into the title role of *Siegfried*," said San Francisco Opera General Director David Gockley.

"With great reluctance, I am going to have to withdraw from San Francisco Opera's *Siegfried* and instead concentrate on my performance and role debut in *Götterdämmerung*. I'm greatly saddened that I can't sing both and have had to make this decision, but I need to do the best thing for me and for San Francisco Opera," said Mr. Storey.

## **About the artists**

Jay Hunter Morris returns to San Francisco Opera to make his role debut as Siegfried, which he has previously covered at Los Angeles Opera and Seattle Opera. The American tenor made his Company debut creating the role of Mitch in Previn's *A Streetcar Named Desire* in 1998; he also created roles in San Francisco Opera's world premiere productions of *Dead Man Walking* (2000) and *Doctor Atomic* (2005). Other Company appearances include Steva (*Jenůfa*), Walther von Stolzing (*Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*), Lykov (*The Tsar's Bride*), and roles in *Louise*, *Saint François d'Assise*, and *Doktor Faust*. Morris first earned nationwide attention in 1995 when he created the role of Tony in Terrence McNally's play *Master Class* at the Philadelphia Theatre Company. He continued in the role at the Mark Taper Forum, the Kennedy Center, and on Broadway. Recent engagements include Erik (*Der Fliegende Holländer*) at Seattle Opera and Opera Australia and creating the role of Marky in the world premiere of Howard Shore's *The Fly* at Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris, a role that he revived with Los Angeles Opera. His other career highlights include Steva with the Metropolitan Opera and the Dallas Opera; Walther (*Tannhäuser*) with Tokyo Opera Nomori; Anatol (*Vanessa*) and des Grieux (*Manon Lescaut*) with Seattle Opera; and Walther (*Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*) at Frankfurt State Opera.

Acclaimed British tenor Ian Storey makes his San Francisco Opera debut and role debut as Siegfried in *Götterdämmerung*. His career highlights include Cavaradossi (*Tosca*), Rodolfo (*La Bohème*), Manrico (*Il Trovatore*), Pinkerton (*Madama Butterfly*), Boris (*Kát'a Kabanová*) and Florestan (*Fidelio*) with Scottish Opera; Cavaradossi, Boris and Erik (*Der Fliegende Holländer*) with Welsh National Opera; Erik with Milan's La Scala and Washington National Opera; Števa (*Jenůfa*) and Tristan (*Tristan und Isolde*) at La Scala; Tristan at Deutsche Oper Berlin and in Zurich; the title role of *Otello* with Los Angeles Opera and in Naples and Wrocław, Poland; Samson (*Samson et Dalila*) in Genoa; Don José (*Carmen*) at Munich's Bavarian State Opera, Royal Swedish Opera, the Glyndebourne Festival and in Cagliari; the title role of *Tannhäuser* with Frankfurt Opera; and Bacchus (*Ariadne auf Naxos*) in Venice and Lisbon. He has performed Calaf in *Turandot*, one of his signature roles, at the Torre del Lago Puccini Festival; the Royal Opera, Covent Garden; Berlin's Linden Opera; the Arena di Verona; and in Genoa, Bari, Trieste and Mexico City. Recent engagements include Bacchus with Washington National Opera, Aegisth (*Elektra*) at London's Barbican Centre and Tristan in Düsseldorf.

## **About The Ring**

San Francisco Opera presents Richard Wagner's *Der Ring des Nibelungen*, one of the greatest works ever conceived for the operatic stage, in a new production by San Francisco Opera Artistic Adviser and internationally celebrated director Francesca Zambello. The four operas in this new production—*Das Rheingold*, *Die Walküre*, *Siegfried* and *Götterdämmerung*—are presented for the first time as a complete cycle. *Der Ring des Nibelungen* is presented in three complete cycles this summer (June 14–19, June 21–26, and June 28–July 3), in addition to the San Francisco production premiere performance of *Siegfried* on May 29 and new production premiere performance of *Götterdämmerung* on June 5.

Maestro Donald Runnicles, one of the world's most acclaimed Wagner conductors and former San Francisco Opera music director, 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), Jay Hunter Morris (Siegfried/*Siegfried*), Ian Storey (Siegfried/*Götterdämmerung*), Gordon Hawkins (Alberich), Larissa Diadkova (Fricka), David

Cangelosi (Mime), Anja Kampe (Sieglinde), Brandon Jovanovich (Siegmund and Froh), Stefan Margita (Loge), Gerd Grochowski (Donner and Gunther) and Andrea Silvestrelli (Fasolt and Hagen).

In conjunction with the *Ring* cycles, a diverse array of cultural and educational institutions have partnered with San Francisco Opera to present lectures and symposia, exhibits, musical performances, film screenings and other events throughout the Bay Area. For more information about San Francisco Opera's *Ring* cycle and *Ring* Festival, visit [sfopera.com/ring](http://sfopera.com/ring).

### **Ticket Information**

Single tickets are available for each of the four operas comprising the *Ring*—*Das Rheingold*, *Die Walküre*, *Siegfried* and *Götterdämmerung*—which will be presented in three cycles this summer (June 14–19, June 21–26, and June 28–July 3) at the War Memorial Opera House. Tickets are also available for the San Francisco production premiere of *Siegfried* on May 29 and the new production premiere of *Götterdämmerung* on June 5. Full *Ring* cycle series tickets are also available, with best availability in Cycle 3. With sales for San Francisco Opera's highly anticipated *Ring* cycle already reaching 86% of capacity for the three complete cycles, ticket availability is limited.

Tickets are available online at [sfopera.com](http://sfopera.com) or from the San Francisco Opera Box Office either in person or by phone at (415) 864-3330. Standing Room tickets go on sale at 10 a.m. on the day of each performance; tickets are \$10 each, cash only.

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For further press information, visit [sfopera.com/press](http://sfopera.com/press) or contact:

Jon Finck 415.565.6472 / [jfinck@sfopera.com](mailto:jfinck@sfopera.com)

Julia Inouye 415.565.6430 / [jinouye@sfopera.com](mailto:jinouye@sfopera.com)

National Press Representation:

Shuman Associates 212.315.1300 / [shumanpr@shumanassociates.net](mailto:shumanpr@shumanassociates.net)