



MEDIA ADVISORY

**KENDALL GLADEN TO SING TITLE ROLE OF *CARMEN*
NOVEMBER 26—DECEMBER 4, REPLACING KATE ALDRICH**

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (November 7, 2011)—Mezzo-soprano Kendall Gladen will sing the title role of *Carmen* on November 26, 29 and December 2, 4 replacing Kate Aldrich. Ms. Aldrich has had to withdraw from the production due to illness. As previously announced, due to illness Kate Aldrich's arrival in San Francisco was delayed and she was scheduled to sing the role November 26 through December 4, replaced by mezzo-sopranos Kendall Gladen (on November 6 and 9) and Anita Rachvelishvili (on November 12, 15, 17, 20 and 23). Kendall Gladen will now also sing the role for the final four performances November 26-December 4.

American mezzo-soprano Kendall Gladen has appeared as Carmen with Deutsche Oper Berlin, Los Angeles Opera, Florida Grand Opera, Michigan Opera Theatre and Sarasota Opera. A former Adler Fellow, her past Company appearances include Mercédès (*Carmen*), a Singer (*Manon Lescaut*), Giovanna (*Rigoletto*), the Second Lady (*Die Zauberflöte*), and creating the role of Elizabeth Keckley in Philip Glass and Christopher Hampton's *Appomattox*. Other career highlights include Maddalena (*Rigoletto*) with Los Angeles Opera, New Orleans Opera, and for her Italian debut in Padova; Lily (*Porgy and Bess*) with Washington National Opera; Mercédès with Los Angeles Opera; Lucia (*Cavalleria Rusticana*) at Sarasota Opera; and Flora (*La Traviata*) with Opera North. On the concert stage, Gladen has been a soloist with the San Francisco Symphony, Boston Symphony, New World Symphony, and the National Philharmonic. Upcoming engagements include Maddalena with Canadian Opera Company, Meg Page (*Falstaff*) with Lausanne Opera, and Carmen with Opera Theatre of St. Louis. Gladen sings the role of Carmen on November 6, 9, 26, 29 and December 2, 4.

A native of Tbilisi, Georgia, Anita Rachvelishvili makes her San Francisco Opera debut in this production of *Carmen*. She has previously appeared as Carmen at Milan's La Scala, the Metropolitan Opera, Munich's Bavarian State Opera, Berlin State Opera, Deutsche Oper Berlin, Canadian Opera Company, the Arena di Verona and Seattle Opera. The mezzo-soprano's other recent engagements include Isabella (*L'Italiana in Algeri*) at La Scala, Orfeo (*Orfeo ed Euridice*) at the Perelada Festival, and Dalila (*Samson et Dalila*) in concert with Amsterdam's Concertgebouw Orchestra. A graduate of La Scala's young artist program, she served as a member of the Tbilisi Opera House from 2006 to 2007 and won second prize in the Georgian International Voice Competition. Later this season, Rachvelishvili will sing Dalila with Deutsche Oper Berlin, a reprisal of Carmen at the Met, and a gala concert with CulturArte in Puerto Rico. She will come to San Francisco Opera immediately following a performance of *Adriana Lecouvreur* with Angela Gheorghiu and Jonas Kaufmann at Carnegie Hall. Rachvelishvili will sing the role of Carmen on November 12, 15, 17, 20 and 23.

Thrilling but dangerous, the captivating, capricious Carmen is one of the most vivid characters in all of opera. Mezzo-sopranos Kendall Gladen and Anita Rachvelishvili star in the title role in this classic Jean-Pierre Ponnelle/San Francisco Opera production of Bizet's *Carmen*, conducted by Nicola Luisotti. Tenor Thiago Arancam, fresh from his success in last fall's *Cyrano de Bergerac*, is Don José, the man who unwisely falls under Carmen's spell. Baritone Paulo Szot, a Tony Award-winner for *South Pacific* and highly regarded for his role in the Metropolitan Opera's recent production of Shostakovich's *The Nose*, makes his Company debut as Escamillo. Jose Maria Condemi directs, and Assistant Music Director Giuseppe Finzi leads the final two performances.

Ticket Information

Tickets for Bizet's *Carmen* are priced from \$21 to \$330 and may be purchased 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]. Standing Room tickets go on sale at 10 a.m. on the day of each performance; tickets are \$10 each, cash only.

CASTING, PROGRAMS, SCHEDULES AND TICKET PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT *Carmen* AND SAN FRANCISCO OPERA'S 2011-12 SEASON, PLEASE VISIT sfopera.com.

CARMEN: PRODUCTION INFORMATION

CARMEN by Georges Bizet

San Francisco Opera production

November 6* (2 p.m.), **9** (7:30 p.m.), **12** (8 p.m.),
15 (8 p.m.), **17*** (7:30 p.m.), **20*** (2 p.m.), **23*** (7:30 p.m.),
26 (8 p.m.), **29** (7:30 p.m.); **December 2** (8 p.m.),
4 (7:30 p.m.), **2011**

Libretto by Henri Meilhac and Ludovic Halévy

Approximate running time: 3 hours, 20 minutes with two intermissions

Sung in French with English supertitles

First Performance: Paris, March 3, 1875

First SFO Performance: October 1, 1927

Most Recent SFO Performances: December 2006

Cast:

<i>Carmen</i>	Kendall Gladen (11/6, 11/9, 11/26, 11/29, 12/2, 12/4) Anita Rachvelishvili* (11/12, 11/15, 11/17, 11/20, 11/23)
<i>Don José</i>	Thiago Arancam
<i>Micaëla</i>	Sara Gartland ♯†
<i>Escamillo</i>	Paulo Szot*
<i>Zuniga</i>	Wayne Tigges
<i>Frasquita</i>	Susannah Biller †
<i>Mercédès</i>	Cybele Gouveneur
<i>Le Remendado</i>	Daniel Montenegro †
<i>Le Dancaïro</i>	Timothy Mix ♯
<i>Morales</i>	Trevor Scheunemann

Production Team:

<i>Conductor</i>	Nicola Luisotti Giuseppe Finzi (12/2, 12/4)
<i>Production Director</i>	Jean-Pierre Ponnelle
<i>Set Designer</i>	Jose Maria Condemi
<i>Costume Designer</i>	Jean-Pierre Ponnelle
<i>Lighting Designer</i>	Werner Juerke Christopher Maravich

* San Francisco Opera Debut ♯Role Debut †Current Adler Fellow ● OperaVision performance

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This press release and downloadable 2011-12 Season photographs are available at sfopera.com/press.

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