SAN FRANCISCO OPERA AND CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENT MUSIC DIRECTOR NICOLA LUISOTTI AND THE SAN FRANCISCO OPERA ORCHESTRA IN CONCERT

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28 AT 8 PM AT UC BERKELEY'S ZELLERBACH HALL

SAN FRANCISCO, October 14, 2011—San Francisco Opera and Cal Performances present Music Director Nicola Luisotti and the San Francisco Opera Orchestra in concert at UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall on Friday, October 28 at 8 p.m. Nicola Luisotti will lead the San Francisco Opera Orchestra in Beethoven's celebrated Symphonies Nos. 5 and 7.

The concert is the first of two special appearances this season at Zellerbach Hall showcasing Maestro Luisotti and the San Francisco Opera Orchestra. On June 3, 2012 at 3 p.m., Luisotti and the San Francisco Opera Orchestra perform Prokofiev's "Classical" Symphony, Boccherini's Cello Concerto in B−flat Major with cellist Amit Peled and Cherubini's Symphony in D Major.

Since joining San Francisco Opera as Music Director in 2009, Maestro Luisotti has been warmly embraced by San Francisco audiences. Noting "the brilliance of Luisotti's orchestral conducting," The *San Francisco Chronicle* called Luisotti "a blast to watch in action." "Under his baton, the San Francisco Opera Orchestra sparkles, shimmers, storms, and, most importantly, sings the music" (*San Francisco Examiner*). The concerts are an exciting chance for audiences to experience the distinguished San Francisco Opera Orchestra shine in symphonic repertoire.

Music Director Nicola Luisotti opened San Francisco Opera's 89th season leading critically acclaimed performances of Puccini's *Turandot*. This fall, he also conducts a new San Francisco Opera production of *Don Giovanni*, opening on October 15, and November performances of Bizet's *Carmen*. In June, he leads a new San Francisco Opera and Treatro alla Scala co-production of Verdi's *Attila*, which Luisotti recently debuted at La Scala in Milan. Luisotti's other engagements during the 2011–12 season include *Tosca* at La Scala and the rarely performed *I Masnadieri* at the Teatro di San Carlo in Naples, in addition to many orchestral engagements, including the Berlin Philharmonic and the orchestras of Cleveland and Philadelphia. A native of Tuscany, Luisotti is also the principal guest conductor at Tokyo Symphony.

Tickets and Information

NICOLA LUISOTTI AND THE SAN FRANCISCO OPERA ORCHESTRA
Presented by San Francisco Opera and Cal Performances

Friday, October 28, 2011 at 8:00 p.m.

Zellerbach Hall
University of California, Berkeley

Nicola Luisotti, conductor
San Francisco Opera Orchestra

PROGRAM:
Beethoven / Symphony No. 5
Beethoven / Symphony No. 7

A free, informative Key Notes talk will be given by musicologist Anicia Timberlake on Friday, October 28 from 5:00 p.m.– 6 p.m. in the Zellerbach Hall Mezzanine. This pre-performance talk is free and open to the public.

TICKETS & INFORMATION:
Tickets are priced from $30 to $80 and may be purchased online at sfopera.com and through the San Francisco Opera Box Office [War Memorial Opera House, 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, by phone at (510) 642-9988] or online at calperformances.org.

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More about Nicola Luisotti:

Italian conductor **NICOLA LUISOTTI** has been music director of San Francisco Opera since the fall of 2009 and holds the Caroline H. Hume Endowed Chair. This season he leads *Turandot,* a new production of *Don Giovanni, Carmen,* a new co-production with Milan's La Scala of *Attila,* and two special performances with the San Francisco Opera Orchestra in concert co-presented with Cal Performances in Berkeley. Luisotti's other engagements during the 2011–12 season include *Tosca* at La Scala and the rarely performed *I Masnadieri* with Teatro di San Carlo in addition to many orchestral engagements, including the Berlin Philharmonic and the orchestras of Cleveland and Philadelphia. Called "both an original thinker and a great respecter of tradition" by *Opera News,* which featured him on the cover of the July 2011 special issue on conductors, Luisotti made his Company debut in 2005 conducting *La Forza del Destino* and returned in November 2008 to conduct *La Bohème.* As the Company's music director, he has led acclaimed performances of *Il Trovatore, Salome, Otello, La Fanciulla del West, Aida, Le Nozze di Figaro,* and *Madama Butterfly.* Maestro Luisotti has garnered enthusiastic praise from both audiences and critics for his work at the Royal Opera, Covent Garden (*Aida, Turandot, Madama Butterfly, Il Trovatore*); the Metropolitan Opera (*La Bohème, Tosca, La Fanciulla del West*); Paris Opera (*La Traviata, Tosca*); the Vienna State Opera (*Simon Boccanegra*); La Scala (*Attila*); Genoa's Teatro Carlo Felice (*Un Ballo in Maschera, La Fanciulla del West, La Traviata, Simon Boccanegra, Il Viaggio a Reims*); Venice's La Fenice (*Madama Butterfly*); Munich's Bavarian State Opera (*Macbeth, Tosca*); Frankfurt Opera (*Il Trittico*); Madrid's Teatro Real (*Il Trovatore, La Damnation de Faust, Mefistofele*); Los Angeles Opera (*Carmen, Pagliacci*); Dresden's

Semperoper (*Tosca, Die Zauberflöte*); Toronto's Canadian Opera Company (*Un Ballo in Maschera*); Seattle Opera (*Macbeth*); Bologna's Teatro Comunale (*Salome*); Valencia's Palau de les Arts (*Mefistofele*); and in Tokyo's Suntory Hall (*Turandot, Tosca, La Bohème, Don Giovanni,* and *Così fan tutte*). Maestro Luisotti was awarded the 39th Premio Puccini Award in conjunction with the historic 100th anniversary of Puccini's *La Fanciulla del West* at the Metropolitan Opera, which he conducted last season. Equally at home on the concert stage, Luisotti serves as principal guest conductor of the Tokyo Symphony and has also established growing relationships with the orchestras of London (Philharmonia Orchestra), Genoa, Budapest, Turin, Munich (Bavarian Radio Orchestra), Palermo, and Rome (Santa Cecilia Orchestra), as well as the Berlin Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, and the Atlanta Symphony. His recent and upcoming orchestral engagements include concerts with orchestras of Milan, Philadelphia, Berlin, Madrid, Cleveland, Frankfurt, Rome, and Atlanta, among others. The conductor's expanding discography includes a complete recording of *Stiffelio* (Dynamic) with the orchestra of Trieste's Teatro Verdi and the critically acclaimed *Duets* (Deutsche Grammophon), featuring Anna Netrebko and Rolando Villazón. He is also on the podium of a DVD recording of the Metropolitan Opera's *La Bohème,* with Angela Gheorghiu and Ramón Vargas (EMI).