SAN FRANCISCO OPERA PARTNERS WITH WEBCOR BUILDERS AND SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS TO BRING FREE LIVE SIMULCAST OF PUCCINI'S *TURANDOT* TO AT&T PARK

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 AT 2 P.M.

TV CREWS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS ARE INVITED TO FILM AND PHOTOGRAPH THIS EVENT

SAN FRANCISCO, September 23, 2011—San Francisco Opera partners with Webcor Builders and the San Francisco Giants for *Webcor Builders Presents Opera at the Ballpark*, a FREE community event on Sunday, September 25 at 2 p.m at AT&T Park, home of the San Francisco Giants.

Through state-of-the-art technology, San Francisco Opera's performance of Puccini's *Turandot* will be transmitted in 1920x1080 high definition (HD) to AT&T Park's 103-feet wide Mitsubishi Electric Diamond Vision scoreboard—live from the stage of the War Memorial Opera House. The simulcast will take full advantage of the daytime capability of the Giants' powerful high-definition video screen. 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.

Giacomo Puccini's final masterpiece *Turandot* features some of the composer's most glorious music, including the stirring anthem "Nessun dorma." This spectacular production, featuring sets designed by renowned artist David Hockney, brings to life the passionate tale of a princess whose cruelty masks her fear of love. The celebrated cast is led by Swedish soprano Iréne Theorin in the title role, tenor Marco Berti as Calaf, soprano Leah Crocetto as Liù and bass Raymond Aceto as Timur. This production is directed by Garnett Bruce and features the San Francisco Opera Orchestra and Chorus conducted by San Francisco Opera Music Director Nicola Luisotti.

With seating offered on the field as well as in the stands and traditional baseball game concessions available, fans can enjoy a picnic in the outfield or hail a hot dog while taking in this riveting opera classic. Free family activities offered before and during the simulcast in the Coca-Cola Fan Lot and Scoreboard Plaza include face painting, art projects, singing, storytelling and appearances by Giants mascot Lou Seal.

An unprecedented crowd of 32,000 people, many experiencing opera for the first time, enjoyed last year's *Opera at the Ballpark* simulcast, and a hearty crowd of opera lovers and families of all ages is expected to turn out once again to experience glorious music and great fun in one of San Francisco's most beautiful locations.

San Francisco Opera and KDFC partnered again this year to host the "KDFC Star-Spangled Sing-Off," a public singing competition that accepted video submissions in search of a winner to sing the National Anthem at AT&T Park prior to *Opera at the Ballpark* on September 25. This year's winner is Todd Leitz, who will perform the "The Star Spangled Banner" a cappella prior to the simulcast.

San Francisco Opera's free live simulcasts, part of General Director David Gockley's mission to bring opera into the community and to wider audiences, to date have drawn more than 150,000 people of all ages. The September 25 *Turandot* simulcast marks the ninth free simulcast presented by San Francisco Opera (and the sixth at AT&T Park).

For more information about *Webcor Builders Presents Opera at the Ballpark*, including AT&T Park rules and public transit information, visit *sfopera*.com*/simulcast*. Tickets are not required, but registering at *sfopera.com* assures early entry for best seating.

San Francisco Opera's presentation of *Turandot* at the War Memorial Opera House continues with performances on October 1 and 4, followed by November performances conducted by Giuseppe Finzi and starring soprano Susan Foster and tenor Walter Fraccaro. For more information, visit sfopera.com.

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SAN FRANCISCO OPERA AT THE BALLPARK
FREE, LIVE SIMULCAST OF PUCCINI'S *TURANDOT* AT AT&T PARK

WHEN: **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2011 – 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.**
National Anthem at approximately 1:50 p.m.
Turandot performance begins at 2:00 p.m.
Event concludes at approximately 5:00 p.m.

WHERE: AT&T PARK, 24 Willie Mays Plaza, San Francisco

TO ARRANGE MEDIA COVERAGE, PLEASE CONTACT THE SAN FRANCISCO OPERA COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT:
Robin Freeman / (917) 744-0752
Gelane Pearson / (425) 922-2854
Julia Inouye / (415) 595-8128

Regularly designated parking is available for TV crews with assigned spaces in the 2nd & King lot. To make other arrangements, contact the San Francisco Opera Communications department.

B-roll footage and photos of *Turandot*, and broll footage of previous *Webcor Builders Presents Opera at the Ballpark* events is also available.