

SAN FRANCISCO OPERA, WEBCOR BUILDERS AND THE SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS PARTNER TO BRING *TURANDOT* FREE TO AT&T PARK ON SEPTEMBER 25 AT 2PM

TICKET REGISTRATION FOR WEBCOR BUILDERS PRESENTS OPERA AT THE BALLPARK AVAILABLE AT SFOPERA.COM/SIMULCAST

NEW THIS YEAR: FAMILY ACTIVITIES INCLUDING FACE PAINTING, ART PROJECTS AND SINGING

Soprano Iréne Theorin stars in the title role of *Turandot* with Marco Berti, Leah Crocetto and Raymond Aceto in Live Simulcast from the War Memorial Opera House

SAN FRANCISCO, September 9, 2011– San Francisco Opera partners with the San Francisco Giants and Webcor Builders once again to bring grand opera to AT&T Park. Presented at one of the nation's most beautiful baseball stadiums and home of the 2010 World Series champion San Francisco Giants, on Sunday, September 25, 2011 at 2:00 p.m., the simulcast will take full advantage of the daytime capability of the Giants' powerful high-definition video screen. Renowned artist and designer David Hockney's striking production of Puccini's masterwork will be conducted by Nicola Luisotti and sung by an acclaimed cast, including soprano Iréne Theorin (Turandot), Adler Fellow Leah Crocetto (Liù), tenor Marco Berti (Calaf) and bass Raymond Aceto (Timur). 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.

New this year are the free family activities offered before and during the simulcast, beginning when the gates open and continuing through the second intermission of the opera. Opera fans of all ages are welcome. Activities will take place in the Coca-Cola Fan Lot and Scoreboard Plaza, and include face painting, art projects, singing, storytelling and appearances by Giants mascot Lou Seal.

Through state-of-the-art technology, the simulcast will be transmitted in 1920x1080 high definition (HD) to AT&T Park's 103-feet 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 12:30 p.m. Field seating is limited and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. All others who have not registered and do not have pre-printed tickets will be allowed to enter AT&T Park beginning at 1 p.m.

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. AT&T Park in San Francisco is easily accessible by public transportation. For directions and public transit information, please visit sfopera.com/simulcast.

San Francisco Opera presents Giacomo Puccini's final masterpiece *Turandot*, which features some of the composer's most glorious music, including the stirring anthem "Nessun dorma." This colorful production, San Francisco Opera's much-beloved co-production with Lyric Opera of Chicago, brings to life the passionate tale of a princess whose cruelty masks her fear of love. The celebrated cast of principal singers features Swedish soprano Iréne Theorin in the title role, tenor Marco Berti as Calaf, Adler Fellow Leah Crocetto as Liù and bass Raymond Aceto as Timur. "The world's reigning Turandot" (*Opera Britannia*), Iréne Theorin marks her first appearances with San Francisco Opera as the Chinese princess. This production is directed by Garnett Bruce, and designed by renowned painter, photographer and print-maker David Hockney. For more information, please visit sfopera.com.

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Free live simulcasts are among the first innovations of San Francisco Opera General Director 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; *Il Trovatore* brought the ballpark crowd of 25,000 to its feet in September 2009; and Verdi's *Aida* brought an unprecedented crowd of 32,000 to AT&T Park in 2010.

Company Sponsors John A. and Cynthia Fry Gunn are proud to support *Turandot*. This production is made possible, in part, by the Burgess and Elizabeth Jamieson Fund, The Bernard Osher Endowment Fund, and Opening Weekend Grand Sponsor Diane B. Wilsey. Webcor Builders Presents Opera at the Ballpark is supported by Presenting Sponsor Webcor Builders, Platinum Sponsor Charles Schwab and Gold Sponsors Chevron and 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. Media sponsors include San Francisco Examiner, KDFC Radio 89.9/90.3 FM, CBS 5 / The CW Bay Area, and Clear Channel Outdoor and San Francisco Classical Voice.

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For further press information or to obtain photographs of the production of *Turandot* and the September 2011 Simulcast at AT&T Park, please visit www.sfopera.com/press, or contact:

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