SAN FRANCISCO
OPERA CENTER

SAN FRANCISCO OPERA CENTER
2012 SCHWABACHER DEBUT RECITALS PRESENTS

TENOR DANIEL CURRAN AND BASS ADAM LAU WITH PIANIST ROBERT MOLLICONE
SUNDAY, APRIL 22 AT 5:30 P.M. AT TEMPLE EMANU-EL'S MARTIN MEYER SANCTUARY

Performing works by Schubert, Bolcom, Duparc, Loewe, Tosti and Mussorgsky

SAN FRANCISCO (April 10, 2012)—San Francisco Opera Center presents the 30th season of the Schwabacher Debut Recitals on Sunday, April 22 at 5:30 p.m. at Temple Emanu-El's Martin Meyer Sanctuary (Two Lake Street, at Arguello, in San Francisco). The series begins with Merola Opera Program alumni tenor Daniel Curran and bass Adam Lau performing an eclectic program of works by Franz Schubert, Robert Schumann, William Bolcom, Henri Duparc, Carl Loewe, Paolo Tosti and Modest Mussorgsky. Curran and Lau will be accompanied by San Francisco Opera Adler Fellow pianist Robert Mollicone.

A 2011 Merola alumnus, tenor Daniel Curran's performance selection will include Schubert's *Nacht und Träume,* Schumann's "Mondnacht," Duparc's *Phidylé* and Tosti's *Ideale.* While in the Merola Opera Program, Curran performed the role of Count Almaviva in Merola's production of *Il Barbiere di Siviglia.* His recent engagements include a collaboration with the Juilliard Historical Performance Program and the role of Don Ottavio (*Don Giovanni*) with Opera North in New Hampshire.

A 2011 Merola alumnus, bass Adam Lau's Schwabacher program will include Bolcom's "At the Last Lousy Moments of Love," "Fur (Murray the Furrier)," "Song of Black Max;" Loewe's "Herr Oluf," *Tom der Reimer*, "Erlkönig;" and Mussorgsky's *Song of the Flea*. Lau made his San Francisco Opera debut in 2008 as a Baobab/Hunter in Portman's *The Little Prince*. Recent accomplishments include

winning the Portland District of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions along wi th the audience favorite award.

The Schwabacher Debut Recitals continue on Sunday, April 29 with San Francisco Opera Adler Fellow Nadine Sierra. Sierra will present a program of works by Bernstein, Grieg, Rachmaninoff and Villa-Lobos with accompaniment by former Adler Fellow and pianist Tamara Sanikidze.

The Schwabacher Debut Recitals have been endowed in perpetuity by the generosity of the late James Schwabacher. A celebrated Bay Area singer, recitalist, scholar and teacher, James Schwabacher was a co-founder of the Merola Opera Program. The Schwabacher Debut Recitals have introduced the artistry of world-renowned opera singers, including Susan Graham, Anna Netrebko, Deborah Voigt, Brian Asawa and Thomas Hampson. The recitals provide an opportunity to hear a wealth of song literature ranging from Baroque masterpieces and Romantic-era classics to newly commissioned works.

2012 SCHWABACHER DEBUT RECITALS

Presented by San Francisco Opera Center

Sunday, April 22, 5:30 p.m.

Martin Meyer Sanctuary, Temple Emanu-El,
2 Lake Street, San Francisco

Daniel Curran, tenor
Adam Lau, bass
Robert Mollicone, piano

PROGRAM:
Schubert / *Nacht und Träume*
Schumann / *"*Mondnacht"
Duparc / *Phidylé*
Tosti / *Ideale*
Bolcom / "At the Last Lousy Moments of Love," "Fur (Murray the Furrier)," "Song of Black Max"
Loewe / "Herr Oluf*," Tom der Reimer*, "Erlkönig"
Mussorgsky / *Song of the Flea*

TICKETS & INFORMATION:
Single tickets for the Schwabacher Debut Recitals are $25; a two-recital subscription is $50. Tickets may be purchased by calling the San Francisco Opera Box Office (Mon. 10 am-5 pm, Tues.-Fri. 10 am-6 pm) at (415) 864-3330. Student Rush tickets are available for $15 at Temple Emanu-El 30 minutes

prior to each recital (limit of two tickets per person; valid ID is required), subject to availability. Casting, programs, schedules and ticket prices are subject to change.

About the Artists

Idaho native **DANIEL CURRAN** is an alumnus of the 2011 Merola Opera Program, where he performed the role of Count Almaviva in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia.* Curran performed the role of the Good Samaritan in Benjamin Britten's *Cantata Misericordium* at the Florida National Convention with the University Choir and chamber orchestra. He has also had the opportunity to record for film composer John Williams along with members of the Chapman University Choir. A graduate of Chapman University, the tenor's roles there include Tamino (*Die Zauberflöte*), the title role of *Albert Herring,* and Rinuccio (*Gianni Schicchi*). Curran also holds a master's degree from the Juilliard School, where he performed the Hunter in Conrad Susa's *Transformations* and First Commissioner in Poulenc's *Les Dialogues des Carmélites*. Other recent engagements include a collaboration with the Juilliard Historical Performance Program and William Christie in Alice Tully Hall and Don Ottavio (*Don Giovanni*) with Opera North in New Hampshire.

Bass **ADAM LAU** was a 2011 participant of the Merola Opera Program, where he performed the role of Basilio in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*. Other recent credits include Timur (*Turandot*) at West Bay Opera; Figaro (*Le Nozze di Figaro*) at the Symphony and Opera Academy of the Pacific; the Bartender (Bolcom's *A Wedding)* at Music Academy of the West; Masetto (*Don Giovanni*) at Rice University; and Dr. Bartolo (*Il Barbiere di Siviglia*), Leporello (*Don Giovanni*), and King Louis XVI (Corigliano's *The Ghost of Versailles*) with the Aspen Opera Theater Center. In 2008, he made his San Francisco Opera debut as a Baobab/Hunter in Portman's *The Little Prince*. Lau placed second in the Western Regional finals of the 2007 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. In 2008, he won an Encouragement Award from the Marilyn Horne Foundation and was the recipient of the 2008 California Federation of Music Clubs Full Fellowship in Voice. In the spring of 2009, he was invited to sing in the Martin Katz master class at Carnegie Hall in the Song Continues Festival, sponsored by the Marilyn Horne Foundation. In 2010, he won first place in the Henry & Maria Holt West Bay Opera Competition and won the Portland District of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions along with the audience favorite award.

Coach and pianist **ROBERT MOLLICONE** is a first-year Adler Fellow. He was a member of the Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program, where he served on music staff for the Young Artist productions of *Le Nozze di Figaro* and *Madama Butterfly*, as well as for *Don Pasquale*, *Tosca*, and *Lucia di Lammermoor* on the main stage. He completed his master's degree in collaborative piano at Boston University as a student of Shiela Kibbe. He has also studied with Maria Clodes, Robert Merfeld, Linda Jiorle-Nagy, and Bertica Cramer. His performance credits include solo engagements, as well as opera, art song, chamber music, orchestral keyboard, musical theatre, and community outreach projects. Mollicone has also performed in master classes for Martin Katz, Margo Garrett, Patrick Summers, Warren Jones, Stephanie Blythe, Phyllis Curtin and Simon Estes, and he has worked with composers Daniel Pinkham, Yehudi Wyner, Michael Friedman, Tobias Picker and Jason Robert Brown. Mollicone has served as a vocal coach and pianist for Boston Lyric Opera, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Boston Opera Collaborative, Boston University Tanglewood Institute, and Opera North. He was a Spectrum Resident Artist at Virginia Opera in 2009 and a participant in the

Merola Opera Program in 2010. Robert Mollicone will be working on San Francisco Opera's productions of *The Magic Flute* and *Moby Dick* in 2012.

About San Francisco Opera Center and Merola Opera Program

San Francisco Opera Center was created in 1982 by then–General Director Terence A. McEwen to oversee the operation and administration of the education and training programs initiated by Kurt Herbert Adler in 1954. Providing a coordinated sequence of performance and study opportunities for young artists, San Francisco Opera Center represents a new era in which young artists of major operatic potential can develop through intensive training and performance, under the aegis of a major international opera company. Now under the guidance of its fourth director, Sheri Greenawald, and San Francisco Opera General Director David Gockley, the Opera Center has trained and introduced many young stars from around the world to the international opera stage through its resident artist programs such as the Adler Fellowship.

Initially founded as the San Francisco Opera/Affiliate Artists program, the Adler Fellowship Program is one of the nation's most prestigious training programs for advanced singers. Each year, Adler Fellows are sponsored by individual donors to help cover the cost of their fellowship. Sponsorships range from $5,000-$100,000, and sponsors affiliated with the Adler Program have the opportunity to attend private studio classes with the Fellows and develop nurturing relationships with them. Alumni from the Adler Fellowship Program include sopranos Laura Claycomb, Nicolle Foland, Nancy Gustafson, Mary Mills, Patricia Racette, Ruth Ann Swenson and Deborah Voigt; mezzo-sopranos Zheng Cao and Dolora Zajick; countertenor Brian Asawa; baritones Mark Delavan and David Okerlund; and bass-baritones Monte Pederson and John Relyea.

One of the oldest and most acclaimed training programs of its kind, the Merola Opera Program for aspiring opera professionals offers up-and-coming singers, coach-accompanists and stage directors the opportunity of intense study and performance during an eleven-week summer program. Each year, hundreds of artists from throughout the world vie for approximately 30 coveted spots in the summer program. Admission is based solely on talent rather than financial ability; there is no charge to the participants. Named for San Francisco Opera's first general director, Gaetano Merola, the program began during the 1954-55 Season and established its full training program in 1957. Alumni of the program include Sylvia McNair, Anna Netrebko, Patricia Racette, Ruth Ann Swenson, Carol Vaness, Deborah Voigt, Susan Graham, Dolora Zajick, Brian Asawa, Thomas Hampson, Rolando Villazón, and Patrick Summers. An independent non-profit organization, the Merola Opera Program operates in collaboration with San Francisco Opera Center and San Francisco Opera.

For more information on the San Francisco Opera Center and the Adler Fellowship and Merola Opera Program, visit www.sfopera.com.

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This press release and related photography are available at sfopera.com/press. For further press information, please contact: Gelane Pearson [415.565.6470 / gpearson@sfopera.com].