SAN FRANCISCO
OPERA GUILD

SAN FRANCISCO OPERA GUILD ANNOUNCES *AN EVENING OF ENCHANTMENT,* A GALA HONORING NATHAN GUNN AND MOZART'S *THE MAGIC FLUTE* MARCH 23, 2012 AT THE FAIRMONT SAN FRANCISCO

SAN FRANCISCO, 13, 2012— San Francisco Opera Guild hosts *An Evening of Enchantment,* Friday, March 23, 2012 at The Fairmont, San Francisco. The black-tie gala will honor internationally renowned baritone Nathan Gunn, who will be performing the role of Papageno in San Francisco Opera's upcoming new production of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's *The Magic Flute*. The event's Honorary Chairman, Nathan Gunn is acclaimed not only for his operatic roles, but also for his brilliant work in musical theater and as a distinguished concert performer. All proceeds support the award-winning education and community outreach programs of San Francisco Opera Guild that reach more than 55,000 young people in 200 schools throughout Northern California every year.

The celebratory evening will commence at 6:00 p.m. with a cocktail reception and silent auction in the Crown Room. At 8:00 p.m., guests will proceed to the elegant Gold Room for a lavish dinner, brief live auction, and special performance by Nathan Gunn. At 10 p.m., guests will celebrate with a toast to San Francisco Opera's Summer season and dancing to Bill Hopkins Rock'n Orchestra. In addition, guests at the Patron Level and above will be invited to attend an exclusive VIP reception with Nathan Gunn in the magnificent Fairmont Penthouse Suite that evening.

The event Honorary Committee comprises of major supporters and patrons, including Jean-Pierre L. Conte; General Director of San Francisco Opera, David Gockley; Leslie and George Hume; Cathy and Angus MacNaughton; Teresa and Mark Medearis; Diane Rubin and Honorary Chairman Nathan Gunn. Event Co-Chairs are Shannon Cronan and Jane S. Mudge.

Tickets for *An Evening of Enchantment* are priced from $475–$5,000 and are available through San Francisco Opera Guild. For tickets or more information, please call (415) 565-3204 or visit us online at www.sfopera.com/springgala2012. *An Evening of Enchantment* is generously supported by Event Sponsor, Union Bank; Fine Jewelry Sponsor, Frank Ancona; as well as J. Riccardo Benavides of

Ideas, William Hill Estate Winery, Scharffenberger Cellars, The Fairmont San Francisco, The Nob Hill Gazette, Molly McCoy Designs and Bill Hopkins Rock'n Orchestra.

San Francisco Opera's Summer 2012 Season will feature three productions never before seen in San Francisco, opening on Friday, June 8 with the long-awaited Bay Area premiere of *Nixon In China* by Bay Area composer John Adams and librettist Alice Goodman. The season continues with the San Francisco debut of a co-production of Verdi's *Attila* that was premiered at La Scala in Summer 2011 and is conducted by Music Director Nicola Luisotti. The Summer Season concludes with the premiere of a new one-of-a-kind production of Mozart's *The Magic Flute* created by renowned Japanese-American visual artist Jun Kaneko and directed by Harry Silverstein. San Francisco Opera's Summer 2012 Season runs June 8–July 8 at the War Memorial Opera House.

About San Francisco Opera Guild

Founded in 1939 to support arts education and San Francisco Opera, San Francisco Opera Guild has acted on its belief that the life lessons drawn from creative expression are the foundation of confidence and integrity. Celebrating 70 years of offering award winning K-12 education programs and engaging community outreach programs, its mission is to give voice to potential, extending the impact of opera and bringing it center stage into the life of the community. Each year, through San Francisco Opera Guild's fundraising and education fund, more than 55,000 students in 200 schools throughout Northern California discover the power of arts education to help them find their voice.

About Nathan Gunn

Nathan Gunn made his San Francisco Opera debut as Figaro in the 2003 production of *The Barber of Seville,* a role that he reprised in 2006. He subsequently returned to the Company in the title role of *Billy Budd* and as Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte*. He appears as Papageno (*Die Zauberflöte*) in the summer of 2012 and Yeshua in the world premiere of Mark Adamo's *The Gospel of Mary Magdalene* in 2013. Gunn has appeared at major opera houses and festivals around the world including the Metropolitan Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Seattle Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Dallas Opera, Mostly Mozart Festival, Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, Paris Opera, Bavarian State Opera, Glyndebourne Festival, and the Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie in Brussels. His many roles include the title role of *Hamlet*; the Count in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Tarquinius in *The Rape of Lucetia*, Malatesta in *Don Pasquale*, Belcore in *L'Elisir d'Amore*, and Ottone in *L'incoronazione di Poppea*. A frequent interpreter of new works, Gunn recently created the role of Paul in the world premiere of Daron Hagen's *Amelia* at the Seattle Opera. He also created the roles of Alec Harvey in André Previn's *Brief Encounter* at the Houston Grand Opera, Father Delura in Peter Eötvös' *Love and Other Demons* at the Glyndebourne Opera Festival, and Clyde Griffiths in Tobias Picker's *An American Tragedy* at the Metropolitan Opera. Also a distinguished concert performer, Gunn has appeared the New York Philharmonic, Boston Symphony Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Cleveland Orchestra, Minnesota Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra, Münchner Rundfunkorchster, and the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra. Gunn's most recent solo album, *Just Before Sunrise*, was released on Sony/BMG Masterworks. Other recordings include the title role in *Billy Budd* with Daniel Harding and the London Symphony Orchestra (Virgin Classics), which recently won the 2010 Grammy Award; the first complete recording of Rodgers &

Hammerstein's *Allegro* (Sony's Masterworks Broadway), *Peter Grimes* with Sir Colin Davis and London Symphony Orchestra (LSO Live!) which was nominated for a 2005 Grammy Award, *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* (SONY Classics), *Kullervo* with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra (Telarc), and *American Anthem* (EMI). He also starred as Buzz Aldrin in *Man on the Moon*, an opera written specifically for television and broadcast on the BBC in the UK. The program was awarded the Golden Rose Award for Opera at the Montreux Festival in Lucerne. Gunn recently returned to the Metropolitan Opera for *Così fan tutte* and *The Magic Flute* and made his debuts at the Theater an der Wien in *The Rape of Lucretia*, the Teatro Real in Madrid as the Count, and the Cincinnati Opera in the title role of *Eugene Onegin*.

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