SAN FRANCISCO
OPERA GUILD

SAN FRANCISCO OPERA GUILD EDUCATION DEBUTS NEW ANTI-BULLYING SHOW: "HOW ANDY FOUND HIS VOICE" AN OPERATIC TALE ON THE IMPORTANCE OF SPEAKING UP FEBRUARY 7 AT HERBST THEATRE

SAN FRANCISCO (January 25, 2012)—San Francisco Opera Guild presents its brand new outreach touring show, *How Andy Found his Voice*, at the Herbst Theatre in San Francisco on Tuesday, February 7, 2012. Two shows at 9:30am and 11:00am will be presented for school groups; tickets are also available for the general public.

The story follows Andy, a 9th grader struggling through school, trying to fit in—and always picked on. Pressured by those around him, Andy is reluctant to make a fuss and finds himself trapped by his own inability to defend himself. One night, Andy is visited by several spirits including Papageno, the clever and lovable bird-figure from Mozart's *The Magic Flute*; Giuseppe Verdi, the most popular Italian opera composer of the 19th century; and Cio-Cio-San, the tragic central figure in Giacomo Puccini's *Madame Butterfly*. Andy is so moved by her plight, that he convinces her to save her own life. Through helping and advising Cio-Cio-San, Andy manages to change his own point of view and come into his own voice. He realizes he is not alone and that if he respects himself and has the power to express his opinion, he can start to change the way others view him and act towards him.

How Andy Found his Voice was conceived, written and directed by San Francisco Opera Guild Education Director Caroline Altman (also known in the area for her original musicals, *Whiskers!, Kiss the Frog*, and *Dreamers* at Walnut Creek's Lesher Regional Theater and Young Performers Theater at Fort Mason.) This interactive production debuted in March 2011 at California State University,

Northridge and will be visiting other school districts in Northern California this spring. *How Andy Found his Voice* features music from *The Magic Flute, Lakme, The Barber of Seville, The Mikado, Nabucco, Madame Butterfly* and other favorites.

The cast features Jennifer Ashworth, Nicole Takesono, Mark Hernandez, Ron Valentino, and Andy Truett in the title role.

Complete study materials for *How Andy Found His Voice* are available at sfopera.com/guild. This show is recommended for children in grades 4 through 9.

Tickets and Information

Tickets for *How Andy Found his Voice* are priced at $8. To purchase tickets or for more information, please contact the San Francisco Opera Guild at (415) 565-3238 or guildeducation@sfopera.com. Complete study materials for *How Andy Found His Voice* are available at sfopera.com/guild. This show is recommended for children in grades 4 though 9. For further information, visit sfopera.com/guild.

About the San Francisco Opera Guild

San Francisco Opera Guild was founded in 1939 to provide opera education programs to the community and to support San Francisco Opera. Each year, over 50,000 students in 200 schools receive the benefits of arts education as only opera can deliver them, with in-school, theatre and conservatory programs. San Francisco Opera Guild believes the life lessons drawn from creative expression are the foundation of confidence and integrity. Through San Francisco Opera Guild's Education Fund, they ensure the continuation of educational programs that help students find their voice.

# # #