SAN FRANCISCO OPERA PRESENTS SUMMER 2012 SEASON, JUNE 8 TO JULY 8

Bay Area Premiere of *Nixon in China* by John Adams and Alice Goodman
Opens Summer Season June 8

San Francisco Opera/Teatro alla Scala Co-production of Verdi's *Attila*
Led by Nicola Luisotti Opens June 12

New Production of Mozart's *The Magic Flute* Designed by Jun Kaneko Premieres June 13

San Francisco Opera Orchestra in Concert June 3 Featuring Amit Peled and Nicola Luisotti

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT 415-864-3330 OR SFOPERA.COM

L-R: Nixon In China *(photo by Cory Weaver/Lyric Opera of Kansas City,),*Attila *(photo by Brescia-Arminsano/Teatro alla Scala), Nathan Gunn as Papageno in* The Magic Flute *(photo by Kevin Berne/San Francisco Opera). To download these and other photos visit* sfopera.com/press

SAN FRANCISCO, May 9, 2012—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 Pulitzer Prize-winning composer John Adams and librettist Alice Goodman. These performances mark the 25th anniversary of this work, originally co-commissioned by David Gockley.

The season continues with the San Francisco debut of a new co-production of Verdi's *Attila,* opening June 12, which premiered at Milan's Teatro alla Scala in June 2011 and features legendary Italian bass Ferruccio Furlanetto in the title role and Lucrecia Garcia in her Company debut as Odabella. Completing the

Summer Season is Mozart's *The Magic Flute,* beginning June 13, presented in a new production designed by visual artist Jun Kaneko and bringing together a strong ensemble cast including Heidi Stober, Alek Shrader, Nathan Gunn, Kristinn Sigmundsson and Albina Shagimuratova.

JOHN ADAMS AND ALICE GOODMAN'S *NIXON IN CHINA* (June 8–July 3)

Described by the *New York Times* as a work of "clarity, simplicity, shocking elegance," John Adams' rhythmically rich recreation of Richard Nixon's 1972 presidential trip to Beijing has established itself as one of the most important American operas of the 20th century. Twenty-five years after premiering at Houston Grand Opera under the leadership of David Gockley and marking the 40th anniversary of Nixon's historic trip, this presentation of Adams' seminal work marks its Bay Area stage premiere. The cast features Brian Mulligan, who thrilled audiences in San Francisco Opera's *Faust* (2010) and *Werther* (2010), making his role debut as Richard Nixon. The cast also includes Maria Kanyova (Pat Nixon), Simon O'Neill (Mao Tse-tung), Hye Jung Lee (Madame Mao Tse-tung), Chen-Ye Yuan (Chou En-lai) and Patrick Carfizzi (Henry Kissinger). Lawrence Renes, whose conducting of Adams' *Doctor Atomic* won praise from London critics, will lead the orchestra in an acclaimed Vancouver Opera production directed by Michael Cavanagh that was described by the *Vancouver Sun* as "vibrant, exhilarating and totally compelling." In addition to Brian Mulligan, Hye Jung Lee and Patrick Carfizzi are also making their role debuts, heralding a new generation of singers to bring this landmark work to life.

GIUSEPPE VERDI'S *ATTILA* (June 12–July 1)

In the popular imagination Attila the Hun was a ruthless barbarian, but to Giuseppe Verdi he was a far more complex and compelling figure: a brave, ambitious warrior tormented by fierce internal doubts. This new co-production with Teatro alla Scala, which was first performed in Italy in June 2011 led by Maestro Luisotti in his La Scala conducting debut, is staged by Gabriele Lavia with sets by Alessandro Camera and costumes by Andrea Viotti, the creative team who made their San Francisco Opera debuts with *Don Giovanni* this past October. This grand, large-scale production celebrates the 150th anniversary of the Italian unification with a bold re-imagining that places each act of *Attila* in a different period of Italian history: Attila the barbarian in the ruins of a Roman-era amphitheater, Attila the Austrian general in a destroyed a 19th-century Italian opera house and Attila the politician in a contemporary movie theater.

The distinguished cast features legendary bass Ferruccio Furlanetto in the title role; the Company debut of Venezuelan soprano Lucrecia Garcia (Odabella), who recently sang this role at La Scala and Seattle Opera; Hawaiian baritone Quinn Kelsey (Ezio) and renowned bass Samuel Ramey (Pope Leo I). Mexican tenor Diego Torre, who was originally scheduled to sing Foresto in two performances, will now replace Fabio Sartori in all performances of *Attila*.

WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART'S *THE MAGIC FLUTE* (June 13–July 8)

Endlessly inventive, charmingly fantastical and utterly unique, Mozart's final opera is a profound yet lighthearted tale of romantic love, spiritual transcendence and the beguiling art of birdcatching. In this production premiere, the internationally acclaimed ensemble cast is led by dynamic young conductor Rory Macdonald and includes lyric tenor and former Adler Fellow Alek Shrader as Tamino, a role he recently performed with Lyric Opera of Chicago (shared with Nathaniel Peake for two performances), soprano Heidi Stober (Pamina), acclaimed baritone Nathan Gunn (Papageno), bass Kristinn Sigmundsson (Sarastro), and in the opera's most virtuoso role, Russian soprano Albina Shagimuratova, who is "in demand everywhere as the Queen of the Night" (*The New York Times*). Sung in English, this new San Francisco Opera co-production is created by renowned Japanese-American visual artist Jun Kaneko and directed by Harry Silverstein. Kaneko, who is known for his large-scale ceramics and permanent installations, has created a bold, colorful production which integrates whimsical costumes and conceptual, graphic projections. Using new state of the art Autodesk Inventor 3D software, the production team and San Francisco Opera production and props departments have created a one of a kind new production at the cutting edge of theatrical technology—the first all-digital production in San Francisco Opera history.

In conjunction with this production of *The Magic Flute*, the San Francisco Opera Education Department will present four interactive, multi-generational workshops based on the themes, story, characters and music of Mozart's opera. *Exploration Workshop: Inside The Magic Flute!* is recommended for children ages 8 and up and their families and will take place on Saturday, June 16 at 4–5 p.m. and 5:30–6:30 p.m. and Sunday, June 24 at 11 a.m.–12 p.m. and 12:30–1:30 p.m. at Chorissima Hall in the San Francisco Girls Chorus Building, 44 Page Street. Tickets are $5 and can be purchased at sfopera.com/fluteworkshop.

NICOLA LUISOTTI AND THE SAN FRANCISCO OPERA ORCHESTRA CONCERT (June 3)

San Francisco Opera and Cal Performances present Music Director Nicola Luisotti and the San Francisco Opera Orchestra in concert at UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall on Sunday, June 3 at 3 p.m. Nicola Luisotti will lead the San Francisco Opera Orchestra in Prokofiev's "Classical" Symphony, Cherubini's Symphony in D Major and Haydn's Cello Concerto in C Major featuring cellist Amit Peled. The Israeli cellist has toured the United States and Europe extensively in recent years garnering rave reviews for his dramatic and moving interpretations of traditional cello repertoire as well as serving as an ambassador for contemporary Jewish music. He has previously performed as soloist at prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall and Alice Tully Hall, New York; Salle Gaveau, Paris; Wigmore Hall, London; Konzerthaus, Berlin; and Tel Aviv's Mann Auditorium.

SAN FRANCISCO OPERA GUILD INSIGHT PANEL DISCUSSIONS

San Francisco Opera Guild will present an Insight Panel Discussion on May 29 at 6 p.m. in the Herbst Theatre at the War Memorial Veterans Building (401 Van Ness Avenue). This informative discussion will feature members of the cast and production team from *Nixon in China.* Insight panels are free for Opera members and $5 for the general public; tickets can be purchased at the door 30 minutes prior to the discussion.

TICKETS AND INFORMATION

Single tickets are priced from $21 to $389 and may be purchased at sfopera.com or through the San Francisco Opera Box Office [301 Van Ness Avenue (at Grove Street), or by phone at (415) 864-3330]. Standing Room tickets go on sale at 10 a.m. on the day of each performance; tickets are $10 each, cash only.

Tickets for the Nicola Luisotti and San Francisco Opera Orchestra concert on June 3 are priced from $30 to $80 and may be purchased online at sfopera.com and through the San Francisco Opera Box Office [War Memorial Opera House, 301 Van Ness Avenue (at Grove Street), or by phone at (415) 864-3330]. Tickets can also be purchased through Cal Performances' Box Office [Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus, by phone at (510) 642-9988] or online at calperformances.org.

Before every opera performance, listen to charismatic music scholars present a 25-minute Opera Talk including an overview of the opera, with insights on the music, composer and historical background. Talks begin fifty-five minutes before each performance in the orchestra section of the War Memorial Opera House and are presented free of charge to patrons with tickets for the corresponding performance.

The War Memorial Opera House is located at 301 Van Ness Avenue at Grove Street. Patrons are encouraged to use public transportation to attend San Francisco Opera performances. The War Memorial

Opera House is within walking distance of the Civic Center BART station and near numerous bus lines, including 5, 21, 47, 49 and the F Market Street. For more public transportation information, visit bart.gov and sfmuni.com.

Casting, programs, schedules and ticket prices are subject to change. For further information about San Francisco Opera's Summer 2012 season, please visit sfopera.com.

# # #

SUMMER 2012 SEASON CASTING AND CALENDAR

* San Francisco Opera Debut ✝ Current Adler Fellow ♪ Role Debut ● OperaVision Performance
All performances take place at the War Memorial Opera House unless noted.

SUMMER 2012 OPERA SEASON

SAN FRANCISCO OPERA ORCHESTRA IN CONCERT
Nicola Luisotti, Conductor
Amit Peled, Cello
Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley
Sunday, June 3, 2012 at 3:00 p.m.
Program: Prokofiev / "Classical" Symphony
Haydn / Cello Concerto in C Major, featuring cellist Amit Peled
Cherubini / Symphony in D Major

NIXON IN CHINA
by John Adams and Alice Goodman
Vancouver Opera Production

SAN FRANCISCO OPERA PREMIERE
June 8 (8 p.m.), **14●** (7:30 p.m.), **17●** (2 p.m.)**, 22** (8 p.m.), **26●** (8 p.m.), **30** (8 p.m.); **July 3** (7:30 p.m.)**, 2012**

Libretto by Alice Goodman
Approximate running time: 2 hours, 50 minutes with one intermission
Sung in English with English supertitles
First Performance: Houston, October 22, 1987

Cast:

Richard Nixon	**Brian Mulligan♪**
Pat Nixon	**Maria Kanyova***
Mao Tse-tung	**Simon O'Neill***
Chiang Ch'ing (Madame Mao Tse-tung)	**Hye Jung Lee*♪**
Chou En-lai	**Chen-Ye Yuan***
Henry Kissinger	**Patrick Carfizzi♪**
Wu Ching-Hua	**Chiharu Shibata**
Hung Ch'ang-Ch'ing	**Bryan Ketron**

Production Team:

Conductor	**Lawrence Renes***
Director	**Michael Cavanagh***
Set Designer	**Erhard Rom***
Costume Designer	**Parvin Mirhady***
Lighting Designer	**Christopher Maravich**
Projection Designer	**Sean Nieuwenhuis***
Choreographer	**Wen Wei Wang***
Chorus Director	**Ian Robertson**

ATTILA by Giuseppe Verdi

Co-production with Teatro alla Scala

PRODUCTION NEW TO SAN FRANCISCO OPERA
June 12 (8 p.m.), **15** (8 p.m.), **20** (7:30 p.m.)**, 23•** (8 p.m.), **28•** (7:30 p.m.); **July 1•** (2 p.m.)**, 2012**

Libretto by Temistocle Solera
Approximate running time: 2 hours, 45 minutes with one intermission
Sung in Italian with English supertitles
First Performance: Venice, March 17, 1846
First SFO Performance: November 21, 1991
Most Recent SFO Performances: November 1991

Cast:

Attila	**Ferruccio Furlanetto**
Odabella	**Lucrecia Garcia***
Foresto	**Diego Torre*♪**
Ezio	**Quinn Kelsey♪**
Pope Leo I	**Samuel Ramey**
Uldlino	**Nathaniel Peake*♪**

Production Team:

Conductor	**Nicola Luisotti**
Director	**Gabriele Lavia**
Set Designer	**Alessandro Camera**
Costume Designer	**Andrea Viotti**
Lighting Designer	**Christopher Maravich**
Chorus Director	**Ian Robertson**

THE MAGIC FLUTE by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Co-production with Washington National Opera, Opera Carolina, Opera Omaha and Lyric Opera of Kansas City

NEW PRODUCTION PREMIERE
June 13 (7:30 p.m.), **16** (8 p.m.), **19** (8 p.m.), **21•** (7:30 p.m.), **24•** (2 p.m.), **27•** (7:30 p.m.), **29** (8 p.m.); **July 6** (8 p.m.), **8** (2 pm), **2012**

Libretto by Emanuel Schikaneder
Approximate running time: 3 hours, 30 minutes with one intermission
Sung in English with English supertitles
First Performance: Vienna, September 30, 1791
First SFO Performance: October 11, 1950
Most Recent SFO Performances: November 2007

Cast:
Cast:

Pamina	**Heidi Stober**
Tamino	**Alek Shrader**
	Nathaniel Peake♪ (7/6, 7/8)
Papageno	**Nathan Gunn**
Sarastro	**Kristinn Sigmundsson**
The Queen of the Night	**Albina Shagimuratova***
Monostatos	**Greg Fedderly**
Papagena	**Nadine Sierra†♪**
First Lady	**Melody Moore♪**
Second Lady	**Lauren McNeese**
Third Lady	**Renée Tatum**
The Speaker	**David Pittsinger**
First Armored Man	**Beau Gibson**
Second Armored Man	**Jordan Bisch**

Production Team:
Production Team:

Conductor	**Rory Macdonald***
Director	**Harry Silverstein**
Production Designer	**Jun Kaneko***
Lighting Designer	**Paul Pyant**
Chorus Director	**Ian Robertson**

San Francisco Opera is sponsored, in part, by the Ann and Gordon Getty Foundation, John A. and Cynthia Fry Gunn, Franklin and Catherine Johnson, Mrs. Edmund W. Littlefield, Bernard and Barbro Osher, and Jan Shrem and

Maria Manetti Shrem. San Francisco Opera is sponsored, in part, by a grant from Grants for the Arts/San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund.

Wells Fargo is San Francisco Opera's Season Sponsor. San Francisco Opera is proud to recognize its corporate partners: United, the Official Airline of San Francisco Opera, and Chevron, fueling great performances everywhere.

Nixon in China is made possible, in part, by Roberta and David Elliott and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Additional support provided by the Fleishhacker Foundation.

Company Sponsors John A. and Cynthia Fry Gunn are proud to support *Attila*. This production is made possible, in part, by the Amici di Nicola of Camerata, the Koret Foundation and Tad and Dianne Taube.

The Magic Flute is made possible, in part, by Thomas F. & Barbara A. Wolfe, the Koret Foundation and Tad and Dianne Taube. Set and costume design fees are supported, in part, by the Tobin Theatre Arts Fund. Additional support provided by members of Camerata and Chevron.

The San Francisco Opera Orchestra concert conducted by Nicola Luisotti is made possible, in part, by the Amici di Nicola of Camerata.

Yamaha is the official piano of San Francisco Opera. Pianos provided by Music Exchange.

WELLS FARGO

2011–12 Season Sponsor

For further press information or to obtain Summer 2012 Season photographs, please visit *sfopera.com/press* or contact:

San Francisco Opera Communications –
Jon Finck (415) 565-6472 / *jfinck@sfopera.com*
Julia Inouye (415) 565-6430 / *jinouye@sfopera.com*
Robin Freeman (415) 565-6451 / *rfreeman@sfopera.com*