SAN FRANCISCO OPERA AND CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENT
MUSIC DIRECTOR NICOLA LUISOTTI AND THE
SAN FRANCISCO OPERA ORCHESTRA IN CONCERT

SUNDAY, JUNE 3 AT 3 PM
AT UC BERKELEY'S ZELLERBACH HALL

SAN FRANCISCO, May 11, 2012—San Francisco Opera and Cal Performances present Music Director Nicola Luisotti and the San Francisco Opera Orchestra in concert on Sunday, June 3 at 3 p.m. at UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall. The program includes Haydn's Cello Concerto in C Major featuring acclaimed Israeli cellist Amit Peled, Prokofiev's "Classical" Symphony and Cherubini's Symphony in D Major.

Nicola Luisotti made his debut at UC Berkeley this past October with the San Francisco Opera Orchestra performing an all-Beethoven program. He will return to Zellerbach Hall with the Opera Orchestra next season for a May 17, 2013 concert featuring works by Rota, Brahms and Puccini.

Since joining San Francisco Opera as Music Director in 2009, Maestro Luisotti has been enthusiastically embraced by San Francisco audiences. Noting "the brilliance of Luisotti's orchestral conducting," the *San Francisco Chronicle* called Luisotti "a blast to watch in action." *The San Francisco Examiner* stated: "Under his baton, the San Francisco Opera Orchestra sparkles, shimmers, storms, and, most importantly, sings the music." Offering audiences a rare opportunity to experience the renowned San Francisco Opera Orchestra in concert under the baton of its dynamic music director,

the concert is the second of two special appearances at Zellerbach Hall this season showcasing Maestro Luisotti and the Orchestra.

Conductor Nicola Luisotti opened San Francisco Opera's season last fall leading critically acclaimed performances of Puccini's *Turandot*, and also conducted a new San Francisco Opera production of *Don Giovanni* and Bizet's *Carmen*. In June, he leads a new San Francisco Opera and Teatro alla Scala co-production of Verdi's *Attila* as part of the Company's Summer 2012 Season. Luisotti's other engagements during the 2011–12 season include Tosca at La Scala and the rarely performed *I Masnadieri* at the Teatro di San Carlo in Naples, in addition to many orchestral engagements, including the Berlin Philharmonic and the orchestras of Cleveland and Philadelphia. A native of Tuscany, Luisotti was recently appointed music director of the prestigious Teatro di San Carlo in Naples and is also principal guest conductor of the Tokyo Symphony.

From the United States and Europe to the Middle East and Asia, Israeli cellist Amit Peled is acclaimed as one of the most exciting instrumentalists on the concert stage today. Mr. Peled, who was recently described by the American Record Guide as "Having the flair of the young Rostropovich," has performed as a soloist with many orchestras and in the world's major concert halls. Following his enthusiastically received Alice Tully Hall concerto debut playing the Hindemith Cello Concerto, *The New York Times* described his playing: "glowing tone, a seductive timbre and an emotionally pointed approach to phrasing that made you want to hear him again."

Peled's last season culminated with a much anticipated recital debut at the Kennedy Center and two performances of the Penderecki Cello Concerto in Chicago's Millennium Park, with the legendary composer conducting. One of the most sought after cello pedagogues in the world, Mr. Peled is a professor at the Peabody Conservatory of Music of the Johns Hopkins University.

Tickets and Information

THE SAN FRANCISCO OPERA ORCHESTRA
Presented by San Francisco Opera and Cal Performances

Sunday, June 3, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. **Zellerbach Hall**
University of California, Berkeley

Nicola Luisotti, conductor
Amit Peled, cello
San Francisco Opera Orchestra

PROGRAM:
Prokofiev / Symphony No. 1 "Classical"
Haydn / Cello Concerto in C major
Cherubini / Symphony in D major

TICKETS & INFORMATION:
Tickets are priced from $30 to $85 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].

These concerts are made possible, in part, by the Amici di Nicola of Camerata. 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 and Chevron.

San Francisco Opera 2011–12 Season Sponsor

For further press information, please contact San Francisco Opera Communications -- Robin Freeman: (415) 565-6451 / rfreeman@sfopera.com Gelane Pearson (415) 565-6470 / gpearson@sfopa.com

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About the Artists

Israeli cellist **Amit Peled** has performed as soloist with orchestra and in the world's major concert halls, such as Carnegie Hall and Alice Tully Hall; Paris's Salle Gaveau; Wigmore Hall in London; Berlin's Konzerthaus; and Tel Aviv's Mann Auditorium. Peled is also a frequent guest artist, performing and giving master classes at prestigious summer music festivals, such as the Marlboro Music Festival, Newport Music Festival, Seattle Chamber Music Festival, Heifetz International Music Institute, Schleswig Holstein Festival and Euro Arts Festival in Germany, Gotland Festival in Sweden, Prussia Cove Festival in England, the Violoncello Congress in Spain, and the Kfar Blum Music Festival in Israel. As a recording artist, Mr. Peled has released two critically acclaimed CDs: *The Jewish Soul* and *Cellobration* under the Centaur Records Label. Recent engagements include his debut with the Baltimore Symphony and the Columbus Symphony, a return to Taiwan for the Brahms Double Concerto with the National Symphony, and performances with the Jerusalem Symphony and Maestro Botstein. Peled has been featured on television and radio stations throughout the world, including NPR's *Performance Today,* WGBH Boston, WQXR New York, WFMT Chicago, Deutschland Radio Berlin, Radio France, Swedish National Radio and Television, and Israeli National Radio & TV. One of the most sought after cello pedagogues in the world, Mr. Peled is a professor at the Peabody Conservatory of Music of the Johns Hopkins University and plays a rare Andrea Guarneri cello, circa 1689.

Italian conductor **NICOLA LUISOTTI** has been music director of San Francisco Opera since the fall of 2009 and holds the Caroline H. Hume Endowed Chair. In the current season he has already lead performances at the War Memorial Opera House of *Turandot, Don Giovanni, Carmen* and continues this summer with *Attila.* Luisotti's outside engagements during the 2011–12 season included *Tosca* at Milan's La Scala in addition to concerts with the Berlin Philharmonic, Madrid's Orquesta Nacional de España, and the orchestras of Cleveland and Philadelphia. Luisotti was recently appointed music director of the Teatro di San Carlo in Naples; he led Verdi's rarely performed *I Masnaderi* and a concert with the Teatro di San Carlo Orchestra of Puccini's *Messa di Gloria* there this spring. Called "both an original thinker and a great respecter of tradition" by *Opera News*, which featured him on the cover of the July 2011 special issue on conductors, Luisotti made his San Francisco Opera debut in 2005 conducting *La Forza del Destino* and returned in November 2008 to conduct *La Bohème.* As the Company's music director, he has led acclaimed performances of *Il Trovatore, Salome, Otello, La Fanciulla del West, Aida, Le Nozze di Figaro,* and *Madama Butterfly.* Maestro Luisotti has garnered enthusiastic praise from both audiences and critics for his work at the Royal Opera, Covent Garden; the Metropolitan Opera; Paris Opera; the Vienna State Opera; La Scala; Genoa's Teatro Carlo Felice; Venice's La Fenice; Munich's Bavarian State Opera; Frankfurt Opera; Madrid's Teatro Real; Los Angeles Opera; Dresden's Semperoper; Toronto's Canadian Opera Company; Seattle Opera; Bologna's Teatro Comunale; and in Tokyo's Suntory Hall. Maestro Luisotti was awarded the 39th Premio Puccini Award in conjunction with the historic 100th anniversary of Puccini's *La Fanciulla del West* at the Metropolitan Opera, which he conducted in 2010. Equally at home on the concert stage, Maestro Luisotti serves as principal guest conductor of the Tokyo Symphony and has established growing relationships with the orchestras of London (Philharmonia Orchestra), Genoa, Budapest, Turin, Munich (Bavarian Radio Orchestra), Palermo, and Rome (Santa Cecilia Orchestra), as well as the Berlin Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, and the Atlanta Symphony. The conductor's expanding discography includes a complete recording of *Stiffelio* (Dynamic) with the orchestra of Trieste's Teatro Verdi and the critically acclaimed *Duets* (Deutsche Grammophon), featuring Anna Netrebko and Rolando Villazón. He is also on the podium of a DVD recording of the Met's *La Bohème,* starring Angela Gheorghiu and Ramón Vargas (EMI).