# SAN FRANCISCO OPERA'S HISTORIC 1973 *DIE FLEDERMAUS* WITH JOAN SUTHERLAND, CONDUCTOR RICHARD BONYNGE AND STAGE DIRECTOR LOTFI MANSOURI FEATURED IN ARCHIVAL RADIO BROADCAST ON KDFC, SUNDAY DEC. 1

[Joan Sutherland and Ragnar Ulfung, Judith Blegen and Nolan Van Way, Huguette Tourangeau, Joan Sutherland and Richard Boynge. Photos by Ron Scherl]

San Francisco (November 15, 2013) — San Francisco Opera today announced plans to broadcast an archival live recording of the Company's 1973 production of Johann Strauss, Jr.'s operetta *Die Fledermaus* on the Bay Area's classical KDFC Sunday, December 1 at 8:00 pm.

This performance is presented as part of San Francisco Opera's regular monthly radio broadcasts airing the first Sunday of each month. KDFC can be heard on the FM dial at 90.3 (San Francisco, Los Gatos and Saratoga), 89.9 (North and East Bay), 92.5 (Ukiah-Lakeport), 104.9 (South Bay and Peninsula); on Comcast Cable 981; or online at kdfc.com.

The historic performance stars Joan Sutherland as Rosalinda; Judith Blegen as Adele; Ragnar Ulfung as Alfred; Nolan Van Way as Eisenstein; and Huguette Tourangeau as Prince Orlofsky. Maestro Richard Bonynge led the San Francisco Opera Orchestra and Chorus in a production directed by Lotfi Mansouri. Presented in three acts, the Company's 1973 *Die Fledermaus* featured lyrics and dialogue based on the English translation by Ruth and Thomas Martin. This performance is further distinguished by the inclusion of ballet music in Act Two

featuring various music by Johann Strauss, Jr., performed by the San Francisco Opera Corps de Ballet with choreography by Norbert Vesak.

A special intermission feature with host Terence McEwen, Joan Sutherland and Richard Bonynge, which was heard as part of the original live radio program, will not be included in the December 1 re-broadcast but will be available on the San Francisco Opera website, www.sfopera.com.

San Francisco Opera dedicates this critically acclaimed broadcast performance to Lotfi Mansouri, who passed away on August 30, 2013, and directed more than 75 productions at the War Memorial Opera House, in addition to serving as the Company's fourth general director from 1988 to 2001.

Mansouri's fabled association with Joan Sutherland and Richard Bonynge began in 1963 with the San Francisco Opera production of Bellini's *La Sonnambula*. Over the ensuing decades, this formidable trio worked together on Verdi's *La Traviata* in 1964; *Die Fledermaus* in 1973; Massenet's *Esclarmonde* in 1974; Lehar's *The Merry Widow* in 1981; followed by the legendary production of Bellini's *Norma* in 1982, which also featured Marilyn Horne in the cast; and Donizetti's royal *Anna Bolena* in 1984. Their final appearance together on the War Memorial Opera House Stage was September 2000 for the Gala Concert in tribute to Lotfi Mansouri. For more information about San Francisco Opera's performance history, casts and creative teams, visit archive.sfopera.com.

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