



## **SAN FRANCISCO OPERA ANNOUNCES 2012–13 SEASON**

**MUSIC DIRECTOR NICOLA LUISOTTI OPENS 90TH SEASON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 WITH GALA PERFORMANCE OF GIUSEPPE VERDI'S *RIGOLETTO*; SEASON INCLUDES BELLINI'S *I CAPULETI E I MONTECCHI*, JAKE HEGGIE AND GENE SCHEER'S *MOBY-DICK*, WAGNER'S *LOHENGRIN*, PUCCINI'S *TOSCA*, NOLAN GASSER AND CAREY HARRISON'S *THE SECRET GARDEN*, OFFENBACH'S *LES CONTES D'HOFFMANN*, MOZART'S *COSÌ FAN TUTTE*, AND MARK ADAMO'S *THE GOSPEL OF MARY MAGDALENE***

**SAN FRANCISCO OPERA ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR THREE WORLD PREMIERES IN 2013:  
NOLAN GASSER/CAREY HARRISON'S *THE SECRET GARDEN* (MARCH 2013)  
MARK ADAMO'S *THE GOSPEL OF MARY MAGDALENE* (JUNE–JULY 2013)  
TOBIAS PICKER/J.D. McCLATCHY'S *DOLORES CLAIBORNE* (SEPTEMBER 2013)**

**2012–13 SEASON FEATURES MANY OF THE WORLD'S LEADING SINGERS, INCLUDING WILLIAM BURDEN, NICOLE CABELL, SASHA COOKE, ALICE COOTE, STEPHEN COSTELLO, MARK DELAVAN, FRANCESCO DEMURO, NATALIE DESSAY, JOYCE DiDONATO, ROBERTO FRONTALI, ANGELA GHEORGHIU, MASSIMO GIORDANO, NATHAN GUNN, BEN HEPPNER, BRANDON JOVANOVICH, ALEKSANDRA KURZAK, PETRA LANG, ŽELJKO LUČIĆ, JAY HUNTER MORRIS, CAMILLA NYLUND, ERIC OWENS, MATTHEW POLENZANI, PATRICIA RACETTE, ALBINA SHAGIMURATOVA, HEIDI STOBER, MARCO VINCO AND MARCO VRATOGNA**

**GENERAL DIRECTOR DAVID GOCKLEY, MUSIC DIRECTOR NICOLA LUISOTTI, PRINCIPAL GUEST CONDUCTOR PATRICK SUMMERS AND RESIDENT CONDUCTOR GIUSEPPE FINZI EXTEND THEIR TENURES THROUGH 2015–16**

**SAN FRANCISCO OPERA REGIONAL HD CINEMA/TELEVISION BROADCASTS TO INCLUDE *SALOME, IL TRITTIKO, OTELLO* AND *THE MAGIC FLUTE***

**SAN FRANCISCO OPERA NATIONAL RADIO BROADCASTS CONTINUE IN 2012–13**

**For season subscription tickets, visit [sfopera.com](http://sfopera.com) or call (415) 864-3330**

SAN FRANCISCO (January 17, 2012)—San Francisco Opera General Director David Gockley today announced the Company’s 2012–13 repertory season, guest artists and performance schedule, in addition to three world premiere commissions slated for 2013 by Nolan Gasser and Carey Harrison (*The Secret Garden*), Mark Adamo (*The Gospel of Mary Magdalene*), and Tobias Picker and J.D. McClatchy (*Dolores Claiborne*). Gockley also announced the extension of his contract to lead San Francisco Opera through the 2015–16 Season along with the extension of contracts for the artistic leadership team of Music Director Nicola Luisotti, Principal Guest Conductor Patrick Summers and Resident Conductor Giuseppe Finzi.

The Company’s 90th season opens Friday, September 7, 2012 with a gala performance of Giuseppe Verdi’s *Rigoletto*. Maestro Luisotti leads an international cast of singers, including acclaimed Serbian baritone and Verdi specialist Željko Lučić in the title role, and the Company debuts of Polish soprano Aleksandra Kurzak as Gilda and Italian tenor Francesco Demuro as the Duke of Mantua. Opera Ball, the Company’s celebrated signature benefit event, co-produced with the San Francisco Opera Guild in support of the San Francisco Opera and Opera Guild education programs, will precede the opening night performance at the historic War Memorial Opera House.

In addition to *Rigoletto*, which features two international casts of singers, San Francisco Opera’s 2012–13 Season offers Vincenzo Bellini’s bel canto gem *I Capuleti e i Montecchi* (*The Capulets and the Montagues*); the Bay Area premiere of Jake Heggie’s *Moby-Dick*, commissioned and produced by San Francisco Opera, The Dallas Opera, San Diego Opera, Calgary Opera and the State Opera of South Australia; Richard Wagner’s *Lohengrin*; Giacomo Puccini’s *Tosca*, interpreted by two casts of widely acclaimed singers; Jacques Offenbach’s *Les Contes d’Hoffmann* (*The Tales of Hoffmann*); Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart’s *Così fan tutte*; the world premiere of Mark Adamo’s *The Gospel of Mary Magdalene*; and the world premiere of Nolan Gasser and Carey Harrison’s *The Secret Garden*, a co-production with Cal Performances.

### **SAN FRANCISCO OPERA WORLD PREMIERES**

David Gockley, one of America’s most respected opera impresarios and veteran producer of more than 35 new works for the operatic stage, today announced plans to present three world premieres in 2013 by renowned American composers and librettists.

#### **The Secret Garden**

San Francisco Opera and Cal Performances have joined forces to create *The Secret Garden*, an opera based on the novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett by composer Nolan Gasser and librettist Carey Harrison. This new opera premieres on March 1, 2013 at Zellerbach Hall at UC Berkeley.

“*The Secret Garden* is a family-friendly work representing San Francisco Opera’s commitment to involve more families, children and parents in repertoire that is attractive and entertaining,” said Mr. Gockley. “Building on the success of our 2008 co-presentation with Cal

Performances of the West Coast premiere of *The Little Prince*, *The Secret Garden* is our follow-up piece in a continuing effort to connect with families and build a future audience for opera. This presentation would not be possible without the cooperation of Cal Performances, a community partner with similar motivations.”

“Burnett’s classic tale *The Secret Garden* is an ideal story for operatic adaptation,” said Nolan Gasser. “It’s a colorful and emotional journey of friendship, love, tragedy, renewal and the magic, healing power of nature. As a family-oriented opera aimed chiefly at young people and their parents, this work features music that is largely melodic and accessible, though not afraid to embrace the story’s exotic magic with unexpected tones. This tale is both timeless and intergenerational, and it is a thrill to be able to set this work for the operatic stage.”

“Creating new work and broadening audiences for the performing arts has been part of Cal Performances’ mission for more than a century,” said Cal Performances Director Matías Tarnolopolsky. “David Gockley has commissioned more new operas than any other opera leader and I am delighted that we can join with San Francisco Opera in creating a new work, especially one designed to bring new audiences to the art form.”

### **The Gospel of Mary Magdalene**

Three months later, San Francisco Opera will present the world premiere of Mark Adamo’s opera, *The Gospel of Mary Magdalene*, opening June 19, 2013. Adapted from the texts of and research on the Canonical and Gnostic Gospels (some recently discovered), Adamo’s two-act work interprets the controversial relationship between Jesus and his female disciple Mary Magdalene.

“Confirming our tradition of commissioning American composers, I am very pleased to announce *The Gospel of Mary Magdalene* by award-winning composer Mark Adamo,” commented Mr. Gockley. “I’ve had the pleasure of working with Mark twice before on the successful premieres of his two operas *Little Women* and *Lysistrata*, and I have great faith in him as both composer and librettist. The subject of *Mary Magdalene* is fascinating, if not highly controversial, and I believe this new opera will certainly spark the curiosity and interest of many opera patrons and music lovers.”

Mark Adamo, “a brilliant theater composer” (*The New Yorker*), whose opera *Little Women* is one of the most frequently performed operas of the past 20 years, commented about his Mary Magdalene opera: “This project stemmed from a question I asked myself: Before it was mythologized as the New Testament, did the story of Jesus begin as a story of difficult loves—of a mother and son, of lovers struggling to reconcile sex and spirit, of rivals wrangling over the politics of their movement? The earliest scriptural sources suggest as much. Creating a story based around only these premises found in the Gnostic and Canonical Gospels, *The Gospel of Mary Magdalene* strives to envision an answer to this question.”

## **Dolores Claiborne**

As a part of the Fall 2013 Season, San Francisco Opera will present the world premiere of Tobias Picker and J.D. McClatchy's opera *Dolores Claiborne*, based on the best-selling novel of the same name by award-winning author Stephen King and presented by arrangement with British theatrical producer Andrew Welch. *Dolores Claiborne* will open September 15, 2013, as part of the Company's 2013–14 season, and will star mezzo-soprano Dolora Zajick in the title role. In his Company debut, George Manahan will conduct and James Robinson, whose previous assignments at the War Memorial Opera House include the 2009 season productions of *Il Trittico* and *Salome*, will return to direct. This new production will also feature the work of scenic designer Allen Moyer, costume designer James Schutte, lighting designer Chris Ackerlind and projection designer Greg Emetaz.

David Gockley stated, "The idea of *Dolores Claiborne* as an operatic work has been in my mind for quite a while. The sticking point was obtaining the rights from author Stephen King, and once that was accomplished the opera was put on the fast track for development. I've always admired the music of Tobias Picker—his musical language that works so well with today's audiences by offering a spectrum of expressive qualities, his beautiful lyricism, his dramatic abilities and his brilliant orchestrations. And I've always thought of the character of Dolores Claiborne and celebrated mezzo-soprano Dolora Zajick as a perfect match."

Composer Tobias Picker commented, "Dolores Claiborne is a character destined for the operatic stage—passionate, desperate, trapped. She will do anything to save the daughter who despises her. Pushed to the extreme edge of life, she does what she has to, fearless and forsaken. I have wanted to write this opera for years. Yes, Stephen King is a master of suspense, but he is also a remarkable reader of human desires and fears. The superb team that San Francisco Opera has assembled allowed me to compose a powerful, heart-stopping piece of music theater for a cast of brilliant voices."

Complete casting and creative team personnel for all three San Francisco Opera world premiere commissions will be announced at a later date.

David Gockley has previously presented at San Francisco Opera the world premieres of *Appomattox* by Philip Glass and Christopher Hampton, *The Bonesetter's Daughter* by Stewart Wallace and Amy Tan, and most recently *Heart of a Soldier* by Christopher Theofanidis and Donna Di Novelli. Since the Company's inception, San Francisco Opera has presented 14 world premieres, including *Doctor Atomic*, *Dead Man Walking* and *A Streetcar Named Desire* as well as 23 American premieres, including *Dialogues des Carmélites*, *Věc Makropulos*, *Katerina Ismailova*, *Die Frau ohne Schatten*, and *St. François d'Assise*. For a complete list of Company repertory since 1923, visit [www.sfopera.com/archive](http://www.sfopera.com/archive).

## SAN FRANCISCO OPERA'S 2012–13 SEASON

### Two World Premiere Operas

#### ***The Gospel of Mary Magdalene* – Mark Adamo**

New San Francisco Opera commission *The Gospel of Mary Magdalene* is composer **Mark Adamo**'s exploration of the narrative of Jesus and the complicated woman he loved. With a libretto by the composer drawn from the Gnostic Gospels, the Canonical Gospels and decades of biblical scholarship, *The Gospel of Mary Magdalene* reimagines the story of the New Testament through the eyes of this fascinating female character. The resplendent cast includes the Company debut of American mezzo-soprano **Sasha Cooke** as Mary Magdalene, soprano **Maria Kanyova** as Miriam (the mother of Yeshua), **William Burden** as the apostle Peter, and **Nathan Gunn** as Yeshua (Jesus). Director **Kevin Newbury**, lauded for his "imagination and emotional nuance" (*The New York Times*), and conductor **Michael Christie** both make their San Francisco Opera debuts with this production, premiering in June–July 2013.

#### ***The Secret Garden* – Nolan Gasser and Carey Harrison**

Based on the beloved classic of children's literature by Frances Hodgson Burnett, *The Secret Garden* by Bay Area composer **Nolan Gasser** and librettist **Carey Harrison** receives its world premiere in March 2013. A unique opportunity for young people to see this familiar story come to life as a fully staged opera, this work is intended for children and families of all ages and will feature discounted ticket prices for children under age 18. Presented in partnership with Cal Performances, *The Secret Garden* will be performed at Zellerbach Hall in Berkeley. This production will be directed by Jose Maria Condemi with projections designed by painter and visual artist Naomie Kremer; full cast and creative team will be announced at a later date.

### Four Productions New to the Bay Area

#### ***Moby-Dick* – Jake Heggie and Gene Scheer**

*Moby-Dick*, composer **Jake Heggie** and librettist **Gene Scheer**'s new adaptation of Herman Melville's classic meditation on man and the sea, has been met with high praise since its premiere at the Dallas Opera in April 2010. Now making its first appearance in the Bay Area, this San Francisco Opera co-commission stars many of the original cast members, including preeminent Canadian tenor **Ben Heppner** as Captain Ahab, American baritone **Morgan Smith** as Starbuck, American tenor **Stephen Costello** as Greenhorn (Ishmael) and Samoan bass-baritone **Jonathan Lemalu** as Queequeg. Of his previous appearance in the role, *The New York Times* wrote of Ben Heppner: "It would be difficult to imagine a performer better suited to convey Ahab's complex mix of demoniac compulsion and fleeting heroism." **Jay Hunter Morris**, who recently made headlines by taking over the title role of Wagner's *Siegfried* both at San Francisco Opera and the Metropolitan Opera, appears as Captain Ahab in the final two performances. Conducted by Principal Guest Conductor **Patrick Summers**, who also led the work's premiere in Dallas, this co-production with sets by **Robert Brill** is directed by **Leonard Foglia**.

### ***I Capuleti e i Montecchi (The Capulets and the Montagues) – Vincenzo Bellini***

Bellini's bel canto masterpiece *I Capuleti e i Montecchi*, inspired by the tragic tale of Romeo and Juliet, is what *The New York Times* calls "an opera of definite dramatic appeal." The cast is headlined by international stars **Joyce DiDonato** and **Nicole Cabell** as the helpless lovers Romeo and Giulietta. DiDonato, who wowed San Francisco audiences in her 2007 role debut as Octavian in *Der Rosenkavalier*, joins 2005 BBC Cardiff Singer of the World–winner Nicole Cabell, who makes her role debut in this co-production with Munich's Bavarian State Opera. Albanian tenor **Saimir Pirgu** makes his Company and role debut as Tebaldo. Directed by **Vincent Boussard** in his U.S. debut and led by returning conductor **Riccardo Frizza**, this new co-production, which had its debut in Munich in March 2011, features costumes by renowned fashion designer **Christian Lacroix** and sets by **Vincent Lemaire**.

### ***Les Contes d'Hoffmann (The Tales of Hoffmann) – Jacques Offenbach***

Jacques Offenbach's melodic masterpiece *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* follows a sensitive poet as he searches fruitlessly for love. Distinguished lyric tenor **Matthew Polenzani** sings the title role opposite the phenomenally talented soprano **Natalie Dessay**, who captivated San Francisco audiences in the title role of *Lucia di Lammermoor* in 2008 and returns to perform all four of the women who capture Hoffmann's heart: Olympia, Antonia, Giulietta and Stella. Mezzo-soprano **Alice Coote**, who recently appeared with the Company as Charlotte in Massenet's *Werther*, makes her role debut as Nicklausse/the Muse and **Christian Van Horn** portrays the four villains who thwart Hoffmann's desires for the first time in his career. Conductor **Patrick Fournillier** and director **Laurent Pelly** return for this new co-production with Barcelona's Gran Teatre del Liceu designed by **Chantal Thomas**.

### ***Lohengrin – Richard Wagner***

Following his great success as Siegmund in 2011's *Die Walküre*, American tenor **Brandon Jovanovich** returns to San Francisco Opera to make his title role debut in Wagner's *Lohengrin*. Appearing as the noble warrior's doubt-plagued bride, Elsa von Brabant, is Finnish soprano **Camilla Nylund**. Also appearing in this new-to-San Francisco Opera production, which was designed by **Robert Innes Hopkins**, are veteran Wagnerians **Kristinn Sigmundsson** as Heinrich der Vogler, **Gerd Grochowski** as Friedrich von Telramund and **Petra Lang** as Ortrud. Music Director **Nicola Luisotti** conducts his first Wagner opera with the Company, and British stage director **Daniel Slater** directs.

## **Revivals of Three Popular San Francisco Opera Productions**

### ***Rigoletto – Giuseppe Verdi***

San Francisco Opera's 2012–13 Season opens with Verdi's *Rigoletto*, the vivid and compelling story of a vengeful court jester desperately attempting to protect his daughter from disaster. The first of two world-class casts, both led by Music Director **Nicola Luisotti**, features Serbian baritone **Željko Lučić** in the title role and the Company debut of Polish soprano **Aleksandra Kurzak** as Gilda. Sardinian tenor **Francesco Demuro** is the lecherous Duke of Mantua. The equally impressive alternate cast stars **Marco Vratogna** as Rigoletto; soprano **Albina Shagimuratova**, who makes her debut with the Company as the Queen of the Night in *The*

*Magic Flute* this summer, as Gilda; and rising star tenor **David Lomelí** as the Duke. Opera and theater director **Harry Silverstein** returns to direct this San Francisco Opera production with sets designed by **Michael Yeargan**. The final two performances will be conducted by Resident Conductor **Giuseppe Finzi**.

#### ***Tosca* – Giacomo Puccini**

Italian maestro **Nicola Luisotti** conducts *Tosca*, Puccini's masterful melodrama in which a great singer, a rebellious painter and a corrupt police chief engage in a deadly test of wills. Two renowned casts, headlined by **Angela Gheorghiu** and **Patricia Racette**, bring to life San Francisco Opera's elegant production designed by **Thierry Bosquet** and directed by **Jose Maria Condemí**. Romanian soprano Angela Gheorghiu returns to San Francisco Opera following her highly praised 2008 appearances as Mimí in *La Bohème* to star in the title role alongside Italian tenor **Massimo Giordano** in his Company debut as Mario Cavaradossi and Italian baritone **Roberto Frontali** as Baron Scarpia. American soprano Patricia Racette, who sings the title role of *Tosca* in January 2012 at the Metropolitan Opera, returns to San Francisco Opera to star alongside young emerging talent **Brian Jagde** as Mario Cavaradossi. Baritone **Mark Delavan**, well-known to Bay Area audiences for his acclaimed portrayal of Wotan in the Company's 2011 *Ring* cycle, is Baron Scarpia. The final two performances will be conducted by Resident Conductor **Giuseppe Finzi**.

#### ***Così fan tutte* – Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**

An ingenious mix of hilarious farce and poignant drama, Mozart's *Così fan tutte* follows two young soldiers who disguise their identities to test their lovers' fidelity. The strong ensemble cast—entirely composed of artists making stage role debuts—is led by two sopranos who have made notable contributions to San Francisco Opera's past two seasons: **Ellie Dehn** as Fiordiligi and **Heidi Stober** as Despina. Appearing alongside them are Sardinian tenor **Francesco Demuro** as Ferrando, **Christel Löttsch** as Dorabella and **Philippe Sly** as Guglielmo. Italian bass **Marco Vinco** returns as Don Alfonso and former Adler Fellow **Susannah Biller** is Despina in the final two performances. Music Director **Nicola Luisotti** conducts and **Jose Maria Condemí** directs this whimsical San Francisco Opera/Opera Monte Carlo co-production by **John Cox** and designed by **Robert Perdziola**, last seen here in 2004. This production marks the final opera in the beloved Mozart/Da Ponte trilogy to be led by Nicola Luisotti following *Le Nozze di Figaro* in 2010 and *Don Giovanni* in 2011.

### **SAN FRANCISCO OPERA DEBUTS**

The 2012–13 Season features the Company debuts of many renowned artists, including sopranos Nicole Cabell (*Giulietta/I Capuleti e i Montecchi*), Aleksandra Kurzak (*Gilda/Rigoletto*) and Camilla Nylund (*Elsa von Brabant/Lohengrin*); mezzo-sopranos Sasha Cooke (*Mary Magdalene/The Gospel of Mary Magdalene*) and Christel Löttsch (*Dorabella/Così fan tutte*); tenors Stephen Costello (*Greenhorn [Ishmael]/Moby-Dick*), Francesco Demuro (*The Duke of Mantua/Rigoletto* and Ferrando/*Così fan tutte*), Massimo Giordano (*Mario Cavaradossi/Tosca*)

and Saimir Pirgu (*Tebaldo/I Capuleti e i Montecchi*); and bass-baritones Jonathan Lemalu (*Queequeg/Moby-Dick*) and Philippe Sly (*Guglielmo/Così fan tutte*).

### ACCLAIMED RETURNING ARTISTS

Many acclaimed singers will be returning to the War Memorial Opera House, including sopranos Susannah Biller (*Despina/Così fan tutte*), Ellie Dehn (*Fiordiligi/Così fan tutte*), Natalie Dessay (*Olympia, Antonia, Giulietta, Stella/Les Contes d'Hoffmann*), Angela Gheorghiu (*Floria Tosca/Tosca*), Maria Kanyova (*Miriam/The Gospel of Mary Magdalene*), Patricia Racette (*Floria Tosca/Tosca*), Albina Shagimuratova (*Gilda/Rigoletto*) and Heidi Stober (*Despina/Così fan tutte*); mezzo-sopranos Alice Coote (*Nicklausse, The Muse/Les Contes d'Hoffmann*), Joyce DiDonato (*Romeo/I Capuleti e i Montecchi*) and Petra Lang (*Ortrud/Lohengrin*); tenors William Burden (*Peter/The Gospel of Mary Magdalene*), Ben Heppner (*Captain Ahab/Moby-Dick*), Brian Jagde (*Mario Cavaradossi/Tosca*), Brandon Jovanovich (*Lohengrin/Lohengrin*), David Lomelí (*The Duke of Mantua/Rigoletto*), Jay Hunter Morris (*Captain Ahab/Moby-Dick*) and Matthew Polenzani (*Hoffmann/Les Contes d'Hoffmann*); baritones Mark Delavan (*Baron Scarpia/Tosca*), Roberto Frontali (*Baron Scarpia/Tosca*), Nathan Gunn (*Yeshua/The Gospel of Mary Magdalene*), Željko Lučić (*Rigoletto/Rigoletto*), Morgan Smith (*Starbuck/Moby-Dick*) and Marco Vratogna (*Rigoletto/Rigoletto*); bass-baritones Gerd Grochowski (*Friedrich von Telramund/Lohengrin*), Eric Owens (*Capellio/I Capuleti e i Montecchi*) and Christian Van Horn (*Coppélius, Dapertutto, Dr. Miracle, Lindorf/Les Contes d'Hoffmann*); and basses Kristinn Sigmundsson (*Heinrich der Vogler/Lohengrin*) and Marco Vinco (*Don Alfonso/Così fan tutte*).

### CONDUCTORS AND CREATIVE TEAMS

Conducting the San Francisco Opera Orchestra and Chorus will be Company Music Director Nicola Luisotti (*Rigoletto, Lohengrin, Tosca* and *Così fan tutte*) and Principal Guest Conductor Patrick Summers (*Moby-Dick*); returning conductors Riccardo Frizza (*I Capuleti e i Montecchi*) and Patrick Fournillier (*Les Contes d'Hoffmann*); and Michael Christie (*The Gospel of Mary Magdalene*) making his Company debut. Resident Conductor Giuseppe Finzi will be on the podium for several performances (*Rigoletto* and *Tosca*). The San Francisco Opera Chorus is led by Chorus Director Ian Robertson and Associate Chorus Master Fabrizio Corona.

The creative teams featured in the 2012–13 Season comprise many respected directors and designers in the field: French stage director Vincent Boussard makes his United States debut directing a critically acclaimed production designed by Vincent Lemaire with costumes by legendary fashion designer Christian Lacroix (*I Capuleti e i Montecchi*); the celebrated French team of director Laurent Pelly and set designer Chantal Thomas create a new production of *Les Contes d'Hoffmann*; opera and theater director Kevin Newbury makes his Company debut staging a new world premiere (*The Gospel of Mary Magdalene*); theater director, librettist and novelist Leonard Foglia directs the stunning and creative production of *Moby-Dick*, designed by Robert Brill with costumes by Jane Greenwood; British director Daniel Slater leads a striking

production of *Lohengrin* designed by Robert Innes Hopkins; veteran director Harry Silverstein stages San Francisco Opera's production of *Rigoletto* with sets by Michael Yeargan; and Jose-Maria Condemmi directs San Francisco Opera's beloved production of *Tosca*, with sets by Thierry Bosquet, and Robert Perdziola's whimsical production of *Così fan tutte*.

### **DAVID GOCKLEY AND ARTISTIC LEADERSHIP RENEW CONTRACTS TO 2015–16**

San Francisco Opera General Director David Gockley, the Company's sixth general director, recently renewed his contract for another five years, extending his tenure through the 2015–16 Season. Collaborating with David Gockley over the next five seasons will be his musical leadership team of Music Director Nicola Luisotti, Principal Guest Conductor Patrick Summers and Resident Conductor Giuseppe Finzi, each of whose contracts have also been renewed through the 2015–16 Season. The renowned San Francisco Opera Chorus remains under the notable direction of Chorus Director Ian Robertson and new Associate Chorus Master Fabrizio Corona.

Mr. Gockley commented, "I'm excited about the future prospects for the Company, as there is a lot to be done. I want to follow through on the many projects I have set in motion in order to make this company as good as it can be. I am particularly pleased to continue my collaborative association with Nicola Luisotti, Patrick Summers, Giuseppe Finzi and Ian Robertson, in addition to the Company's board of directors and management team."

Since 2006, Gockley has overseen many successes at San Francisco Opera, including the Company's expanded presence on television, radio and in cinemas across the United States and in select cities in Europe. With the creation of the groundbreaking Koret-Taube Media Suite, Gockley has achieved his pledge to bring opera to a wider community via the annual simulcast performances to AT&T Ballpark and various other civic and community venues. His numerous artistic credits for the Company include the recent highly acclaimed production of Richard Wagner's epic *Ring* cycle; the debuts of many notable singers, conductors, directors and designers; the ongoing commissioning of new works; and an increase in paid attendance from 81 to 90-percent capacity since the 2005–06 Season.

### **OPENING WEEKEND FESTIVITIES**

San Francisco Opera's 90th season opens on Friday, September 7 with Verdi's *Rigoletto*, conducted by Music Director Nicola Luisotti and featuring an illustrious cast that includes Željko Lučić, Aleksandra Kurzak and Francesco Demuro. A highlight of the City's cultural and philanthropic season, the Opening Night Gala festivities include *Opera Ball 2012*, presented in collaboration with the San Francisco Opera Guild and benefiting San Francisco Opera and the Opera Guild's education and community programs, and BRAVO! CLUB's *Opening Night Gala*, geared toward young professionals.

The season-opening weekend concludes with *San Francisco Opera in the Park* on Sunday, September 9 in Golden Gate Park's Sharon Meadow. This free annual concert features artists from the Company's Fall 2012 season and the San Francisco Opera Orchestra conducted by Maestro Luisotti.

## **EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY EVENTS**

### **Webcor Builders Presents Opera at the Ballpark**

San Francisco Opera partners with Webcor Builders and the San Francisco Giants to present the Company's seventh free live simulcast at AT&T Park on Saturday, September 15, 2012 at 8 p.m. Verdi's *Rigoletto*, featuring a celebrated cast of singers and conducted by Nicola Luisotti, will be simulcast live from the War Memorial Opera House to AT&T Park's high-definition scoreboard. A unique opportunity for fans to enjoy the sights and sounds of San Francisco Opera in one of the nation's foremost ballparks, the Company's simulcasts at AT&T Park have drawn more than 165,000 people, many experiencing opera for the first time. *Webcor Builders Presents Opera at the Ballpark* is made possible through the extraordinary technology of the Koret-Taube Media Suite. This event marks the tenth free simulcast presented by San Francisco Opera under David Gockley's leadership.

### **San Francisco Opera in the Park**

A beloved San Francisco tradition, the annual *San Francisco Opera in the Park* concert will take place on Sunday, September 9, 2012 at 1:30 p.m. The celebratory event features artists from the Company's Fall 2012 Season and the San Francisco Opera Orchestra conducted by Nicola Luisotti. The concert draws thousands of music lovers each year, many of whom enjoy the occasion with elaborate picnics on the lawn. In the event's time-honored finale, the audience joins with the singers in a rousing rendition of the drinking song ("Libiamo nei lieti calici") from Verdi's *La Traviata*. This concert, held in Sharon Meadow at Golden Gate Park, is free and open to the public.

### **San Francisco Opera and San Francisco Opera Guild Education Programs**

San Francisco Opera and the San Francisco Opera Guild annually bring opera and music education programs to more than 65,000 students throughout Northern California. San Francisco Opera's groundbreaking Opera ARIA (Arts Resources in Action) programs work with classrooms and educators in grades K–12. Aimed at connecting professional artistic and creative elements of opera with classroom curricula, Opera ARIA's methodology focuses on empowering educators to work with both San Francisco Opera and their own colleagues to develop connections to curriculum and the California State Arts and Academic Standards.

For seventy years, the San Francisco Opera Guild has continued to bring award-winning opera arts in-school programs to children in more than 250 Northern California schools. The Guild's many engaging K–12 programs nurture children and support educators through

programs that inspire children to make positive choices and help them grow to be conscientious, sensitive and culturally aware adults.

In addition to these in-school programs, San Francisco Opera and the San Francisco Opera Guild provide countless education opportunities for all ages, including workshops for adults, pre-opera talks, preview lectures, insight panels, professional development for educators, family opera movie screenings, opera arts training camps, student dress rehearsals and opera house and backstage tours.

## **SAN FRANCISCO OPERA HD BROADCASTS AND RADIO BROADCASTS**

### **San Francisco Opera *Grand Opera Cinema Series***

San Francisco Opera recently released four new titles as part of its acclaimed *Grand Opera Cinema Series*. These HD screenings include the Company's recent productions of Puccini's *Il Trittico*, Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, Verdi's *Otello*, and Richard Strauss' *Salome*. San Francisco Opera launched its digital cinema series in Spring 2008 with its presentation of Puccini's *Madama Butterfly* and *La Rondine*, Mozart's *Don Giovanni* and Saint-Saëns' *Samson and Delilah* to movie theaters across the country. In Fall 2010, four additional titles were added to the roster: Puccini's *La Bohème* and *Tosca* as well as Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor* and *The Elixir of Love*. These operas are available to theaters and performing arts venues as part of the Company's *Grand Opera Cinema Series*, which focuses on distributing San Francisco Opera cinema presentations to arts centers, independent film theaters, universities, and other venues in the Western region of the country. The first two series of operas have been presented by theaters in Washington, Oregon, Arizona, Nevada and California. Additionally, *Grand Opera Cinema Series* productions have been distributed in 14 countries throughout Europe and in Mexico. Locally, San Francisco Opera partners with Sundance Cinemas to present HD screenings of every title in the *Grand Opera Cinema Series* at Sundance Kabuki Cinemas in San Francisco.

### **San Francisco Opera on KQED Public Television**

San Francisco Opera continues to partner with KQED Public Television 9, Northern California's preeminent public broadcast station, to air grand operas recorded live in high definition at the historic War Memorial Opera House. Since August 2010, KQED has aired productions of *La Bohème*, *The Elixir of Love*, *Don Giovanni*, *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *Madama Butterfly*, *La Rondine*, *Samson and Delilah* and *Tosca*. Past series have been hosted by distinguished actor and singer Rita Moreno and celebrated actor and director Joan Chen. All productions are presented in their original languages with English subtitles and feature the San Francisco Opera Chorus and Orchestra. Broadcast dates for the third series of San Francisco Opera productions on KQED Public Television will be announced at a later date.

## **San Francisco Opera Radio Broadcasts**

San Francisco Opera continues to reach more than 1.5 million throughout the United States through its regular series of radio broadcasts locally on Classical 89.9/90.3 KDFC and nationally on the WFMT Radio Network. All of the operas in the 2012–13 Season will be captured for radio broadcast; broadcast schedules will be announced at a later date. Launched in 2007 under the leadership of General Director David Gockley, San Francisco Opera's partnership with Classical KDFC marked the return of regular San Francisco Opera broadcasts to Bay Area radio after a then-absence of 25 years. Through a partnership with the WFMT Radio Network, San Francisco Opera is featured on that station's series of broadcast performances recorded live by four major U.S. opera companies: San Francisco Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Los Angeles Opera and Houston Grand Opera.

**Please see the Season Summary release for 2012–13 Season summary information and selected biographies.**

**High resolution downloadable photographs of 2012–13 Season productions and artists are available at [sfopera.com/press](http://sfopera.com/press).**

## **TICKETS AND INFORMATION**

Subscriptions for San Francisco Opera's 2012–13 Season are priced from \$144 to \$2,584 for Full Series (8 operas) and \$70 to \$1,615 for Half Series (3, 4 or 5 operas); these prices reflect discounts of up to 30% over single ticket prices. Thematically designed Mini Series (3 or 4 operas) are priced from \$96 to \$1,164. For travelers, Out of Town Series offer three operas in three days and are priced from \$92 to \$1,012. Subscriptions are on sale to new and renewing subscribers beginning January 17, 2012 at the San Francisco Opera Box Office, or by calling (415) 864-3330; subscription renewals are available online at [sfopera.com](http://sfopera.com) beginning January 17, 2012 and new subscriptions are available online beginning February 15, 2012.

Single tickets for San Francisco Opera's 2012–13 Season are priced from \$22 to \$385 and will go on sale in July 2012.

Single tickets for *The Secret Garden* at Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley are priced from \$15 to \$40 for children and \$30 to \$80 for adults and are available to subscribers only beginning January 17, 2012 at the San Francisco Opera Box Office, online at [sfopera.com](http://sfopera.com) or by calling (415) 864-3330. Tickets for *The Secret Garden* will be available to non-subscribers in July 2012.

The September 15 *Webcor Builders Presents Opera at the Ballpark* simulcast at AT&T Park is free and open to the public; advance online registration assures early entrance into the ballpark for preferred seating and entry into a special prize drawing. Visit [sfopera.com/simulcast](http://sfopera.com/simulcast) after June 1, 2012 to register.

The September 9 *Opera in the Park* concert is free and open to the public; no tickets required. Visit [sfopera.com/park](http://sfopera.com/park) for more information.

Please visit [sfopera.com](http://sfopera.com) for further details, or call the Opera Box Office at (415) 864-3330. San Francisco Opera Box Office winter hours: Monday 10am–5pm; Tuesday through Friday 10am–6pm. All cast, programs, prices and schedules are subject to change.

All War Memorial Opera House performances (except the September 7 season opening) feature an informative Pre-Opera Talk 55 minutes prior to curtain. Pre-Opera Talks are presented free of charge to patrons with tickets for the corresponding performance. Visit [sfopera.com/operatalks](http://sfopera.com/operatalks) for more information.

Opera Guild Preview Lectures are scheduled in communities throughout the greater Bay Area by local Guild chapters. Renowned musicologists lead presentations to familiarize the audience with repertoire from the current season. Admission prices vary. Visit [sfopera.com/previews](http://sfopera.com/previews) for more information.

Opera Guild Insight Panel Discussions feature renowned artists and personalities from the world of opera who share their insights and experiences during informal panel discussions. Free to Opera members, \$5 for non-members. Visit [sfopera.com/insights](http://sfopera.com/insights) for more information.

San Francisco Opera introduced OperaVision in Summer 2007 as an innovative way to give balcony audiences a better view of the stage. OperaVision screens, hung from the ceiling of the balcony section at selected performances, provide close-up and mid-range ensemble shots in high-definition video. English subtitles appear at the bottom of each screen. See calendar listing for OperaVision dates.

The War Memorial Opera House is located at 301 Van Ness Avenue. 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 further public transportation information, visit [bart.gov](http://bart.gov) and [sfmuni.com](http://sfmuni.com).

## 2012–13 OPERA SEASON CASTING AND CALENDAR

\* San Francisco Opera Debut † Current Adler Fellow ‡ Role Debut ^U.S. Debut • OperaVision Performance  
All performances take place at the War Memorial Opera House unless noted.

### FALL 2012 OPERA SEASON

#### **RIGOLETTO** by Giuseppe Verdi

#### San Francisco Opera Production

September 7 (8 p.m.), 8 (8 p.m.), 11 (8 p.m.), 12 (7:30 p.m.),  
15\* (8 p.m.), 16\* (2 p.m.), 18 (8 p.m.), 19\* (7:30 p.m.), 21 (8 p.m.),  
23\* (2 p.m.), 25 (7:30 p.m.), 30\* (2 p.m.), 2012

Libretto by Francesco Maria Piave

Approximate running time: 2 hours, 35 minutes with one intermission

Sung in Italian with English supertitles

First Performance: Venice, March 11, 1851

First SFO Performance: October 8, 1923

Most Recent SFO Performances: October 2006

#### Cast:

*Rigoletto*

**Željko Lučić**

**Marco Vratogna** (9/8), (9/12),  
(9/16), (9/19), (9/23), (9/25),  
(9/30)

*Gilda*

**Aleksandra Kurzak\***

**Albina Shagimuratova** (9/8),  
(9/12), (9/16), (9/19), (9/23),  
(9/30)

*The Duke of Mantua*

**Francesco Demuro\***

**David Lomelí** (9/8), (9/12), (9/16),  
(9/19), (9/23), (9/30)

*Maddalena*

**Kendall Gladen**

*Count Monterone*

**Robert Pomakov\***

*Sparafucile*

**Andrea Silvestrelli**

#### Production Team:

*Conductor*

**Nicola Luisotti**

**Giuseppe Finzi** (9/25), (9/30)

*Director*

**Harry Silverstein**

*Set Designer*

**Michael Yeargan**

*Costume Designer*

**Constance Hoffman**

*Lighting Designer*

**Chris Maravich**

*Chorus Director*

**Ian Robertson**

*Choreographer*

**Lawrence Pech**

#### **I CAPULETI E I MONTECCHI** by Vincenzo Bellini **(THE CAPULETS AND THE MONTAGUES)**

PRODUCTION NEW TO SAN FRANCISCO

September 29 (8 p.m.); October 3\* (7:30 p.m.),  
11\* (7:30 p.m.), 14\* (2 p.m.), 16 (8 p.m.), 19 (8 p.m.), 2012

#### Co-production with Bavarian State Opera, Munich

Libretto by Felice Romani

Approximate running time: 2 hours, 40 minutes with one intermission

Sung in Italian with English supertitles

First Performance: Venice, March 11, 1830

First SFO Performance: September 19, 1991

Most Recent SFO Performances: September 1991

#### Cast:

*Giulietta (Juliet)*

**Nicole Cabell\*‡**

*Romeo*

**Joyce DiDonato**

*Tebaldo (Tybalt)*

**Saimir Pirgu\*‡**

*Capellio*

**Eric Owens**

#### Production Team:

*Conductor*

**Riccardo Frizza**

*Director*

**Vincent Boussard\*^**

*Set Designer*

**Vincent Lemaire\***

*Costume Designer*

**Christian Lacroix\***

*Lighting Designer*

**Guido Levi\***

*Chorus Director*

**Ian Robertson**

**MOBY-DICK** by Jake Heggie and Gene Scheer

**Commissioned and produced by San Francisco Opera in partnership with the Dallas Opera, San Diego Opera, Calgary Opera, and the State Opera of South Australia**

Music by Jake Heggie; libretto by Gene Scheer  
Approximate running time: 3 hours with one intermission  
Sung in English with English supertitles  
First Performance: Dallas, April 30, 2010

**Cast:**

*Greenhorn (Ishmael)*  
*Captain Ahab*

**Stephen Costello\***  
**Ben Heppner**  
**Jay Hunter Morris** (10/30), (11/2)  
**Morgan Smith**  
**Jonathan Lemalu\***  
**Talise Trevigne\***  
**Matthew O'Neill**  
**Robert Orth**

*Starbuck*  
*Queequeg*  
*Pip*  
*Flask*  
*Stubb*

**SAN FRANCISCO OPERA PREMIERE**

**October 10** (7:30 p.m.), **13\*** (8 p.m.), **18\*** (7:30 p.m.),  
**21\*** (2 p.m.), **23** (8 p.m.), **26** (8 p.m.), **30** (7:30pm);  
**November 2** (8 p.m.), **2012**

**Production Team:**

*Conductor*  
*Director*  
*Set Designer*  
*Costume Designer*  
*Lighting Designer*  
*Chorus Director*  
*Movement Director*

**Patrick Summers**  
**Leonard Foglia**  
**Robert Brill\***  
**Jane Greenwood**  
**Don Holder**  
**Ian Robertson**  
**Keturah Stickann\***

**LOHENGRIN** by Richard Wagner

**Co-production of Houston Grand Opera and Grand Théâtre de Genève**

Libretto by Richard Wagner  
Approximate running time: 4 hours, 20 minutes with two intermissions  
Sung in German with English supertitles  
First Performance: Weimar, August 28, 1850  
First SFO Performance: September 14, 1931  
Most Recent SFO Performances: September 1996

**PRODUCTION NEW TO SAN FRANCISCO**

**October 20** (7 p.m.), **24\*** (7 p.m.), **28\*** (1 p.m.), **31\*** (7 p.m.);  
**November 3** (7 p.m.), **6** (7 p.m.), **9** (7 p.m.), **2012**

**Cast:**

*Lohengrin*  
*Elsa von Brabant*  
*Ortrud*  
*Friedrich von Telramund*  
*Heinrich der Vogler*  
*King's Herald*

**Brandon Jovanovich**♯  
**Camilla Nylund\***  
**Petra Lang**  
**Gerd Grochowski**  
**Kristinn Sigmundsson**  
**Brian Mulligan**♯

**Production Team:**

*Conductor*  
*Director*  
*Production Designer*  
*Lighting Designer*  
*Chorus Director*  
*Movement Director*

**Nicola Luisotti**  
**Daniel Slater**  
**Robert Innes Hopkins**  
**Simon Mills**  
**Ian Robertson**  
**Leah Hausman**

**TOSCA** by Giacomo Puccini

**San Francisco Opera Production**

**November 15<sup>o</sup>** (7:30 p.m.), **16** (8 p.m.), **18<sup>o</sup>** (2 p.m.), **20** (8p.m.),  
**21** (7:30 p.m.), **24<sup>o</sup>** (8 p.m.), **25<sup>o</sup>** (2 p.m.), **27** (8 p.m.), **28<sup>o</sup>** (7:30 p.m.),  
**29<sup>o</sup>** (7:30 p.m.); **December 1** (8 p.m.), **2<sup>o</sup>** (2 p.m.), **2012**

Libretto by Luigi Illica and Giuseppe Giacosa

Approximate running time: 2 hours, 40 minutes with two intermissions

Sung in Italian with English supertitles

First Performance: Rome, January 14, 1900

First SFO Performance: October 2, 1923

Most Recent SFO Performances: June 2009

**Cast:**

<i>Floria Tosca</i>	<b>Angela Gheorghiu</b> <b>Patricia Racette</b> (11/16), (11/20), (11/24), (11/27), (11/29), (12/2)
<i>Mario Cavaradossi</i>	<b>Massimo Giordano*</b> <b>Brian Jagde†</b> (11/16), (11/20), (11/24), (11/27), (11/29), (12/2)
<i>Baron Scarpia</i>	<b>Roberto Frontali†</b> <b>Mark Delavan</b> (11/16), (11/20), (11/24), (11/27), (11/29), (12/2)
<i>Cesare Angelotti</i>	<b>Christian Van Horn</b> <b>Ryan Kuster†</b> (12/1), (12/2)
<i>Sacristan</i>	<b>Dale Travis</b>
<i>Spoletta</i>	<b>Joel Sorensen</b>

**Production Team:**

<i>Conductor</i>	<b>Nicola Luisotti</b> <b>Giuseppe Finzi</b> (12/1), (12/2)
<i>Director</i>	<b>Jose Maria Condemi</b>
<i>Production Designer</i>	<b>Thierry Bosquet</b>
<i>Lighting Designer</i>	<b>Christopher Maravich</b>
<i>Chorus Director</i>	<b>Ian Robertson</b>

---

**THE SECRET GARDEN** by Nolan Gasser and Carey Harrison

**Co-production with Cal Performances**

Music by Nolan Gasser\*; libretto by Carey Harrison\*

Based on the book by Frances Hodgson Burnett

Commissioned by San Francisco Opera

Approximate running time: 2 hours with one intermission

Sung in English with English supertitles

Complete cast and production team will be announced  
at a later date.

**WORLD PREMIERE**

**March 1** (7:30 p.m.), **2** (7:30 p.m.), **3** (3 p.m.), **9** (7:30 p.m.),  
**10** (3 p.m.), **2013**

**Zellerbach Hall / University of California, Berkeley**

*Director*  
*Projection Designer*

**Jose Maria Condemi**  
**Naomie Kremer\***

## SUMMER 2013 OPERA SEASON

### **LES CONTES D'HOFFMANN** by Jacques Offenbach **(THE TALES OF HOFFMANN)**

Co-production with Gran Teatre del Liceu, Barcelona

### **PRODUCTION NEW TO SAN FRANCISCO**

June 5 (7:30 p.m.), 11 (8 p.m.), 14 (8 p.m.), 20<sup>o</sup> (7:30 p.m.),  
23<sup>o</sup> (2 p.m.), 27<sup>o</sup> (7:30 p.m.) 30 (2 p.m.); July 3<sup>o</sup> (7:30 p.m.),  
6 (8 p.m.), 2013

Libretto by Julies Barbier and Michel Carré

Approximate running time: 3 hours, 30 minutes with two intermissions

Sung in French with English supertitles

First Performance: Paris, February 10, 1881

First SFO Performance: October 24, 1944

Most Recent SFO Performance: November 1996

#### **Cast:**

*Hoffmann*  
*Olympia, Antonia,*  
*Giulietta, Stella*  
*Nicklausse, The Muse*  
*Coppélius, Dapertutto,*  
*Dr. Miracle, Lindorf*  
*Frantz, Andres,*  
*Cochenille, Pittichinaccio*

**Matthew Polenzani**

**Natalie Dessay**

**Alice Coote**♪

**Christian Van Horn**♪

**Steven Cole**

#### **Production Team:**

*Conductor*  
*Director*  
*Set Designer*  
*Costume Designer*  
*Associate Director*  
*Dramaturg*  
*Chorus Director*

**Patrick Fournillier**  
**Laurent Pelly**  
**Chantal Thomas**  
**Laurent Pelly**  
**Christian Räh**  
**Agathe Melinand**  
**Ian Robertson**

---

### **COSÌ FAN TUTTE** by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Co-production with Opera Monte Carlo

June 9<sup>o</sup> (2 p.m.), 12<sup>o</sup> (7:30 p.m.), 18<sup>o</sup> (8 p.m.), 21 (8 p.m.),  
26 (7:30 p.m.), 29 (8 p.m.); July 1<sup>o</sup> (7:30 p.m.), 2013

Libretto by Lorenzo Da Ponte

Approximate running time: 3 hours, 25 minutes with one intermission

Sung in Italian with English supertitles

First Performance: Vienna, January 26, 1790

First SFO Performance: October 2, 1956

Last SFO Performance: June 2005

#### **Cast:**

*Fiordiligi* **Ellie Dehn**♪  
*Dorabella* **Christel Löttsch**\*♪  
*Despina* **Heidi Stober**♪  
**Susannah Biller**♪ (6/29), (7/1)  
*Ferrando* **Francesco Demuro**  
*Guglielmo* **Philippe Sly**\*♪  
*Don Alfonso* **Marco Vinco**♪

#### **Production Team:**

*Conductor*  
*Director*  
*Production Designer*  
*Chorus Director*

**Nicola Luisotti**  
**Jose Maria Condemi**  
**Robert Perdziola**  
**Ian Robertson**

**THE GOSPEL OF MARY MAGDALENE**

Libretto and Music by Mark Adamo\*

Commissioned by San Francisco Opera

**WORLD PREMIERE**

June 19 (7:30 p.m.), 22 (8 p.m.), 25 (8 p.m.),  
28 (8 p.m.); July 2<sup>o</sup> (7:30 p.m.), 5<sup>o</sup> (8 p.m.), 7<sup>o</sup> (2 p.m.), 2013

Libretto by the composer

Approximate running time: 2 hours, 45 minutes with one intermission

Sung in In English with English supertitles

**Cast:**

Mary Magdalene  
Miriam  
Peter  
Yeshua

Sasha Cooke\*♪  
Maria Kanyova♪  
William Burden♪  
Nathan Gunn♪

**Production Team:**

Conductor  
Director  
Set Designer  
Chorus Director

Michael Christie\*  
Kevin Newbury\*  
David Kornis\*  
Ian Robertson

**2012–13 SPECIAL EVENTS**

**OPENING NIGHT CELEBRATIONS – Friday, September 7, 2012**

**Opera Ball 2012**

Presented by San Francisco Opera and the San Francisco Opera Guild, the evening begins with an elegant pre-performance cocktail reception and sumptuous dinner by Dan McCall in the tented Opera Ball Pavilion followed by the season-opening performance of Verdi’s *Rigoletto* and further celebration. A highlight of the City’s cultural and philanthropic season, *Opera Ball* raises funds to benefit San Francisco Opera and the Opera Guild’s education and community programs. Co-chairs: Cathy MacNaughton and Diane Rubin. Event Designer: Robert Fountain

For tickets or more information about *Opera Ball 2012*, call (415) 565-3204.

**BRAVO! CLUB Opening Night Gala**

Join BRAVO! CLUB’s young professionals as they kick off the season in style with a glamorous pre-performance reception followed by the season-opening performance of *Rigoletto* and post-performance dancing. Co-chairs: Eva Binda and Gianna Cardinale.

For tickets and membership information, email [bravoclub@sfoopera.com](mailto:bravoclub@sfoopera.com).

\*\*\*\*\*

**SAN FRANCISCO OPERA IN THE PARK**

**Sunday, September 9, 2012 at 1:30 p.m.**

Sharon Meadow, Golden Gate Park

A beloved San Francisco tradition, the annual *San Francisco Opera in the Park* concert features artists from the Company’s Fall 2012 Season and the San Francisco Opera Orchestra conducted by Music Director Nicola Luisotti. This concert, held in Sharon Meadow at Golden Gate Park, is free and open to the public; no tickets required. For more information visit [sfoopera.com/park](http://sfoopera.com/park).

\*\*\*\*\*

**WEBCOR BUILDERS PRESENTS OPERA AT THE BALLPARK**

**Free Live Simulcast of *Rigoletto* at AT&T Park; Saturday, September 15, 2012 at 8 p.m.**

**24 Willie Mays Plaza in San Francisco**

Baseball and opera fans alike have the opportunity to enjoy opera in the beautiful and convivial outdoor setting of AT&T Park as San Francisco Opera continues its highly successful partnership with Webcor Builders and the San Francisco Giants to present Verdi's *Rigoletto* in 2012. This event is free and open to the public, however advance online registration assures early entrance into the ballpark for preferred seating and entry into a special prize drawing. Registration begins June 1, 2012; for further information, visit [sfopera.com/simulcast](http://sfopera.com/simulcast).

\*\*\*\*\*

**THE FUTURE IS NOW: ADLER FELLOWS GALA CONCERT**

**Friday, November 30, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.**

Herbst Theatre, War Memorial Veterans Building

This annual concert showcases the talented artists from San Francisco Opera Center's prestigious young artist training program in a gala concert of opera scenes and arias.

\*\*\*\*\*

**SAN FRANCISCO OPERA AT STERN GROVE**

**Sunday, August 19, 2012 at 2 p.m.**

Sigmund Stern Grove, 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Sloat Boulevard

San Francisco Opera returns to the beautiful outdoor setting of Sigmund Stern Grove for the 73rd season of the Stern Grove Festival. This annual free concert featuring the San Francisco Opera Orchestra, members of the Adler Fellowship Program and a special guest artist is one of San Francisco Opera's most popular community engagements, attracting thousands of Bay Area opera lovers.

#####

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 Farrow. 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.

Company Sponsors John A. and Cynthia Fry Gunn, and Mrs. Edmund W. Littlefield are proud to support *Rigoletto*. This production is made possible, in part, by Opening Weekend Grand Sponsor Diane B. Wilsey. Major support for this production also provided by the Great Interpreters of Italian Opera Fund established by Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Farrow. Nicola Luisotti's appearance made possible by Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Farrow, Chairs, Amici di Nicola of Camerata. Mr. Lučić's appearance is made possible by a gift to the Great Singers Fund by Joan and David Traitel.

*I Capuleti e i Montecchi* is made possible, in part, by Company Sponsors John A. and Cynthia Fry Gunn. Ms. DiDonato's appearance is made possible by a gift to the Great Singers Fund by Joan and David Traitel.

Company Sponsors John A. and Cynthia Fry Gunn are proud to support *Moby-Dick*. This production is made possible, in part, by the Carol Franc Buck Foundation, Leslie and George Hume, the Koret Foundation and Tad and Dianne Taube. Mr. Heppner's appearance is made possible by a gift to the Great Singers Fund by Joan and David Traitel.

*Lohengrin* is made possible, in part, by The Bernard Osher Endowment Fund. Nicola Luisotti's appearance made possible by Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Farrow, Chairs, Amici di Nicola of Camerata.

*Tosca* is made possible, in part, by the Burgess and Elizabeth Jamieson Fund, the Koret Foundation and Tad and Dianne Taube. Nicola Luisotti's appearance made possible by Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Farrow, Chairs, Amici di Nicola of Camerata. Ms. Gheorghiu's and Ms. Racette's appearances are made possible by a gift to the Great Singers Fund by Joan and David Traitel.

Company Sponsors John A. and Cynthia Fry Gunn are proud to support *Les Contes d'Hoffmann*. This production is made possible, in part, by The Bernard Osher Endowment Fund and The Thomas Tilton Production Fund. Ms. Dessay's and Mr. Polenzani's appearances are made possible by a gift to the Great Singers Fund by Joan and David Traitel.

*Così fan tutte* is made possible, in part, by San Francisco Opera Guild. Nicola Luisotti's appearance made possible by Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Farrow, Chairs, Amici di Nicola of Camerata.

The world premiere of *The Gospel of Mary Magdalene* is made possible, in part, by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.

San Francisco Opera simulcasts are made possible through the extraordinary technology of the Company's Koret-Taube Media Suite. A grant from the Koret Foundation provided lead funding for the Koret-Taube Media Suite, with additional support provided by Tad and Dianne Taube. *Webcor Builders Presents Opera at the Ballpark* is supported by Presenting Sponsor Webcor Builders.

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



2012–13 Season Sponsor

For further press information or to obtain 2012–13 Season announcement-related photographs, please visit [sfopera.com/press](http://sfopera.com/press) or contact:

San Francisco Opera Communications:

Jon Finck (415) 565-6472 / [jfinck@sfopera.com](mailto:jfinck@sfopera.com)

Julia Inouye (415) 565-6430 / [jinouye@sfopera.com](mailto:jinouye@sfopera.com)

Robin Freeman (415) 565-6451 / [rfreeman@sfopera.com](mailto:rfreeman@sfopera.com)

Gelane Pearson (415) 565-6470 / [gpearson@sfopera.com](mailto:gpearson@sfopera.com)

National Press Representation:

Shuman Associates (212) 315-1300 / [shumanpr@shumanassociates.net](mailto:shumanpr@shumanassociates.net)