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MEDIA ADVISORY

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SAN FRANCISCO OPERA ANNOUNCES CASTING CHANGES FOR 2014 PRODUCTIONS OF *LA TRAVIATA* AND *LA BOHÈME*

SONYA YONCHEVA WITHDRAWS FROM BOTH PRODUCTIONS DUE TO PREGNANCY

NICOLE CABELL REPLACES MS. YONCHEVA AS VIOLETTA IN JUNE 2014 PERFORMANCES OF *LA TRAVIATA* AND ALEXIA VOULGARIDOU SINGS MIMÌ IN FALL 2014 *LA BOHÈME*

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (May 2, 2014)—San Francisco Opera today announced casting changes for upcoming presentations of Giuseppe Verdi's *La Traviata* and Giacomo Puccini's *La Bohème.* Soprano **Sonya Yoncheva**, who was scheduled to appear as Violetta Valéry in six performances of *La Traviata* this summer and as Mimì in seven performances of *La Bohème* this fall, has withdrawn from the productions because she is expecting a baby.

American soprano **Nicole Cabell**, a winner of the BBC Singer of the World Competition who recently made her Company debut to great acclaim in *I Capuleti e i Montecchi*, will replace Ms. Yoncheva as Violetta in the June 2014 performances of *La Traviata* opposite Saimir Pirgu and Stephen Costello (Alfredo Germont) and Vladimir Stoyanov (Giorgio Germont). Greek soprano **Alexia Voulgaridou** will make her San Francisco Opera debut as Mimì in the November/December 2014 performances of *La Bohème* that were to have starred Yoncheva opposite Michael Fabiano as Rodolfo.

Sonya Yoncheva stated: "I am very sorry to be unable to participate in *La Traviata* with San Francisco Opera due to my pregnancy. My doctor has strictly forbidden me to travel on long-distance flights, and for this reason I feel obliged to withdraw from this production. I regret that my participation in the

November/December 2014 production of *La Bohème* must also be cancelled, as I expect to deliver my baby in October. I wish all the best to my colleagues in San Francisco for these upcoming shows and hope to work together on a future project."

Additional cast changes for this summer's *La Traviata* and this fall's *La Bohème* are also announced: Tenor **Daniel Montenegro** replaces Pene Pati in the role of Gastone for all performances of *La Traviata* and baritone and current Adler Fellow **Hadleigh Adams** will sing the role of Schaunard, replacing Adler Fellow Philippe Sly, in all performances of *La Bohème*.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Nicole Cabell, the 2005 winner of the BBC Singer of the World Competition in Cardiff and a Decca recording artist, made her San Francisco Opera debut as Giulietta in 2012's *I Capuleti e i Montecchi* and returns in June 2014 as Violetta Valéry in *La Traviata*. Her solo debut album, *Soprano,* was named "Editor's Choice" by *Gramophone* and has earned several prestigious awards, including the 2007 Georg Solti Orphée d'Or from the French Académie du Disque Lyrique and an Echo Klassik Award in Germany. Recent engagements include Adina (*L'Elisir d'Amore*) at Barcelona's Gran Teatre del Liceu and Tokyo's New National Theater; Donna Elvira (*Don Giovanni*) with Cincinnati Opera and in Tokyo; Violetta with Michigan Opera Theatre; Medora (*Il Corsaro*) with Washington Concert Opera; Giulietta with Lyric Opera of Kansas City; Countess Almaviva (*Le Nozze di Figaro*) with Montreal Opera; Pamina (*Die Zauberflöte*) with Lyric Opera of Chicago; Juliette (*Roméo et Juliette*) with Palm Beach Opera, and Leïla (*Les Pêcheurs de Perles*) at the Santa Fe Opera. Other career highlights include Micaëla (*Carmen*) at the Metropolitan Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, and Deutsche Oper Berlin; Leïla with the Royal Opera, Covent Garden and Lyric Opera of Chicago; Donna Elvira with Oper Köln and the Deutsche Oper Berlin; Musetta (*La Bohème*) at the Met, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Covent Garden, Washington National Opera, the Santa Fe Opera, and in Buenos Aires; Adina (*L'Elisir d'Amore*) and Countess Almaviva at the Lyric Opera of Chicago; and Pamina and Adina at the Met. Cabell's upcoming engagements include roles at Paris Opera and Cincinnati Opera.

Greek soprano Alexia Voulgaridou makes her San Francisco Opera debut in November 2014 as Mimì in Puccini's *La Bohème*, a role she has performed at Milan's La Scala; the Royal Opera, Covent Garden; Munich's Bavarian State Opera; the Bregenz Festival; Deutsche Oper Berlin; and in Geneva, Hamburg, and Palermo. Career highlights include Susanna (*Le Nozze di Figaro*) and Sophie (*Der Rosenkavalier*) in Munich; Micaëla (*Carmen*) and the title role of *Manon* at La Scala; the title roles of *Anna Bolena* and *Luisa Miller* at Turin's Teatro Regio; Marguerite (*Faust*) and Margarita (*Mefistofele*) at the Ravenna Festival; Amelia (*Simon Boccanegra*) in Toulouse; Marguerite in Catania and Hamburg; Nedda (*Pagliacci*),

Lucrezia (*I Due Foscari*), Blanche (*Dialogues des Carmélites*), Desdemona (*Otello*), and the title role of *Madama Butterfly* in Hamburg; Liù (*Turandot*), Micaëla, and Luisa Miller in Valencia; the title role of *La Rondine* with Opera Australia; and Donna Elvira (*Don Giovanni*) in Bordeaux. Voulgaridou's discography includes recordings of *La Bohème* from Bregenz, *La Clemenza di Tito* (Song BMG), *Turandot* (awarded "Editor's Choice" from *Gramophone*), *Dialogues des Carmélites,* and a solo recording on the Arte Nova Classics label with the Bayerisches Rundfunk Orchestra and San Francisco Opera Music Director Nicola Luisotti.

TICKETS AND INFORMATION

Single tickets for *La Traviata*, presented June 11-July 13, 2014 at the War Memorial Opera House, are priced from $24 to $379 (prices subject to change) 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 *La Bohème*, running November 14-December 7, 2014, are currently available as part of San Francisco Opera 2014–15 Season subscription ticket packages. Single tickets for *La Bohème* will go on sale beginning June 30, 2014.

Casting, programs, schedules and ticket prices are subject to change. For further information, please visit sfopera.com.

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* San Francisco Opera Debut ♪Role Debut †Current Adler Fellow ● OperaVision performance

LA TRAVIATA by Giuseppe Verdi

San Francisco Opera Production

SUMMER 2014
June 11 (7:30 p.m.), **14** (8 p.m.), **17** (8 p.m.),
20● (8 p.m.), **25●** (7:30 p.m.), **29●** (2 p.m.);
July 5 (8 p.m.), **8** (7:30 p.m.), **11** (8 p.m.),
13 (2 p.m.), **2014**

Cast:

Violetta Valéry	**Nicole Cabell** **Ailyn Pérez** (7/5), (7/8), (7/11), (7/13)
Alfredo Germont	**Saimir Pirgu** **Stephen Costello** (6/17), (6/20), (7/5), (7/8), (7/11), (7/13)
Giorgio Germont	**Vladimir Stoyanov*** **Quinn Kelsey** (7/5), (7/8), (7/11), (7/13)
Flora Bervoix	**Zanda Švēde*♪**
Annina	**Erin Johnson♪**
Gastone	**Daniel Montenegro**
Baron Douphol	**Dale Travis**
Marquis D'Obigny	**Hadleigh Adams♪**
Doctor Grenvil	**Andrew Craig Brown***

Production Team:

Conductor	**Nicola Luisotti** **Giuseppe Finzi** (7/5, 7/8, 7/11, 7/13)
Original Director	**John Copley**
Director	**Laurie Feldman**
Set Designer	**John Conklin**
Costume Designer	**David Walker**
Lighting Designer	**Gary Marder**
Chorus Director	**Ian Robertson**

LA BOHÈME by Giacomo Puccini

San Francisco Opera co-production with
Houston Grand Opera and Canadian Opera Company

FALL 2014

PRODUCTION NEW TO SAN FRANCISCO

November 14 (7:30 p.m.), **15** (7:30 p.m.), **19•** (7:30 p.m.), **20** (7:30 p.m.), **22•** (7:30p.m.), **23•** (2 p.m.), **25** (7:30 p.m.), **29•** (7:30 p.m.), **30** (2 p.m.); **December 2** (7:30 p.m.), **3** (7:30 p.m.), **5** (7:30 p.m.), **7•** (2 p.m.), **2014**

Cast:

Mimì	**Alexia Voulgaridou***
	Leah Crocetto (11/15), (11/20) (11/23), (11/30), (12/3), (12/7)
Musetta	**Nadine Sierra♪**
	Ellie Dehn (11/15), (11/20) (11/23), (11/30), (12/3), (12/7)
Rodolfo	**Michael Fabiano**
	Giorgio Berrugi*(11/15), (11/20) (11/23), (11/30), (12/3), (12/7)
Marcello	**Alexey Markov***
	Brian Mulligan (11/15), (11/20) (11/23), (11/30), (12/3), (12/7)
Colline	**Christian Van Horn**
Schaunard	**Hadleigh Adams†♪**
Benoit / Alcindoro	**Dale Travis**

Production Team:

Conductor	**Giuseppe Finzi**
Director	**John Caird***
Production Designer	**David Farley***
Lighting Designer	**Michael James Clark**
Chorus Director	**Ian Robertson**

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This press release and downloadable cast and production photographs are available at sfopera.com/press.

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