



SAN FRANCISCO
OPERA

**SAN FRANCISCO OPERA ANNOUNCES NEW STAFF APPOINTMENTS
INCLUDING RANDY KYLE, DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES;
JARROD BELL, CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER;
ERIK WALSTAD, TECHNICAL DIRECTOR;
GARY MARDER, RESIDENT LIGHTING DESIGNER**

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (September 13, 2013) – San Francisco Opera welcomes several new staff members to the Company in the 2013–14 Season, including Randy Kyle as director of human resources; Jarrod Bell as chief information officer; and two new senior production staff members: Technical Director Erik Walstad and Resident Lighting Designer Gary Marder. Also recently joining the San Francisco Opera Production Department is Assistant Technical Director Ryan O’Steen.

Randy Kyle has over fifteen years of experience as a manager, director, senior director and consultant in the human resources profession, including ten years with Bay Area nonprofits focused on education and youth development. Mr. Kyle has graduate study in human resources management from Central Michigan University and holds a senior professional in human resources credential from the Human Resources Certification Institute, a master of arts in educational leadership, a master of divinity, a master of theology, and is in the process of doctoral studies in organizational leadership and development in nonprofit organizations. Prior to joining San Francisco Opera, Mr. Kyle was a senior human resources consultant for ThinkHR, a knowledge based consultancy with 50,000 clients across the nation, and senior director of human resources at the Boys and Girls Club. Reporting to the director of finance and administration/CFO, Michael Simpson, Mr. Kyle joins the Company as human resources director on September 23 and will work closely with other members of senior management and staff to assure the effective leadership of human resources across the organization.

Jarrod Bell, San Francisco Opera Chief Information Officer, joined the Company in July 2013.

Mr. Bell comes to San Francisco Opera after more than ten years with Telwares, an IT services and network cost optimization provider working with Fortune 1000/500 companies, where he most recently served as acting chief information officer and director of information services, as well as director of business intelligence. Prior to joining Telwares, Mr. Bell served as managing partner of Incite Technology, an IT consulting firm. Reporting to the director of finance and administration/CFO, Michael Simpson, Mr. Bell is responsible for all Company-wide information system activities including all business applications, telecommunications systems and e-commerce applications, as well as defining and implementing technical strategy and business improvement strategies.

Erik Walstad began his tenure as San Francisco Opera's technical director in July 2013. Reporting to San Francisco Opera Director of Production Greg Weber, Mr. Walstad oversees all stagehand related stage and rehearsal activities associated with the construction, mounting and running of all San Francisco Opera productions. A native of northern Illinois, Mr. Walstad comes to the Company after more than six years as technical director for Cirque du Soleil's *KÀ* at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, where he oversaw the technical and safety operations for the resident theater production and the theater facility. He also served as technical director at Portland Opera in Portland, Oregon for eleven years. Mr. Walstad holds a bachelor of science in theater and drama from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, as well as a master of fine arts from the Yale School of Drama. He was the inaugural recipient of the KM Fabrics Inc. Technical Production Award, presented by the United States Institute for Theater Technology.

Gary Marder joined San Francisco Opera as resident lighting designer in March 2013. He makes his Company debut this fall with his designs for *Mefistofele*, *Der Fliegende Holländer* and *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*. His work has been seen at venues across the globe, including *The Magic Flute* in Sydney; *La Traviata* at Turin's Teatro Regio as well as in Tokyo; *The Makropulos Case* and *Samson et Dalila* at Houston Grand Opera; *Samson et Dalila*, *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, *Carmen*, *Peter Grimes*, and *Norma* at San Diego Opera; *Dialogues des Carmélites* with Palm Beach Opera; *La Clemenza di Tito* in Toronto; *Tosca* with Opera New Jersey; *Aida* at the Dallas Opera; and in Boston, Connecticut, Barcelona, and Baden Baden. Mr. Marder served as assistant resident lighting designer for the Metropolitan Opera for twelve seasons and associate resident lighting designer at New York City Opera for five years. His work in theater includes *Big River*, *The Tempest*, *Pinocchio*, and *Death of a*

Salesman; and Broadway and off-Broadway productions include *A Terrible Beauty*, *Tru*, *Grand Hotel*, *Gypsy*, and *Annie II*.

Ryan O’Steen was appointed San Francisco Opera assistant technical director in June 2013. Mr. O’Steen has worked in the Bay Area performing arts arena for more than twenty years, most recently with the Aurora Theatre Company, as the technical director/production coordinator for their 2012–13 season. Prior to that, he spent almost thirteen years with Berkeley Repertory Theatre—leaving them as the associate technical director—where he worked on many shows, including *American Idiot*, *Chinglish*, *The Composer is Dead*, *Jonestown*, *The Laramie Project*, *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*, *The Pillowman*, *Passing Strange*, *The Vibrator Play*, *Eurydice*, *Wishful Drinking*, and *The Elaborate Entrance of Chad Deity*.

About San Francisco Opera

San Francisco Opera is one of the world’s leading producers for the lyric stage heralded for its roster of international opera stars, innovative and bold productions, and critically acclaimed resident orchestra and chorus. Founded in 1923 by Gaetano Merola, the Company presents annual fall and summer seasons at the historic San Francisco War Memorial Opera House ranging from classic to world premiere repertoire, in addition to numerous concerts, recitals and free state-of-the-art community engagement events. Since 1955, the Company has been an industry leader in the training and launching of young professional singers by way of the Merola Opera Program and the San Francisco Opera Center Adler Fellowship program. In 2008, San Francisco Opera created a new education division to expand upon the popular education and community partnership programs of the San Francisco Opera Guild. Together, these activities annually bring music education offerings to more than 65,000 students throughout Northern California, in addition to providing meaningful on-going education opportunities for all ages. The Company’s performances are further enjoyed throughout the nation and abroad via radio broadcasts, high-definition cinema screenings, and on Public Television. David Gockley became San Francisco Opera’s sixth general director in January 2006 and celebrated Italian conductor Nicola Luisotti became the Company’s music director in September 2009. Visit www.sfopera.com for more information.

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