SAN FRANCISCO OPERA GUILD ANNOUNCES DETAILS OF 92ND SEASON OPENING NIGHT GALA, SEPTEMBER 5, 2014 *OPERA BALL 2014: PASSIONE*

VINCENZO BELLINI'S *NORMA* OPENS SAN FRANCISCO OPERA 2014–15 SEASON

OPERA BALL 2014 CULMINATES OPERA GUILD'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

[Cynthia L. Schreuder, Karen J. Kubin and Teresa Medearis. Photo by Drew Altizer.]

SAN FRANCISCO (June 9, 2014)—San Francisco Opera celebrates the opening of its 92nd Season on September 5, 2014 with a gala opening night highlighted by *Opera Ball 2014: Passione* and the season-opening performance of Vincenzo Bellini's bel canto masterwork *Norma* starring Sondra Radvanovsky, one of the world's leading singers of the lyric stage, in a dramatic new production conducted by Music Director Nicola Luisotti.

A highlight of the City's cultural and philanthropic season, *Opera Ball* is an extraordinary event that brings together local and national corporate, political, civic and philanthropic leaders. Proceeds from this signature fundraising event support San Francisco Opera's and San Francisco Opera Guild's award-winning education and community programs throughout the Bay Area that together reach more than 60,000 students each year. *Opera Ball 2014*, the culminating event of the Opera's Guild's

75th anniversary year celebrations, is co-chaired by Teresa Medearis and Cynthia L. Schreuder; *Opera Ball 2014* honorary chairs are Cynthia Fry Gunn and Diane B. Wilsey. Karen J. Kubin is president of San Francisco Opera Guild.

"*Opera Ball* celebrates the start of a new grand and glorious opera season," stated Opera Guild President Karen J. Kubin. "It will be a dazzling occasion, symbolic of how much San Francisco Opera is cherished as one of the most important cultural institutions in the United States. It has been the Opera Guild's honor and privilege to have supported San Francisco Opera for the last 75 years."

"We are honored to be chairing *Opera Ball*, one of our beautiful city's premier galas," remarks Teresa Medearis. "*Opera Ball* proceeds benefit much needed youth education in our community, bringing music and joy into the hearts of more than 60,000 Bay Area children. Vincenzo Bellini's *Norma* is an enthralling opera full of drama and passion made legendary by famed soprano Maria Callas. Cynthia and I drew inspiration from *Norma* to select our *Opera Ball* theme, *Passione*." "As *Norma* takes place in 50 B.C., when Julius Caesar's army was conquering Gaul," continues Cynthia L. Schreuder, "Teresa and I are transforming San Francisco City Hall into a resplendent imperial Roman palace. Once our guests step on the red carpet, they will be transported through time for a grand evening of festivities and celebration."

San Francisco's landmark City Hall will serve as the dramatic setting for *Opera Ball 2014: Passione*, designed by internationally acclaimed event stylist J. Riccardo Benavides of Ideas Event Décor & Production, who also created the Opera Guild's 75th Anniversary Holiday Dinner and *POPera!* galas earlier this season. The evening will begin at 5 p.m. as guests are escorted down a red carpet by Roman legionnaires into San Francisco City Hall for an elegant cocktail reception. Guests will then adjourn to Julius Caesar's stately imperial palace for a lavish banquet orchestrated by celebrated caterer, McCalls Catering & Events. At 8 p.m. the curtain will rise at the historic War Memorial Opera House for the season-opening performance of *Norma*. Following the dramatic conclusion of Bellini's masterwork, patrons will return to City Hall for a night of decadence with cocktails, desserts and dancing the night away to the Dick Bright Orchestra.

Opera Ball 2014 is made possible through the generous support of Opening Weekend Grand Sponsor Diane B. Wilsey, Presenting Sponsor Wells Fargo, Cocktail Reception Sponsor TriplePoint Capital, Technology & Innovation Sponsor Morrison & Foerster LLP, Youth Education Sponsor Neiman Marcus Group, Supporting Sponsor Nordstrom, Luxury Watch & Jewelry Sponsor Cartier, Benefactor Party Sponsor Baird, Luxury Automotive Sponsor Rolls-Royce Motorcars Los Gatos/Los Gatos Luxury Cars, Official Airline United Airlines, Sparkling Wine Sponsor Roederer Estate, Wine Sponsor William Hill Estate Winery, and Media Sponsors Nob Hill Gazette, Red Carpet Bay Area and Town&Country.

Vincenzo Bellini's *Norma*, starring American soprano Sondra Radvanovsky in one of opera's most demanding roles, opens San Francisco Opera's 92nd Season on September 5, 2014. Featuring "Casta Diva," one of the most sensational arias in the operatic repertoire, *Norma* tells the story of a Druid high priestess who betrays her people by falling in love with an occupying Roman soldier, only to be betrayed herself; her conflicted state of mind threatens the lives of the innocent and guilty alike. The cast also features American mezzo-soprano Daveda Karanas (Adalgisa), Italian tenor Marco Berti (Pollione), and American bass-baritone Christian Van Horn (Oroveso). Maestro Nicola Luisotti conducts the San Francisco Opera Orchestra and Chorus and stage director Kevin Newbury returns to San Francisco Opera for this vivid, large-scale new co-production with Canadian Opera Company, Barcelona's Gran Teatre del Liceu and Lyric Opera of Chicago.

Opera Ball 2014 culminates San Francisco Opera Guild's year-long 75th anniversary celebrations commemorating the success of its past, its vision for the future, and its rich tradition of enthralling and nurturing students throughout the Bay Area with its innovative K–12 arts education programs. Founded in January 1939, San Francisco Opera Guild has supported San Francisco Opera for 75 years through its fundraising efforts and by creating award-winning education programs that extend the impact of opera. Each year, the organization reaches more than 50,000 students across nearly 200 Bay Area schools. San Francisco Opera Guild also serves the community with acclaimed outreach programs for adults and families. Its six Bay Area chapters reach thousands of individuals annually through lectures and events that encourage an appreciation of opera, helping to ensure the ongoing relevance of and interest in the art form. For more information about San Francisco Opera Guild, its anniversary celebrations and its programs, visit sfoperaguild.com.

TICKETS AND INFORMATION

Tickets for *Opera Ball 2014: Passione* are priced at $1,500; $2,500; and $5,000. For further information, visit sfopera.com/operaball2014 or call (415) 565-3204. Tickets for the performance of Bellini's *Norma* (not including *Opera Ball 2014* gala) are priced separately.

Single tickets for *Norma* are priced from $30-$370 (subject to change) and may be purchased beginning June 30 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.

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Friday, September 5, 2014
War Memorial Opera House & San Francisco City Hall

Opera Ball 2014: Passione

Presented by San Francisco Opera and San Francisco Opera Guild, the evening begins in San Francisco's historic City Hall with an elegant pre-performance cocktail reception and sumptuous dinner. Guests then proceed to the War Memorial Opera House for San Francisco Opera's season-opening performance of Bellini's bel canto masterpiece *Norma*, followed by a post-performance celebration at City Hall. 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. *Opera Ball 2014* co-chairs: Teresa Medearis and Cynthia L. Schreuder. For more information call (415) 565-3204 or visit sfopera.com/operaball2014.

5 p.m.	Cocktail reception in San Francisco City Hall
6 p.m.	*Opera Ball 2014* Dinner in San Francisco City Hall
8 p.m.	Gala opening-night performance of *Norma* at the War Memorial Opera House
11:00 p.m.	Post-performance celebration with cocktails, desserts and dancing at San Francisco City Hall

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Teresa Medearis & Cynthia Schreuder /*Opera Ball 2014* Co-Chairs

A fourth-generation San Franciscan, Teresa Medearis is dedicated to supporting her community and has served on the boards of many prominent local organizations in arts and education. A prior co-chair of *Opera Ball*, she was president of San Francisco Opera Guild from 2006 to 2008 and currently serves on the board of directors of San Francisco Opera. For her contributions and leadership as a philanthropist, she has been recognized as one of "The 100 Most Influential People" in the San

Francisco Bay Area. Medearis received her B.S. in Industrial Engineering/Electrical Engineering from Stanford University, and an M.S. in Engineering Management, with a focus on entrepreneurship, from Stanford. Medearis recently completed a Stanford graduate program in bioengineering in June 2010. Her professional career in information technology encompasses over fifteen years with Hewlett-Packard in product management and business development. During her tenure at HP, she co-founded a new business venture, Secure Products Operation (SPO), and led the marketing transition team executing SPO's spin-off to Hughes Data Systems. Prior to joining HP, she held management positions with Price Waterhouse Consulting. Medearis has recently been engaged in a med tech start-up, Baxano Inc., managing its intellectual property portfolio.

Cynthia L. Schreuder is president, CEO and owner of CLS Printing Company, Inc., founded in April 1990. CLS specializes in the publishing and distribution of financial documentation regulated by the SEC and also provides printing services for variety of non-profit clients. She has a B.A. in Economics from Willamette University and a master's of International Management from the American Graduate School of International Management. Schreuder is a past president of the Arthritis Foundation Auxiliary, the University Club of San Francisco, and she serves on the board of the San Francisco Symphony League and San Francisco Opera Guild.

Riccardo Benavides / *Opera Ball 2014* Event Designer

Event stylist J. Riccardo Benavides, of Ideas Event Décor & Production, is globally known for his distinguished taste, beautiful designs, and fabulously fun events. From a small dinner party with a performance by recording legend Carole King to a 3,000 person gala entertained by actor Kevin Costner, and from San Francisco to London to Hong Kong—RiccardoBenavides' unique, sophisticated, and captivating work has made its mark. His style is imaginative, grounded in research of the latest and lasting trends coupled with his original approach, adding personal nuances of surprise and intrigue to everything he does. Benavides' clients include San Francisco Opera, San Francisco Ballet, Oracle, Genentech, Mercedes Benz, The St. Regis Hotels, Churchill Museum in London and private client parties and weddings around the world. For more information, visit ideas-events.com.

San Francisco Opera Guild

Founded in 1939 to provide arts education and support San Francisco Opera, San Francisco Opera Guild is an independent nonprofit organization that believes the life lessons drawn from creative expression are the foundation of confidence and integrity. Celebrating 75 years of offering award winning K–12 education programs and engaging community outreach programs, its mission is to give voice to potential, extending the impact of opera and bringing it center stage into the life of the community. Each year, through San Francisco Opera Guild's fundraising and education fund, more than 50,000 students in nearly 200 schools throughout Northern California find their voices, benefiting from the power of arts education as only opera can deliver. To learn more about San Francisco Opera Guild and its comprehensive education and community engagement programs, visit sfoperaguild.com.

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Company Sponsors Norby Anderson, Ann and Gordon Getty Foundation, John A. and Cynthia Fry Gunn, Franklin and Catherine Johnson, Edmund W. and Jeannik Méquet Littlefield Fund, Steven M. Menzies, Bernard and Barbro Osher, Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem, and Diane B. Wilsey are proud to support San Francisco Opera. San Francisco Opera is supported, 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 Airlines, the Official Airline of San Francisco Opera, and Chevron, fueling great performances everywhere.

Company Sponsors John A. and Cynthia Fry Gunn are proud to support *Norma*. This production is made possible, in part, by Opening Weekend Grand Sponsor Diane B. Wilsey, Thomas and Barbara Wolfe, Koret Foundation, and Tad and Dianne Taube. Major support for this production also provided by the Great Interpreters of Italian Opera Fund established by Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem. Nicola Luisotti's appearance made possible by Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem, Chairs, Amici di Nicola of Camerata. Ms. Radvanovsky's and Mr. Berti's appearances are made possible by a gift to the Great Singers Fund by Joan and David Traitel.

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

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For further press information or to obtain *Opera Ball* and 2014–15 Season–related photographs, please visit sfopera.com/press or contact:

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