



SAN FRANCISCO OPERA GUILD CELEBRATES 75th ANNIVERSARY

San Francisco (January 23, 2014) —San Francisco Opera Guild announced today that it will celebrate its 75th anniversary year with special events commemorating the success of its past, its vision for the future, and marking a rich, 75-year tradition of enthralling and nurturing students throughout the Bay Area with its innovative K-12 arts education programs. Chair of the 75th Anniversary of San Francisco Opera Guild is Katie Jarman.

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 200 Bay Area schools. Its longest-running program has alone reached 750,000 students since 1989. San Francisco Opera Guild also serves the community with acclaimed outreach programs for adults and families. Its six Chapters reach thousands of individuals annually through lectures, events and news that encourage an appreciation of the art form, helping to ensure the ongoing relevance of and interest in opera.

“For 75 years, San Francisco Opera Guild has been at the forefront of increasing awareness of and appreciation for opera,” commented San Francisco Opera Guild President Karen Kubin. “We believe that opera is a powerful educational tool for teaching the life lessons that are the foundation of confidence and integrity. We are grateful that over the years, we’ve been able to touch so many lives, helping to give voice to potential.”

San Francisco Opera Guild kicked off its celebrations on December 2, 2013 with a one-of-a-kind gala dinner set on the stage of the War Memorial Opera House. Honoring longtime Guild Director and San Francisco Chief of Protocol Charlotte Mailliard Shultz, the occasion attracted more than 200 guests whose generosity helped to underwrite key education programs that will feature in San Francisco Opera Guild’s 75th year.

San Francisco Opera Guild will continue its celebrations with two additional signature events which underpin its efforts to raise financial support for its award winning education programs.

On April 10, the organization will host “POPer,” a unique benefit event comprising of cocktails, dinner and a cabaret show starring nationally acclaimed artists performing selections from opera, Broadway and popular music. The evening will feature Grammy Award-winning soprano and Merola graduate, Deborah Voigt, who will emcee the evening in the legendary Venetian Room at the San Francisco

Fairmont Hotel. Tickets will go on sale on Monday, February 3. Sponsorship opportunities are available by contacting San Francisco Opera Guild at (415) 565-3291.

The Guild will also partner with San Francisco Opera on September 5, 2014 to host Opera Ball, marking both the opening night of the Opera's 2014-15 season and the culmination of the Guild's 75th anniversary celebrations.

San Francisco Opera General Director David Gockley said, "The Opera Guild has always played a pivotal role in helping to bring opera centerstage into the life of the community, making this wonderful art form accessible and paving the way for future generations to delight in a musical experience that only opera can deliver. From the Guild's many high-profile fundraising events and stimulating education programs, to building a dedicated corps of volunteers, San Francisco Opera salutes the Opera Guild on the occasion of this important milestone year."

For more information about San Francisco Opera Guild, its anniversary celebrations and its programs, visit www.sfoperaguild.com

About 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 whose board of directors oversees the activities of the Guild. San Francisco Opera Guild believes that 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 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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