SAN FRANCISCO OPERA GUILD EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR
2014 SUMMER CONSERVATORY PROGRAM

SAN FRANCISCO (February 25, 2014)—San Francisco Opera Guild presents its eighth annual Summer Conservatory Program June 30–July 18, 2014. This three-week inspirational opera camp for 30 students ages 10–18 features workshops for all levels exploring a range of operatic components. Each Summer Conservatory day consists of classes in voice, theory, movement, improvisation, language, music and theater history, acting, technical theater and much more. The program culminates in the students applying the skills they have learned to the rehearsal and performance of an opera.

The Summer Conservatory is a unique aspect of the Guild's comprehensive year-round arts education programming, which includes classroom workshops, school assemblies, touring performances, school curriculum-incorporated lessons, student dress rehearsals and War Memorial Opera House tours. Now celebrating its 75th anniversary year, San Francisco Opera Guild has a 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 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.

According to Opera Guild Director of Education Programs Andrew Berger, "The Summer Conservatory is an exciting opportunity for young people to have a hands-on experience with the

magic of opera. They will be working and learning in the midst of San Francisco's vibrant downtown arts district, developing artistic skills and discovering new aspects of their creative capacity. It's a program that deeply embodies the Guild's mission to give voice to potential."

San Francisco Opera Guild Summer Conservatory classes are held Monday–Friday from 9 a.m. –3 p.m. at San Francisco theater company 42nd Street Moon's headquarters in Civic Center (250 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco). In addition to the workshops and performance, the program includes a backstage tour of the War Memorial Opera House and the opportunity to attend a dress rehearsal of a main stage production from San Francisco Opera's 2014 Summer Season.

Leadership for the 2014 Summer Conservatory includes Director Caroline Altman and Music Director John-Elliott Kirk. Former San Francisco Opera Guild Director of Education and creator of the Summer Conservatory program, Caroline Altman is an award-winning composer, singer, actor and stage director. She has composed four musicals and one opera for young people, and she has been teaching for more than 20 years throughout San Francisco, New York and London. John-Elliott Kirk is a Bay Area singer, actor, accompanist and teacher. A member of the San Francisco Opera extra chorus and an adjunct faculty member at The Urban School in San Francisco, Kirk has more than 20 years of performing experience in theater, musical theater and opera as well as a long history of private vocal instruction and conducting.

Tuition for the three-week Summer Conservatory is $900, and financial aid is available. Auditions are required but no prior training is necessary. Applications are currently being accepted; early application is encouraged as the class size is limited to 30 people. For information about the application process contact 415-565-3280 or guildeducation@sfopera.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 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, the Guild's

mission is to give voice to potential by extending the impact of opera and bringing it center stage into the life of the community. Each year, the San Francisco Opera Guild reaches more than 50,000 students in 200 schools throughout Northern California, allowing them to find their voices and empowering them with arts education that 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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