



**SAN FRANCISCO OPERA OPENS 90th SEASON WITH VERDI'S *RIGOLETTO*,
CONDUCTED BY MUSIC DIRECTOR NICOLA LUISOTTI
SEPTEMBER 7–30, WAR MEMORIAL OPERA HOUSE**

**PERFORMANCES FEATURE TWO DISTINCT INTERNATIONAL CASTS INCLUDING
ŽELJKO LUČIĆ, MARCO VRATOGNA, ALEKSANDRA KURZAK,
ALBINA SHAGIMURATOVA, FRANCESCO DEMURO AND DAVID LOMELÍ**

**SAN FRANCISCO OPERA PARTNERS WITH
THE SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS AND WEBCOR BUILDERS FOR
WEBCOR BUILDERS PRESENTS OPERA AT THE BALLPARK, SEPTEMBER 15**

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT 415-864-3330 OR SFOPERA.COM

SAN FRANCISCO (August 17, 2012)— San Francisco Opera's 2012–13 Season opens on September 7 with Verdi's *Rigoletto*, the vivid and compelling story of a vengeful court jester desperately attempting to protect his daughter from disaster. Conductor Nicola Luisotti leads the San Francisco Opera Orchestra and Chorus, together with an international cast of singers including acclaimed Serbian baritone and Verdi specialist Željko Lučić in the title role, and the Company debuts of Polish soprano Aleksandra Kurzak as Gilda and Italian tenor Francesco Demuro as the Duke of Mantua. On Saturday, September 8, San Francisco Opera opens *Rigoletto* with a second renowned cast featuring Marco Vratogna, Albina Shagimuratova and David Lomelí. *Rigoletto* runs for 12 performances through September 30, alternating between the two casts of principals.

Serbian baritone Željko Lučić returns to San Francisco as *Rigoletto*, a role he has previously performed in Paris, Cologne, Madrid and Dresden; he will also perform the role this season at Milan's La Scala and the Metropolitan Opera. Lučić made his San Francisco Opera debut as Giorgio Germont in 2004's *La Traviata* and returned in 2005 as Don Carlo in *La Forza del Destino* under the baton of Nicola Luisotti. Italian baritone Marco Vratogna, who also sings the title role, returns to San Francisco Opera after recent successful appearances as Iago in 2009's *Otello* and in 2010 as Amonasro in *Aida*. Other recent engagements include Scarpia in *Tosca* at Milan's La Scala, the Vienna State Opera, and in Valencia; Iago in Frankfurt; and Renato in *Un Ballo in Maschera* in Dresden. These performances mark Vratogna's role debut as *Rigoletto*.

Polish soprano Aleksandra Kurzak makes her San Francisco Opera debut as Gilda, a role she has performed at the Metropolitan Opera, Milan's La Scala, and in Parma, Hamburg, Helsinki, and Toulouse. Later this season, she will reprise the role at Polish National Opera and at Zurich Opera. Recent operatic appearances include Juliette in *Roméo et Juliette* at the Arena di Verona, Violetta in *La Traviata* at Polish National Opera and Mimì in *La Bohème* in Naples. Russian soprano Albina Shagimuratova, who also appears as Gilda, first appeared at San Francisco Opera as the Queen of the Night in 2012's *The Magic Flute*. She returns to the Company in a role she has previously performed at Houston Grand Opera and Palm Beach Opera; she also sings the role at Lyric Opera of Chicago later this season. Other recent appearances include the title role of *Lucia di Lammermoor* with Deutsche Oper Berlin, Violetta in *La Traviata* with Houston Grand Opera and Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni* at The Glyndebourne Festival.

A native of Sardinia, tenor Francesco Demuro makes his San Francisco Opera debut as the lecherous Duke of Mantua. Demuro has previously performed this role in Hong Kong, Parma, Turin, Vienna, Beijing, and Dresden. Career highlights include Nemorino in *L'Elisir d'Amore* at Milan's La Scala and the Vienna State Opera; Rodolfo in *La Bohème* at the Vienna State Opera and in Detroit; and Alfredo Germont in *La Traviata* with Seattle Opera and in Dresden, Verona, and Santiago, Chile. He returns to San Francisco Opera in 2013 as Ferrando in *Così fan tutte*, a role he has previously performed in Tokyo. Mexican tenor David Lomelí is a former Adler Fellow who also appears as the

Duke. Lomelí made his San Francisco Opera debut in 2009 as Alfredo Germont in *La Traviata* and returned as Rinuccio in *Gianni Schicchi*. He has previously appeared as the Duke of Mantua in Toronto, Karlsruhe and most recently at the Hollywood Bowl with the Los Angeles Philharmonic. In 2013 Lomelí will sing the role again at Deutsche Oper Berlin.

San Francisco Opera Music Director Nicola Luisotti conducts the San Francisco Opera Orchestra and Chorus in this production. At San Francisco Opera, Luisotti most recently conducted Verdi's *Attila*, in a new production he also premiered at Milan's La Scala. Other recent appearances include the rarely performed *I Masnadieri* with Teatro di San Carlo in Naples, where he is also music director; *Tosca* at Teatro alla Scala; and concerts with the Cleveland and Philadelphia Orchestras and the Orquesta Nacional de España. This season at San Francisco Opera, Nicola Luisotti will also conduct Puccini's *Tosca*, Wagner's *Lohengrin* and Mozart's *Cosí fan tutte*. Opera and theater director Harry Silverstein returns to direct this San Francisco Opera production with sets designed by Michael Yeargan. The final two performances will be conducted by Resident Conductor Giuseppe Finzi.

Webcor Builders Presents Opera at the Ballpark / Saturday, September 15

Also in celebration of the new season, San Francisco Opera partners with Webcor Builders and the San Francisco Giants to present the Company's seventh free live simulcast at AT&T Park on Saturday, September 15, 2012 at 8 p.m. Verdi's *Rigoletto*, featuring a celebrated cast of singers and conducted by Nicola Luisotti, will be simulcast live from the War Memorial Opera House to AT&T Park's high-definition scoreboard. A unique opportunity for fans to enjoy the sights and sounds of San Francisco Opera in one of the nation's foremost ballparks, the Company's simulcasts at AT&T Park have drawn more than 165,000 people, many experiencing opera for the first time. *Webcor Builders Presents Opera at the Ballpark* is made possible through the extraordinary technology of the Koret-Taube Media Suite. This event marks the tenth free simulcast presented by San Francisco Opera under David Gockley's leadership.

Sung in Italian with English supertitles, the twelve performances of *Rigoletto* are scheduled for September 7 (8 p.m.), September 8 (8 p.m.), September 11 (8 p.m.), September 12 (7:30 p.m.), September 15 (8 p.m.), September 16 (2 p.m.), September 18 (8 p.m.), September 19 (7:30 p.m.), September 21 (8 p.m.), September 23 (2 p.m.), September 25 (7:30 p.m.) and September 30 (2 p.m.) 2012.

TICKETS AND INFORMATION

Tickets for performances of Verdi's *Rigoletto* at the War Memorial Opera House are priced from \$27 to \$340 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.

The War Memorial Opera House is located at 301 Van Ness Avenue at Grove Street. Patrons are encouraged to use public transportation to attend San Francisco Opera performances. The War Memorial Opera House is within walking distance of the Civic Center BART station and near numerous bus lines, including 5, 21, 47, 49 and the F Market Street. For more public transportation information, visit bart.gov and sfmuni.com.

Casting, programs, schedules and ticket prices are subject to change. For further information about *Rigoletto* and San Francisco Opera's 2012–13 season, please visit sfopera.com.

The September 15 *Webcor Builders Presents Opera at the Ballpark* simulcast at AT&T Park is free and open to the public; advance online registration assures early entrance into the ballpark for preferred seating and entry into a special prize drawing. Visit sfopera.com/simulcast to register.

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RIGOLETTO by Giuseppe Verdi

San Francisco Opera Production

WAR MEMORIAL OPERA HOUSE

September 7 (8 p.m.), **8** (8 p.m.), **11** (8 p.m.),
12 (7:30 p.m.), **15*** (8 p.m.), **16*** (2 p.m.), **18** (8 p.m.),
19* (7:30 p.m.), **21** (8 p.m.), **23*** (2 p.m.),
25 (7:30 p.m.), **30*** (2 p.m.), **2012**

Libretto by Francesco Maria Piave

Approximate running time: 2 hours, 35 minutes with one intermission

Sung in Italian with English supertitles

First Performance: Venice, March 11, 1851

First SFO Performance: October 8, 1923

Most Recent SFO Performances: October 2006

Cast:

Rigoletto

Željko Lučić

Marco Vratogna♯ (9/8), (9/12),
(9/16), (9/19), (9/23), (9/25),
(9/30)

Gilda

Aleksandra Kurzak*

Albina Shagimuratova (9/8),
(9/12), (9/16), (9/19), (9/23),
(9/30)

The Duke of Mantua

Francesco Demuro*

David Lomelí (9/8), (9/12), (9/16),
(9/19), (9/23), (9/30)

Maddalena

Kendall Gladen

Count Monterone

Robert Pomakov*

Sparafucile

Andrea Silvestrelli

Marullo

Joo Won Kang†

Matteo Borsa

Daniel Montenegro♯

Count Ceprano

Ryan Kuster†

Countess Ceprano

Laura Krumm†*

Giovanna

Renée Rapiert†*

A Page

Laura Krumm†

Usher

Jere Torkelsen

Production Team:

Conductor

Nicola Luisotti

Giuseppe Finzi (9/25), (9/30)

Director

Harry Silverstein

Set Designer

Michael Yeargan

Costume Designer

Constance Hoffman

Lighting Designer

Chris Maravich

Chorus Director

Ian Robertson

Choreographer

Lawrence Pech

* San Francisco Opera Debut † Current Adler Fellow ♯ Role Debut ● OperaVision Performance

San Francisco Opera is sponsored, in part, by the Ann and Gordon Getty Foundation, John A. and Cynthia Fry Gunn, Franklin and Catherine Johnson, Mrs. Edmund W. Littlefield, Bernard and Barbro Osher, and Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem. San Francisco Opera is sponsored, 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, the Official Airline of San Francisco Opera, and Chevron, fueling great performances everywhere.

Company Sponsors John A. and Cynthia Fry Gunn, and Mrs. Edmund W. Littlefield are proud to support *Rigoletto*. This production is made possible, in part, by Opening Weekend Grand Sponsor

Diane B. Wilsey. Major support for this production is 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. Mr. Lučić's appearance is made possible by a gift to the Great Singers Fund by Joan and David Traitel.

San Francisco Opera simulcasts are made possible through the extraordinary technology of the Company's Koret-Taube Media Suite. A grant from the Koret Foundation provided lead funding for the Koret-Taube Media Suite, with additional support provided by Tad and Dianne Taube. *Webcor Builders Presents Opera at the Ballpark* is supported by Presenting Sponsor Webcor Builders and Gold Sponsors Charles Schwab, Chevron and United.



2012–13 Season Sponsor

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Serbian baritone **ŽELJKO LUČIĆ** (Rigoletto) made his San Francisco Opera debut in 2004 as Giorgio Germont (*La Traviata*) and returned in 2005 as Don Carlo (*La Forza del Destino*). His engagements in the 2011–12 season included the title role of *Nabucco* at the Metropolitan Opera; Scarpia (*Tosca*) and Iago (*Otello*) in Frankfurt; the title role of *Rigoletto* at Paris Opera and in Cologne; Miller (*Luisa Miller*) at Munich's Bavarian State Opera; and Scarpia and Germont at the Vienna State Opera. Other recent career highlights include Count di Luna (*Il Trovatore*), Rigoletto, the title role of *Macbeth*, Michele (*Il Tabarro*), Germont, and Enrico (*Lucia di Lammermoor*, on tour) at the Met; Scarpia at Milan's La Scala; Don Carlo (*La Forza del Destino*) at the Bavarian State Opera; Nabucco in Vienna and Frankfurt; the title role of *Simon Boccanegra* in Frankfurt; *Macbeth* at the Salzburg Festival; Iago at Deutsche Oper Berlin; and Germont at the Royal Opera, Covent Garden. Lučić's other successes include *Macbeth*, Miller, and Germont at the Bavarian State Opera; Zurga (*Les Pêcheurs de perles*) and Rigoletto at Madrid's Teatro Real; Germont at the Vienna State Opera; Barnaba (*La Gioconda*) at the Met; Nabucco with the Dallas Opera; Count di Luna with the Paris Opera; and Sharpless (*Madama Butterfly*) at Covent Garden, among many others. Upcoming engagements include Rigoletto and the King's Herald (*Lohengrin*) at La Scala, Scarpia in Vienna, Rigoletto at the Met, and Simon Boccanegra and *Macbeth* in Munich.

Italian baritone **MARCO VRATOGNA** (Rigoletto) made his San Francisco Opera debut in 2009 as Iago (*Otello*) and returned in 2010 as Amonasro (*Aida*). Following his professional debut in 2000 as Stankar (*Stiffelio*) in Trieste, Vratogna has gone on to perform on the world's great stages, including Paolo Albiani (*Simon Boccanegra*) at the Teatro La Fenice in Venice and in Cagliari; Count di Luna (*Il Trovatore*) at Stuttgart State Opera and in Seville; Giorgio Germont (*La Traviata*) at Salerno's Teatro Verdi; the title role of *Macbeth* at the Teatro Comunale in Modena; the title role of *Nabucco* at Frankfurt Opera, Florence's Teatro Comunale, the Teatro Regio in Turin, and the Teatro Carlo Felice in Genoa; Tonio (*Pagliacci*) and Alfio (*Cavalleria Rusticana*) at Stuttgart State Opera; and Scarpia (*Tosca*) at the Vienna State Opera and Opera Company of Philadelphia. Recent engagements include Renato (*Un Ballo in Maschera*) and Carlo Gérard (*Andrea Chénier*) at Madrid's Teatro Real; Paolo Albiani at the Gran Teatre del Liceu in Barcelona and the Royal Opera, Covent Garden; Scarpia at Deutsche Oper Berlin; Amonasro at Bavarian State Opera and the Arena di Verona; Amonasro at Covent Garden; Jack Rance (*La Fanciulla del West*) at Lyric Opera in Chicago; Ezio (*Attila*) at Milan's La Scala; and Renato (*Un Ballo in Maschera*) in Dresden. Vratogna's 2011–12 engagements included Scarpia at La Scala,

the Vienna State Opera, and in Valencia; Iago in Frankfurt; Ezio (*Attila*) with Seattle Opera; and Renato (*Un Ballo in Maschera*) in Dresden.

A native of Poland, **ALEKSANDRA KURZAK** (Gilda) makes her San Francisco Opera debut in a role she has performed at the Metropolitan Opera, Milan's La Scala, and in Parma, Hamburg, Helsinki, and Toulouse. In 2004 she made her debuts at the Met with Olympia (*Les Contes d'Hoffmann*) and the Royal Opera, Covent Garden with Aspasia (*Mitridate, Re di Ponto*). She has since returned to the Met as Blonde (*Die Entführung aus dem Serail*) and Covent Garden as Norina (*Don Pasquale*), Adina (*L'Elisir d'Amore*), Susanna (*Le Nozze di Figaro*), Matilde (*Matilde di Shabran*), Fiorilla (*Il Turco in Italia*), and Rosina (*Il Barbiere di Siviglia*). Other career highlights include the Queen of the Night (*Die Zauberflöte*) at the Berlin State Opera; Cleopatra (*Giulio Cesare*), Adele (*Die Fledermaus*), Rosina (*Il Barbiere di Siviglia*), and Fiorilla (*Il Turco in Italia*) at Munich's Bavarian State Opera; Adina and Rosina at the Vienna State Opera; Blonde with Lyric Opera of Chicago; Violetta (*La Traviata*) in Turin; Adina in Valencia; the title role of *Lucia di Lammermoor* with Seattle Opera; Susanna at Madrid's Teatro Real; and Rosina at the Arena di Verona, among others. Recent and upcoming engagements include Violetta in Frankfurt and Warsaw; Adina and Susanna at Covent Garden; Adina, Susanna, and the title role of *La Fille du Régiment* in Vienna; Susanna and Adele (*Le Comte Ory*) at La Scala; Gretel (*Hansel and Gretel*) and Gilda at the Met; Fiordiligi (*Così fan tutte*) in Los Angeles; and Gilda in Zurich.

Russian coloratura soprano **ALBINA SHAGIMURATOVA** (Gilda) recently made her Company debut this past summer as the Queen of the Night (*The Magic Flute*). She first came to international attention as the winner of the Gold Medal in the 2007 Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow and made her European operatic debut as the Queen of the Night at the Salzburg Festival in 2008. Shagimuratova is a graduate of the Houston Grand Opera Studio, and her roles with that company include the Queen of the Night, Gilda, and Musetta (*La Bohème*). Her engagements in the 2011–12 season included the Queen of the Night at the Lucerne Festival and the Vienna State Opera, the title role of *Lucia di Lammermoor* at Deutsche Oper Berlin, and Violetta (*La Traviata*) at Houston Grand Opera. Other recent engagements include Lucia di Lammermoor in Houston; the Queen of the Night at Milan's La Scala, the Metropolitan Opera, Deutsche Oper am Rhein, Deutsche Oper Berlin, Los Angeles Opera, and the Bolshoi Opera; and Gilda with Palm Beach Opera. Upcoming engagements include Gilda with Chicago Opera Theater, Amina (*La Sonnambula*) with the Vienna State Opera, and the Queen of the Night with London's Royal Opera, Covent Garden and the Vienna State Opera.

A native of Sardinia, **FRANCESCO DEMURO** (The Duke of Mantua) makes his San Francisco Opera debut in a role he has performed in Hong Kong, Parma, Turin, Vienna, Beijing, and Dresden. He made his professional debut in Parma as Rodolfo (*Luisa Miller*) in 2007. Career highlights include Nemorino (*L'Elisir d'Amore*) at Milan's La Scala and the Vienna State Opera; Gabriele Adorno (*Simon Boccanegra*) and Leicester (*Maria Stuarda*) in Athens; Rodolfo (*La Bohème*) at the Vienna State Opera and in Bari and Detroit; the title role of *Roberto Devereux* in Las Palmas; Alfredo Germont (*La Traviata*) with Seattle Opera and in Dresden, Verona, and Santiago, Chile; Ferrando (*Così fan tutte*) in Tokyo; and Edgardo (*Lucia di Lammermoor*) in Hamburg. Recent and upcoming engagements include Rinuccio (*Gianni Schicchi*) at the Royal Opera, Covent Garden; Rodolfo with Seattle Opera; Ernesto (*Don Pasquale*) at Paris's Théâtre des Champs-Élysées; Alfredo Germont with Paris Opera, the Vienna State Opera, the Metropolitan Opera, and Covent Garden; Fenton (*Falstaff*) at La Scala; and Banquo (*Macbeth*) in Munich. Demuro returns to the Company in the summer of 2013 as Ferrando.

Mexican tenor **DAVID LOMELÍ** (The Duke of Mantua) made his San Francisco Opera debut in 2009 as Alfredo Germont (*La Traviata*), and the former Adler Fellow and alumnus of the Merola Opera Program also appeared in the Company's *Il Trittico* as Rinuccio in *Gianni Schicchi*, Harry (*La Fanciulla del West*), and a Messenger (*Aida*). As a member of Los Angeles Opera's Domingo-Thornton Young Artist Program, the tenor appeared with that company as Javier (*Luisa Fernanda*) and Rodolfo (*La Bohème*). A first prize winner of the *Operalia*

competition in both opera and zarzuela divisions, Lomelí has recently appeared as Rodolfo (*La Bohème*) at Theater Basel in Switzerland, the Santa Fe Opera, and the Glyndebourne Festival; the title role of Gounod's *Faust* with Madison Opera; Macduff (*Macbeth*) with Lille Opera; Nemorino (*L'Elisir d'Amore*) with New York City Opera; Edgardo (*Lucia di Lammermoor*) at Pittsburgh Opera and Deutsche Oper Berlin; Alfredo Germont with Houston Grand Opera and Deutsche Oper Berlin; the title role of *Werther* in Tel Aviv; and the Duke of Mantua in Toronto and Karlsruhe. Upcoming engagements include Leicester (*Maria Stuarda*) in Frankfurt; Lord Riccardo Percy (*Anna Bolena*) in Cologne; and the Duke of Mantua with Deutsche Oper Berlin.

American mezzo-soprano **KENDALL GLADEN** (Maddalena) returned to San Francisco Opera last season in the title role of *Carmen*, a role she has performed with Deutsche Oper Berlin, Los Angeles Opera, Florida Grand Opera, Michigan Opera Theatre, and Saratoga Opera. A former Adler Fellow, her past Company appearances include Mercédès (*Carmen*), a Singer (*Manon Lescaut*), Giovanna (*Rigoletto*), the Second Lady (*Die Zauberflöte*), and creating the role of Elizabeth Keckley in Philip Glass and Christopher Hampton's *Appomattox*. Other career highlights include Maddalena with Los Angeles Opera, New Orleans Opera, and for her Italian debut in Padova; Lily (*Porgy and Bess*) with Washington National Opera; Mercédès with Los Angeles Opera; Lucia (*Cavalleria Rusticana*) at Sarasota Opera; and Flora (*La Traviata*) with Opera North. As a young artist with Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, she performed the roles of the Abbess (*Suor Angelica*) and Albine (*Thaïs*). On the concert stage, Gladen has been a soloist with the San Francisco Symphony, Boston Symphony, New World Symphony, and the National Philharmonic. Recent engagements include Maddalena with Canadian Opera Company, Meg Page (*Falstaff*) with Lausanne Opera, and *Carmen* with Opera Theatre of St. Louis.

Canadian bass **ROBERT POMAKOV** (Count Monterone) makes his San Francisco Opera debut this season. His recent engagements included the Old Servant (*Iphigénie en Tauride*) and Monterone with the Canadian Opera Company; Vodnik (*Rusalka*) with Montreal Opera; Pietro (*Simon Boccanegra*) and Colline (*La Bohème*) with Los Angeles Opera; and Angelotti (*Tosca*) in Ottawa. Other career highlights include his Washington Opera debut as Leporello (*Don Giovanni*), his debut at Madrid's Teatro Real as Nikitich (*Boris Godunov*), Varlaam (*Boris Godunov*) for his debut in Brussels, and the Chamberlain (*Le Rossignol*) in a co-production with the Canadian Opera Company and Brooklyn Academy of Music. On the concert stage, he has appeared as a soloist with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Ravinia Festival, Edinburgh Festival, and Pacific Symphony, among others. Pomakov has been a prize winner in several of the world's premiere singing competitions: a finalist in the Queen Elizabeth Competition in Belgium, second place at the Belvedere Competition in Vienna, and third place at the Operalia Competition. In September 2006, he was decorated with an honorary medal from the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Bulgaria.

Italian bass **ANDREA SILVESTRELLI** (Sparafucile) made his San Francisco Opera debut as Oroveso in *Norma* (1998) and returned as Fasolt (*Das Rheingold*), Il Talpa (*Il Tabarro*) and Simone (*Gianni Schicchi*) in the Company's production of *Il Trittico*, and as Osmin (*Die Entführung aus dem Serail*). He most recently appeared with the Company as Fasolt and Hagen in the 2011 *Ring* cycle. Silvestrelli's recent career highlights include Simone and Basilio (*Il Barbiere di Siviglia*) with Los Angeles Opera; Sparafucile (*Rigoletto*) with Houston Grand Opera and Washington National Opera; Hunding and Fasolt in Seattle Opera's *Ring* cycle; and Colline (*La Bohème*), Ferrando (*Il Trovatore*), and Timur (*Turandot*) with Lyric Opera of Chicago. Other credits include Sarastro (*Die Zauberflöte*) with the Santa Fe Opera; Caronte (*Orfeo*) and Gofreddo (*Il Pirata*) at Paris's Théâtre du Châtelet; Oroveso and Fafner (*Das Rheingold*) in Turin; Lodovico (*Otello*) and the Commendatore (*Don Giovanni*) with the Royal Opera, Covent Garden, the latter of which was recorded and received a 1995 Grammy Award; Hermann (*Tannhäuser*) in Naples and Japan; and Titurel (*Parsifal*) at Florence's Maggio Musicale Festival. Silvestrelli's other recent engagements include Sarastro and Osmin with the Santa Fe Opera; Fafner with Deutsche Oper Berlin; Basilio and Sparafucile in Los Angeles; Bartolo (*Le Nozze di Figaro*) in Chicago; and his Metropolitan Opera debut as Sparafucile.

Italian conductor **NICOLA LUISOTTI** has been music director of San Francisco Opera since September 2009 and holds the Caroline H. Hume Endowed Chair. In the current season he leads performances of *Rigoletto*, *Lohengrin*, *Tosca*, and *Così fan tutte* as well as a concert with the San Francisco Opera Orchestra co-presented with Berkeley's Cal Performances. Luisotti's outside engagements during the 2012–13 season include a new production of *Nabucco* with Milan's La Scala and the Royal Opera, Covent Garden in addition to concerts with the Orchestre de Paris, La Scala's Filarmonica della Scala, Rome's Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia Orchestra, and the Teatro di San Carlo Orchestra in Naples. Earlier this year, Luisotti was appointed music director of the Teatro di San Carlo in Naples; he led Verdi's rarely performed *I Masnadieri* and a concert there this spring. Called "both an original thinker and a great respecter of tradition" by *Opera News*, Luisotti made his San Francisco Opera debut in 2005 conducting *La Forza del Destino* and has led twelve other productions with the Company. He has garnered enthusiastic praise from both audiences and critics for his work at the Royal Opera, Covent Garden; the Metropolitan Opera; Paris Opera; the Vienna State Opera; La Scala; Genoa's Teatro Carlo Felice; Venice's La Fenice; Munich's Bavarian State Opera; Madrid's Teatro Real; Los Angeles Opera; Toronto's Canadian Opera Company; Seattle Opera; Bologna's Teatro Comunale; and in Tokyo's Suntory Hall. Maestro Luisotti was awarded the 39th Premio Puccini Award in conjunction with the historic 100th anniversary of Puccini's *La Fanciulla del West* at the Metropolitan Opera, which he conducted in 2010. Equally at home on the concert stage, Luisotti served as principal guest conductor of the Tokyo Symphony from 2009 to 2012 and has established growing relationships with the orchestras of London (Philharmonia Orchestra), Genoa, Budapest, Turin, and Munich (Bavarian Radio Orchestra), as well as the Berlin Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, and the Atlanta Symphony. The conductor's expanding discography includes a complete recording of *Stiffelio* (Dynamic) with the orchestra of Trieste's Teatro Verdi and the critically acclaimed *Duets* (Deutsche Grammophon), featuring Anna Netrebko and Rolando Villazón. He is also on the podium of a DVD recording of the Met's *La Bohème*, starring Angela Gheorghiu and Ramón Vargas (EMI).

HARRY SILVERSTEIN made his San Francisco Opera directorial debut in 1989 with Philip Glass's *Satyagraha* and returned to the Company in 2006 for *Rigoletto*, in 2008 for *La Bohème*, and most recently this past summer for a new production of *The Magic Flute*. He has developed a reputation as one of the opera world's most successful interpreters of Mozart, having produced *Don Giovanni*, *Le Nozze di Figaro*, and *Così fan tutte* with Houston Opera; *Don Giovanni* and *Così fan tutte* with the Dallas Opera; *Idomeneo* with Opera Northern Ireland; and *Le Nozze di Figaro* with Daniel Barenboim at the Ravinia Festival. Silverstein is also known for his contemporary opera productions, most notably his work with Philip Glass. His collaborations with Glass include the European premiere of *The Making of the Representative for Planet Eight* at English National Opera and Netherlands Opera in Amsterdam; *Satyagraha* with Seattle Opera; *Akhnaten* with English National Opera and New York City Opera; and the South American premiere of *The Fall of the House of Usher* in São Paulo. Silverstein has also directed productions at Lyric Opera of Chicago; Victorian State Opera in Melbourne, Australia; Auckland Opera in New Zealand; and Opera Pacific. He is currently professor of music and the director of the DePaul Opera Theatre at DePaul University.

For further press information or to obtain 2012–13 Season–related photographs, please visit sfopera.com/press or contact:

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