



**SAN FRANCISCO OPERA PRESENTS PUCCINI'S *TOSCA*
NOVEMBER 15–DECEMBER 2, WAR MEMORIAL OPERA HOUSE**

**PERFORMANCES FEATURE TWO DISTINCT INTERNATIONAL CASTS HEADLINED BY
ANGELA GHEORGHIU AND PATRICA RACETTE IN THE TITLE ROLE**

**CONDUCTED BY NICOLA LUISOTTI AND ALSO STARRING MASSIMO GIORDANO,
BRIAN JAGDE, ROBERTO FRONTALI AND MARK DELAVAN**

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

SAN FRANCISCO (November 5, 2012)—San Francisco Opera presents Puccini's *Tosca*, conducted by San Francisco Opera Music Director Nicola Luisotti. Two renowned casts, headlined by Angela Gheorghiu and Patricia Racette, bring to life San Francisco Opera's elegant production designed by Thierry Bosquet and directed by Jose Maria Condemi. Also starring are Italian tenor Massimo Giordano and emerging talent Brian Jagde as Mario Cavaradossi, and Italian baritone Roberto Frontali and Mark Delavan as Baron Scarpia. The final two performances will be conducted by Resident Conductor Giuseppe Finzi. *Tosca* runs for 12 performances through December 2, alternating between the two casts of principals. This production, which was first conceived by Lotfi Mansouri in 1997, is a re-creation of Armando Agnini's *Tosca* production that opened the War Memorial Opera House in 1932. It is presented this year in correlation with the 80th anniversary of the War Memorial Opera House.

Romanian soprano Angela Gheorghiu returns to San Francisco Opera following her highly praised 2008 appearances as Mimí in *La Bohème* to star in the title role of Puccini's masterful melodrama. World renowned for her interpretations of the classic Italian operatic heroines, Gheorghiu has previously appeared as Floria Tosca at the Royal Opera, Covent Garden and Deutsche Oper Berlin. Of her performances in London, *Opera Today* commented that Tosca was "a part she seems to have been born to play." The soprano made her San Francisco Opera debut in 2007 as Magda in Puccini's *La Rondine*, a role she will reprise this season at the Royal Opera, Covent Garden.

American dramatic soprano Patricia Racette continues her more than 20-year relationship with San Francisco Opera as she returns to sing the title role of *Tosca*, a role that garnered her headlines in 2010 when she in stepped in on late notice to make her Met role debut as the doomed singer. Of that performance, the *New York Times* noted that Racette "brought a richly expressive voice and raw emotion to her wrenching portrayal of [the role]," and that "she sang with uncommon richness, expressivity and honesty." She has since reprised the role at Washington National Opera, the Ravinia Festival and again at the Metropolitan Opera. Racette most recently appeared at San Francisco Opera as Marguerite in Gounod's *Faust* in 2010 and as each of the three heroines in Puccini's triptych *Il Trittico* in 2009. She has performed in 29 mainstage productions with the Company.

Italian tenor Massimo Giordano makes his San Francisco Opera debut as the painter Mario Cavaradossi, a role he has sung previously at Paris Opera; the Vienna State Opera; Dallas Opera and the Savonlinna and Munich Festivals. He will reprise the role later this season at Deutsche Oper Berlin; the Royal Opera, Covent Garden and in Bilbao. Career highlights include the Duke of Mantua (*Rigoletto*) and Alfredo Germont (*La Traviata*) at Milan's La Scala; Rinuccio (*Gianni Schicchi*), Germont, Rodolfo (*La Bohème*) at the Metropolitan Opera; and Nemorino (*L'Elisir d'Amore*) and Roméo (*Roméo et Juliette*) at the Vienna State Opera. Emerging talent Brian Jagde returns to San Francisco Opera as Mario Cavaradossi, a role he recently debuted at the Santa Fe Opera. The third-year Adler Fellow has previously appeared with the Company as Don José in *Carmen for Families*, Janek (*The Makropulos Case*), Joe (*La Fanciulla del West*), the Messenger (*Aida*) and Vitellozo (*Lucrezia Borgia*). Other recent

engagements include Rodolfo at Syracuse Opera and Castleton Festival Opera, Pinkerton (*Madama Butterfly*) with Minnesota Opera and Virginia Opera and his European debut in the title role of *Werther* and as Macduff (*Macbeth*) for the Teatr Wielki in Poland.

Italian baritone Roberto Frontali recently appeared at San Francisco Opera as Sheriff Jack Rance in 2010's *La Fanciulla del West*. He made his Company debut as Riccardo in 1993's *I Puritani* and returns to make his role debut as the lecherous Baron Scarpia. Recent appearances include Don Carlo (*Ernani*) in Tokyo, Count di Luna (*Il Trovatore*) in Palermo and at the Capitole de Toulouse and both the title role of *Gianni Schicchi* and Michele (*Il Tabarro*) at Theater an der Wien. Mark Delavan, well-known to Bay Area audiences for his acclaimed portrayal of Wotan and the Wanderer in the Company's 2011 *Ring* cycle, returns as Baron Scarpia. The American baritone has appeared at San Francisco Opera in seventeen previous productions, including Marquis d'Obigny in *La Traviata*, Moralès in *Carmen*, The High Priest of Brahma in *L'Africaine* and a previous appearance as Scarpia in 2004's *Tosca*. He has performed the role of Scarpia at Deutsche Oper Berlin; the Royal Opera, Covent Garden; the Metropolitan Opera; Cincinnati Opera; Pittsburgh Opera and the Canadian Opera Company in Toronto, among others. Delavan will perform Wotan and the Wanderer in the *Ring* cycle at the Metropolitan Opera and Deutsche Oper Berlin in 2013.

Sung in Italian with English supertitles, the twelve performances of *Tosca* are scheduled for November 15 (7:30 p.m.), November 16 (8 p.m.), November 18 (2 p.m.), November 20 (8p.m.), November 21 (7:30 p.m.), November 24 (8 p.m.), November 25 (2 p.m.), November 27 (8 p.m.), November 28 (7:30 p.m.), November 29 (7:30 p.m.), December 1 (8 p.m.) and December 2 (2 p.m.), 2012

TICKETS AND INFORMATION

Tickets for performances of Puccini's *Tosca* at the War Memorial Opera House are priced from \$22 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 *Tosca* and San Francisco Opera's 2012–13 season, please visit sfoopera.com.

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TOSCA by Giacomo Puccini

San Francisco Opera Production

November 15[°] (7:30 p.m.), **16** (8 p.m.), **18[°]** (2 p.m.),
20 (8 p.m.), **21** (7:30 p.m.), **24[°]** (8 p.m.), **25[°]** (2 p.m.),
27 (8 p.m.), **28[°]** (7:30 p.m.), **29[°]** (7:30 p.m.);
December 1 (8 p.m.), **2[°]** (2 p.m.), **2012**

Libretto by Luigi Illica and Giuseppe Giacosa

Approximate running time: 2 hours, 40 minutes with two intermissions

Sung in Italian with English supertitles

First Performance: Rome, January 14, 1900

First SFO Performance: October 2, 1923

Most Recent SFO Performances: June 2009

Cast:

Floria Tosca

Angela Gheorghiu
Patricia Racette (11/16), (11/20),
 (11/24), (11/27), (11/29), (12/2)

Mario Cavaradossi

Massimo Giordano*
Brian Jagde† (11/16), (11/20),
 (11/24), (11/27), (11/29), (12/2)

Baron Scarpia

Roberto Frontali‡
Mark Delavan (11/16), (11/20),
 (11/24), (11/27), (11/29), (12/2)

Cesare Angelotti

Christian Van Horn
Ryan Kuster† (12/1), (12/2)

Sacristan

Dale Travis

Spoletta

Joel Sorensen

Production Team:

Conductor

Nicola Luisotti
Giuseppe Finzi (12/1), (12/2)

Director

Jose Maria Condemí

Production Designer

Thierry Bosquet

Lighting Designer

Christopher Maravich

Chorus Director

Ian Robertson

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

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This production is made possible, in part, by the Burgess and Elizabeth Jamieson Fund, the Koret Foundation, Tad and Dianne Taube, and United. Nicola Luisotti's appearance made possible by Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem, Chairs, Amici di Nicola of Camerata. Ms. Gheorghiu's and Ms. Racette's appearances are made possible by a gift to the Great Singers Fund by Joan and David Traitel.

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. OperaVision, high-definition projection screens featured in the Balcony, is made possible by the Koret-Taube Media Suite.



2012–13 Season Sponsor

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Romanian soprano **ANGELA GHEORGHIU** (Floria Tosca) made her made her San Francisco Opera debut in the title role of 2007's *La Rondine* and returned as Mimì (*La Bohème*) in 2008. She made her international debut in 1992 at Covent Garden as Mimì and in the same year made debuts at the Metropolitan Opera and at Vienna State Opera. In 1994 she appeared at Covent Garden as Violetta (*La Traviata*) in a celebrated performance that was subsequently broadcast on BBC Radio. Gheorghiu's recent appearances include Marguerite (*Faust*), Tosca, and Mimì at Covent Garden; Marguerite and Juliette (*Roméo et Juliette*) at the Met; the title role of *Adriana Lecouvreur* at Deutsche Oper Berlin and Covent Garden; and Mimì at Barcelona's Gran Teatre del Liceu and Milan's La Scala. Her first exclusive recording contract was in 1995 with Decca. The second was in 1998 with EMI, for whom she made several recordings released on CD and DVD. The latest releases include the complete opera recordings of Mascagni's *L'Amico Fritz* Giordano's *Fedora* (Deutsche Grammophon), the live performance of *La Rondine* at the Metropolitan Opera (2009), *Faust* from Covent Garden (2004), released on DVD by EMI Classics in 2011. *Adriana Lecouvreur* (a Royal Opera production recorded in 2010) was released on DVD in 2012. She holds the titles of *Officier* and *Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et Lettres* by the French Ministry of Culture, an honorary doctorate from the University of Arts in Iasi (Romania), and the Star of Romania, the highest decoration given by the by the President of Romania.

American soprano **PATRICIA RACETTE** (Floria Tosca) celebrated her twentieth anniversary with San Francisco Opera in 2009. A participant of the Adler Fellowship and Merola Opera Program, she has

sung 27 roles with the Company, including Liù (*Turandot*), Desdemona (*Otello*), Violetta (*La Traviata*), Antonia (*Les Contes d'Hoffmann*), Mimì (*La Bohème*), Mathilde (*Guillaume Tell*), Micaëla (*Carmen*); the title roles of *Luisa Miller*, *Jenůfa*, and *Madama Butterfly*; and, most recently, the three heroines of Puccini's *Il Trittico* and Marguerite (*Faust*). Other recent engagements include Tosca, Cio-Cio-San (in the celebrated Anthony Minghella production recently broadcast in HD to theaters across the globe), Leonore (*Il Trovatore*), and the three heroines (*Il Trittico*) with the Metropolitan Opera; Tosca at Houston Grand Opera and Washington National Opera; the Governess (*The Turn of the Screw*) with Los Angeles Opera; and the title role of *Kát'a Kabanová* in Washington, D.C. She has also appeared in several world premieres: as Leslie Crosbie in Paul Moravec's *The Letter* for the Santa Fe Opera in 2009; Love Simpson in Carlisle Floyd's *Cold Sassy Tree* for Houston Grand Opera; the title role of Tobias Picker's *Emmeline* at the Santa Fe Opera; and Roberta Alden in Picker's *American Tragedy* at the Met. Racette has also performed leading roles abroad at Milan's La Scala, Covent Garden, Paris Opera, the Vienna State Opera, Teatro Carlo Felice in Genoa, Bavarian State Opera, and the Maggio Musicale Festival. Her recent portrayals of Cio-Cio-San and Ellen Orford in the Met's *Peter Grimes* were captured for that company's HD series and are available on DVD.

A native of Pompey, Italian tenor **MASSIMO GIORDANO** (Mario Cavaradossi) makes his San Francisco Opera debut in a role he has performed at the Royal Opera, Covent Garden; Paris Opera; the Vienna State Opera; Deutsche Oper Berlin; and the Savonlinna and Munich Festivals. Career highlights include the Duke of Mantua (*Rigoletto*), Alfredo Germont (*La Traviata*), Des Grieux (*Manon*), and Edoardo (*Un Giorno di Regno*) at Milan's La Scala; Des Grieux, Rinuccio (*Gianni Schicchi*), Germont, Rodolfo (*La Bohème*) at the Metropolitan Opera; Fenton (*Falstaff*) at Covent Garden; Nemorino (*L'Elisir d'Amore*), Roméo (*Roméo et Juliette*), and Des Grieux at the Vienna State Opera; Roméo at Lyric Opera of Chicago; Rodolfo, Roméo, Germont and the title role of *Werther* at Munich's Bavarian State Opera; Rodolfo and Germont at Los Angeles Opera; Ernesto (*Don Pasquale*) at Venice's Teatro la Fenice; Don Ottavio (*Don Giovanni*) in Naples; and Ruggero (*La Rondine*) and Rodolfo at Rome's Teatro dell'Opera, among many others. In the past year, his performances have included the title role of *Don Carlo* at Deutsche Oper Berlin, Alfredo Germont in Hamburg, Don José (*Carmen*) in Zurich and Vienna, and Pollione in concert performances of *Norma* in France.

Tenor **BRIAN JUDGE** (Mario Cavaradossi) made his San Francisco Opera debut in 2010 as Joe (*La Fanciulla del West*) and returned as the Messenger (*Aida*), Janek (*The Makropulos Case*), Don José in *Carmen for Families*, and Vitellozo in *Lucrezia Borgia*. An alumnus of the 2009 Merola Opera Program and currently a third-year Adler Fellow, he has appeared as Rodolfo (*La Bohème*) for Syracuse Opera and made his European debut in 2010 in the title role of *Werther* and as Macduff (*Macbeth*) for the Teatr Wielki in Poland. He also appeared as Pinkerton (*Madama Butterfly*) with Virginia Opera and Rodolfo at Castleton Festival Opera. The second-prize winner at the 2012 Operalia Competition, Judge won accolades for his interpretations of Wagner and Strauss repertoires with the Birgit Nilsson Prize at that competition. He recently made his debuts with Minnesota Opera as Pinkerton and with the Santa Fe Opera as Cavaradossi. Upcoming engagements include Cavaradossi with Deutsche Oper Berlin, Rodolfo in concert performances of *La Bohème* with the Munich Philharmonic, Alfredo (*La Traviata*) with Opera Grand Rapids, and his debut in the title role of *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* with Beijing Opera.

Italian baritone **ROBERTO FRONTALI** (Baron Scarpia) made his San Francisco Opera debut as Riccardo in the 1993's *I Puritani* and returned as Sheriff Jack Rance in 2010's *La Fanciulla del West*. He made his operatic debut at the Teatro dell'Opera in Rome in Spontini's *Agnese di Hohenstaufen*. Since then, he has built a vast repertoire, with signature roles including Figaro in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*. In recent years he has devoted much of his career to Verdi, singing roles such as Rodrigo (*Don Carlos*) at the Vienna State Opera and Dresden's Saxon State Opera; Ford (*Falstaff*) at the Royal Opera, Covent Garden and La Scala; the title role of *Simon Boccanegra* at Deutsche Oper Berlin and in Bologna, Parma and Buenos Aires; Renato (*Un Ballo in Maschera*) at Florence's Teatro Comunale and in Trieste; Miller (*Luisa Miller*) at the Metropolitan Opera, Barcelona's Gran Teatre del Liceu, and Madrid's Teatro Real; and the title role of *Rigoletto* at the Met, Turin's Teatro Regio, Rome Opera, and in Madrid and Rio de Janeiro. In the past year, he has performed Don Carlo (*Ernani*) in Tokyo, Count di Luna (*Il Trovatore*) in Palermo and at the Capitole de Toulouse, the title role of *Falstaff* in Lausanne, Stankar (*Stiffelio*) in Parma, the title role of *Nabucco* in Bilbao, and both the title role of *Gianni Schicchi* and Michele (*Il Tabarro*) at Theater an der Wien.

Baritone **MARK DELAVAN** (Baron Scarpia) most recently appeared with San Francisco Opera as Wotan and the Wanderer in the 2011 *Ring* cycle, following his role debut as Wotan in Company's 2008 production of *Das Rheingold* and 2010's *Die Walküre*. The Merola Opera Program alumnus and former Adler Fellow has appeared with the Company in seventeen productions ranging from Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin* to Puccini's *La Bohème*. Career highlights include Iago (*Otello*) and Michele (*Il Tabarro*) with Los Angeles Opera; Amonasro (*Aida*) at the Metropolitan Opera; Scarpia at the Royal Opera, Covent Garden and Munich's Bavarian State Opera; Amfortas (*Parsifal*), Alfio (*Cavalleria Rusticana*), Tonio (*Pagliacci*), Giorgio Germont (*La Traviata*), and Count di Luna (*Il Trovatore*) at Lyric Opera of Chicago; Jokanaan (*Salome*) in Barcelona, Berlin, and New York; the title role of *Der Fliegende Holländer* with New York City Opera; Jack Rance (*La Fanciulla del West*) at Covent Garden; and Carlo Gérard (*Andrea Chénier*), Tomsy (*The Queen of Spades*), and Alfio at the Met. His recent engagements include Wotan (*Das Rheingold*) and the Wanderer (*Siegfried*) in Berlin; Scarpia in Toronto, Mandryka (*Arabella*) with the Santa Fe Opera, and Scarpia and the title role of *Rigoletto* in Pittsburgh. This season, Delavan will perform the roles of Giancotto (*Francesca da Rimini*) and Wotan and the Wanderer (*Ring* cycle) at Met.

American tenor **JOEL SORENSEN** (Spoletta) made his San Francisco Opera debut in 2004 as the Mosquito in Janáček's *The Cunning Little Vixen* and returned as Spoletta in 2009's *Tosca*. Since his 1994 debut with New York City Opera as Monostatos (*Die Zauberflöte*) he has performed in more than two dozen productions with that company, including *Madama Butterfly*, *Falstaff*, *Turandot*, *Salome*, *Prince Igor*, *Of Mice and Men*, *The Seven Deadly Sins*, *La Rondine*, *Les Contes d'Hoffmann*, *Il Trittico*, *Mefistofele*, and *Mathis der Maler*. Other career highlights include Goro (*Madama Butterfly*) at Atlanta Opera and Florentine Opera; Spoletta, Valzacchi (*Der Rosenkavalier*), the Dance Master (*Ariadne auf Naxos*), and Andrès, Cochenille, Pitichinaccio, and Frantz (*Les Contes d'Hoffmann*) at the Metropolitan Opera; Rodriguez (*Don Quichotte*), Tybald (*Roméo et Juliette*), Pang (*Turandot*), and Valzacchi at the San Diego Opera; and Loge (*Der Ring des Nibelungen*) and Guidobald (Schreker's *Die Gezeichneten*) at Los Angeles Opera. Sorensen can be heard on the EMI world-premiere release of Weill's *Die Bürgschaft* conducted by Julius Rudel.

American bass-baritone **DALE TRAVIS** (Sacristan) is a graduate of the Merola Opera Program and a former Adler Fellow. Since 1988 he has sung more than thirty roles at San Francisco Opera, most recently as Dr. Kolenatý (*The Makropulos Case*) and Dr. Bartolo (*Le Nozze di Figaro*). Travis is in demand at prestigious opera companies and festivals in America and abroad, including the Metropolitan Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Houston Grand Opera, Los Angeles Opera, Opera Colorado, Turin's Teatro Regio, as well as in Genoa, Tel Aviv, Berlin, and at Japan's Saito Kinen Festival. Recent engagements include Geronte (*Manon Lescaut*) and Amantio di Nicolao (*Gianni Schicchi*) at the Met; the Sacristan and Baron Zeta (*The Merry Widow*) at Lyric Opera of Chicago; and Waldner (*Arabella*) and the Sacristan with the Santa Fe Opera. Travis made his Metropolitan Opera debut in 2002 as Louis in William Bolcom's *A View from the Bridge*, a role he created in 1999 at Lyric Opera of Chicago and sang again at the Teatro dell'Opera di Roma in 2011.

American Bass-baritone **CHRISTIAN VAN HORN** (Angelotti) made his San Francisco Opera debut in 2010 as the King of Egypt (*Aida*) and returned later that fall as the Bailiff (*Werther*) and the Bonze (*Madama Butterfly*). His most recent Company appearance was as Timur (*Turandot*) in 2011. A graduate of Lyric Opera of Chicago's Ryan Center, his roles with that company include Nourabad (*Les Pêcheurs de Perles*), Brander (*La Damnation de Faust*), Crespel (*Tales of Hoffman*), and Raimondo (*Lucia di Lammermoor*). Recently, Van Horn appeared as Colline (*La Bohème*) at Bavarian State Opera and Santa Fe Opera, Zuniga (*Carmen*) at the Salzburg Österfestspiele and Berlin Philharmonic, Banquo (*Macbeth*) in Geneva, and the title role of *Le Nozze di Figaro* with Russia's Perm Opera. Other career highlights include the title role of *Le Nozze di Figaro* in Stuttgart, Colline at Los Angeles Opera, and creating the roles of Karenin in David Carlson's *Anna Karenina* with Florida Grand Opera and the Emperor in Tan Dun's *Tea: A Mirror of the Soul* at Santa Fe Opera. He appears as the Four Villains in the Company production of *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* in summer 2013.

A second-year Adler Fellow and graduate of the Merola Opera program, **RYAN KUSTER** (Angelotti, Jailer) made his San Francisco Opera debut last fall as a Mandarin (*Turandot*) and returned as Astolfo (*Lucrezia Borgia*), Masetto (*Don Giovanni*), Escamillo (*Carmen for Families*), Count Ceprano (*Rigoletto*), and a Noble (*Lohengrin*). Recent appearances include his symphonic debut as Masetto with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the title role of *Don Giovanni* with Wolf Trap Opera. Upcoming engagements include Alidoro (*La Cenerentola*) with Nashville Opera, and the Mandarin with the Dallas Opera.

A native of Dezhou, China, **AO LI** (Sciarrone) made his San Francisco Opera debut last season as Ascanio Petrucci (*Lucrezia Borgia*) and returned as Le Dancaire (*Carmen for Families*) and Lorenzo (*I Capuleti e i Montecchi*). The baritone is a second-year Adler Fellow and 2010 Merola Opera Program alumnus, where he sang the role of Belcore in their production of *L'Elisir d'Amore*. A frequent recitalist in China, Li is a past recipient of the prestigious Youth of China award, third prize in both the Shandong Qilu Style Contest and the Taipei World Chinese Vocal Competition, the bronze award in the People's Republic of China Ministry of Culture's Eighth National Vocal Competition, in addition to being selected as a member of the Young Singer in Shandong Province Tenth Television Competition, where he won an Award of Excellence.

Korean baritone **JOO WON KANG** (Jailer) is a first-year Adler Fellow who made his San Francisco Opera debut this past summer as the Second Priest in *The Magic Flute* and appeared in this fall's *Rigoletto* (Marullo), *Moby-Dick* (Captain Gardiner), and *Lohengrin* (Noble). A Merola Opera Program alumnus, he recently earned first prizes from the Gerda Lissner International Competition and the Palm Beach Opera Competition. Recently he sang Count Monterone (*Rigoletto*) and the Duke of Verona (*Roméo et Juliette*) as a member of the young artist program with Florida Grand Opera.

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 has already led performances of *Rigoletto* and *Lohengrin*, and he conducts *Tosca*, *Così fan tutte*, as well as a concert with the San Francisco Opera Orchestra co-presented with UC Berkeley's Cal Performances. Luisotti's other 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 thirteen 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.

San Francisco Opera Resident Conductor **GIUSEPPE FINZI** made his Company debut in 2008. Since then he has conducted performances of *La Bohème*, *The Abduction from the Seraglio*, *Faust*, *La Fanciulla del West*, *Aida*, *Turandot*, and *Carmen* as well as the Company's performances at the 2009, 2011 and 2012 Stern Grove Festivals. This fall he has already led performances of *Rigoletto*. A native of Bari, Italy, Finzi previously served as assistant conductor, coach, and pianist at Milan's Teatro alla Scala. He made his conducting debut in 2003 with *Tosca* at the Teatro Rendano in Cosenza and returned in 2004 for *La Traviata*. Finzi has since led productions of *L'Elisir d'Amore*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Rigoletto*, *La Traviata*, *L'Elisir d'Amore*, and *Così fan tutte* as well as concerts in Italy, Russia, Albania, South Korea, and Japan. Most recently he made his debut in Germany conducting *Carmen* at Deutsche Oper Berlin. Finzi led a master class with the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and conducted their spring production of *Così fan tutte* this past March. Upcoming engagements include: *The Nutcracker* at the Teatro San Carlo in Naples, *Rigoletto* at the Palermo's Teatro Massimo, and a new production of *Idomeneo* at the Theater Lübeck in Germany.

Artistic director of Opera Santa Barbara, **JOSE MARIA CONDEMI** has directed *Così fan tutte*, *Tosca*, *The Elixir of Love for Families*, *Faust*, *Madama Butterfly*, and *Carmen* at San Francisco Opera as well as *Suor Angelica*, *Gianni Schicchi*, *La Bohème*, and *La Cenerentola* for the Merola Opera Program. A former Adler Fellow and Merola Opera Program alumnus, his notable engagements include a new production of *Ernani*, and *Tristan und Isolde* for Lyric Opera Chicago; *Luisa Miller* for the Canadian Opera Company; *La Bohème*, *Il Trovatore* and *Orphée et Eurydice* for Seattle Opera; *Ainadamar*, *Don Giovanni*, and *La Traviata* for Cincinnati Opera; *Maria Padilla* for Minnesota Opera; *Il Trovatore* for Austin Lyric Opera; *Così fan tutte* for Atlanta Opera; and *Die Zauberflöte*, *L'Elisir d'Amore*, *Don Pasquale*, and *La Rondine* with Opera San José. Condemì's collaboration with contemporary opera composers includes directing the world premieres of Armienta's *River of Women* and *The Weeping Woman*. Upcoming engagements include *Florencia en el Amazonas* for Utah Opera, *Maria de Buenos Aires* for Florida Grand Opera, the world premiere of the San Francisco Opera commission *The Secret Garden*, a directing debut at Opera Theater of Saint Louis, and return engagements with Houston Grand Opera, Seattle Opera, and San Francisco Opera.

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

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