SAN FRANCISCO
OPERA

# SAN FRANCISCO OPERA IN PARTNERSHIP WITH EUROARTS MUSIC INTERNATIONAL AND NAXOS OF AMERICA RELEASES PRODUCTIONS OF *MOBY-DICK* AND *LUCREZIA BORGIA* ON DVD AND BLU-RAY TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29

## PBS *GREAT PERFORMANCES* TO AIR *MOBY-DICK* AS PART OF THE PBS ARTS FALL FESTIVAL ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1

October 15, 2013 (San Francisco, CA)—San Francisco Opera, as part of a new partnership with EuroArts Music International and Naxos of America, will release the Company's productions of Gaetano Donizetti's *Lucrezia Borgia* featuring Renée Fleming and the premiere recording of Jake Heggie and Gene Scheer's *Moby-Dick* on DVD and Blu-ray on October 29, 2013. Distributed world-wide by Naxos, the DVD (RRP $24.99) and Blu-Ray (RRP $39.99) releases will be available from all major retailers as well as the San Francisco Opera Shop (order forms also available at sfopera.com/OperaShop).

PBS will also feature San Francisco Opera for the first time since 2002 in a broadcast of the Company's production of *Moby-Dick* on THIRTEEN's *Great Performances* during the PBS Arts Fall Festival on Friday, November 1 at 9 p.m. (check local listings). This live-to-tape broadcast is produced by San Francisco Opera's resident production team in collaboration with WNET using San Francisco Opera's in-house high-definition media facilities.

Recorded in October 2012, Jake Heggie and Gene Scheer's universally praised *Moby-Dick*, an adaptation of Herman Melville's classic novel set for the lyric stage, features tenor Jay Hunter Morris in the role of Captain Ahab, Stephen Costello as Greenhorn, Morgan Smith as Starbuck, Jonathan Lemalu as Queequeg and Talise Trevigne as Pip. Principal Guest Conductor Patrick Summers conducts the San Francisco Opera Orchestra and Chorus. The San Francisco Opera presentation reunited composer Jake Heggie and librettist Gene Scheer with the original creative team of director Leonard Foglia, set designer Robert Brill, costume designer Jane Greenwood, video projection designer Elaine J. McCarthy and choreographer Keturah Stickann. *Moby-Dick* was co-

commissioned by San Francisco Opera in partnership with the Dallas Opera, San Diego Opera, Calgary Opera and the State Opera of South Australia, and premiered at the Dallas Opera's Winspear Opera House in April 2010.

To celebrate the premiere DVD release of *Moby-Dick*, composer Jake Heggie and conductor Patrick Summers will sign copies of *Moby-Dick* in the War Memorial Opera House main lobby on Sunday, November 3 following the matinee performance of *Der Fliegende Holländer* (*The Flying Dutchman*).

Donizetti's rarely heard bel canto gem *Lucrezia Borgia* vividly comes alive in this plush recording from October 2011 with a highly praised cast distinguished by San Francisco Opera veteran Renée Fleming in the title role, Michael Fabiano as Gennaro, Elizabeth DeShong as Maffio Orsini, and Vitalij Kowaljow as Duke Alfonso. Riccardo Frizza conducts the San Francisco Opera Chorus and Orchestra in a lavish Italian Renaissance production designed and directed by John Pascoe, originally for Washington National Opera.

Recorded live in high-definition at San Francisco's War Memorial Opera House, the DVD/Blu-ray recordings feature special bonus material including interviews with cast members, program notes, plot synopses and production photographs. *Moby-Dick* and *Lucrezia Borgia* represent the first of six operas to be released by San Francisco Opera in this new collaboration with EuroArts, with an additional four operas expected to be announced in 2014.

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The media production of *Moby-Dick* from San Francisco Opera is made possible, in part, by the generous support of Helen & Peter Bing, Ms. Joanne Bober, Margaret Boulware & Hartley Hampton, Gordon P. & Ann G. Getty, Stephen & Diane Heiman, Joan & Irwin Jacobs Fund of the Jewish Community Foundation, Eugene McDermott Foundation, Sara & Bill Morgan, Lloyd E. Rigler-Lawrence E. Deutsch Foundation, and Dr. Kenneth & Laurel Stein Duty & Devotion Memorial Fund. The filming of *Moby-Dick* from San Francisco Opera is made possible, in part, by the Koret-Taube Media Suite.

*Moby-Dick* from San Francisco Opera is a co-production of San Francisco Opera and THIRTEEN in association with WNET. Directed by Frank Zamacona, the television production is produced by Jessica Koplos and Matthew Shilvock; David Gockley is executive producer. For *Great Performances*, John Walker is producer, Bill O'Donnell is series producer and David Horn is executive producer.

*Great Performances* is a production of THIRTEEN for WNET, one of America's most prolific and respected public media providers. Throughout its 40-year history on public television, *Great Performances* has provided viewers across the country with an unparalleled showcase of the best in all genres of the performing arts, serving as America's most prestigious and enduring broadcaster of cultural programming. Over the course of its four decades, the series has been the home to the greatest artists in the areas of drama, dance, musical theater, classical and popular music, providing many with their very first television exposure.

**Media review discs –** To request press review copies of San Francisco Opera's *Moby-Dick* or *Lucrezia Borgia*, please contact San Francisco Opera Communications at press@sfopera.com.

**SAN FRANCISCO OPERA / *MOBY-DICK***

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|---|---|
| **Composer/Librettist:** | Jake Heggie/Gene Scheer<br>Based on Herman Melville's novel *Moby-Dick; or, The Whale* |
| **Conductor:** | Patrick Summers |
| **Stage Director**: | Leonard Foglia |
| **Artists:** | Jay Hunter Morris (Captain Ahab), Stephen Costello (Greenhorn), Morgan Smith (Starbuck), Jonathan Lemalu (Queequeg), Talise Trevigne (Pip); San Francisco Opera Orchestra; San Francisco Opera Chorus (Ian Robertson, Chorus Director); San Francisco Opera Dance Corps |
| **Stage Production Team:** | Robert Brill (set designer), Jane Greenwood (costume designer), Donald Holder/Gavan Swift (lighting designers), Elaine J. McCarthy (projection designer), Keturah Stickann (choreographer) |
| **Video Director:** | Frank Zamacona |
| **Recorded:** | Live at San Francisco Opera/War Memorial Opera House, October 2012 |
| **Label:** | EuroArts Music International; distributed by Naxos of America<br>A co-production of San Francisco Opera and Thirteen/WNET New York in association with EuroArts Music International. |
| **Catalogue Number:** | DVD 2059658 / Blu-ray 2059654 |
| **Running Time:** | 142 minutes; with additional bonus material (51 minutes) including artist interviews |
| **Subtitles:** | Sung in English, with English/German/French subtitles |
| **Release date:** | October 29, 2013; available at all major retailers and at the San Francisco Opera Shop (sfopera.com/OperaShop). |

**SAN FRANCISCO OPERA / *LUCREZIA BORGIA***

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| **Composer/Librettist:** | Gaetano Donizetti/Felice Romani |
| **Conductor:** | Riccardo Frizza |
| **Stage Director**: | John Pascoe |
| **Artists:** | Renée Fleming (Lucrezia Borgia), Michael Fabiano (Gennaro), Elizabeth DeShong (Maffio Orsini), Vitalij Kowaljow (Alfonso d'Este); San Francisco Opera Orchestra; San Francisco Opera Chorus (Ian Robertson, Chorus Director); San Francisco Opera Dance Corps |
| **Stage Production Team:** | John Pascoe (production designer), Jeffery Bruckerhoff (lighting designer), Lawrence Pech (choreographer) |
| **Video Director:** | Frank Zamacona |
| **Recorded:** | Live at San Francisco Opera/War Memorial Opera House, October 2011 |
| **Label:** | EuroArts Music International; distributed by Naxos of America |
| **Catalogue Number:** | DVD 2059658 / Blu-ray 2059644 |
| **Running Time:** | 127 minutes; with additional bonus material (19 minutes) including artist interviews |
| **Subtitles:** | Sung in Italian, with English/German/French/Italian/Japanese/Korean subtitles |
| **Release date:** | October 29, 2013; available at all major retailers and at the San Francisco Opera Shop (sfopera.com/OperaShop). |

For further press information or to obtain related photographs, visit sfopera.com/press or contact:
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