SAN FRANCISCO OPERA'S PRESENTATION OF JAKE HEGGIE AND GENE SCHEER'S *MOBY-DICK* TO BE TAPED FOR PBS BROADCAST ON *GREAT PERFORMANCES*

SAN FRANCISCO (October 10, 2012)— San Francisco Opera today announced plans to tape the Company's presentation of composer Jake Heggie and librettist Gene Scheer's award-winning opera *Moby-Dick*, for broadcast on PBS's *Great Performances*, a production of THIRTEEN for WNET, one of America's most prolific and respected public media partners.

This live-to-tape broadcast will be produced by San Francisco Opera's production team in collaboration with WNET using the Company's own HD media facilities to capture *Moby-Dick's* dramatic stage action and critically acclaimed musical score. While no specific broadcast air date has been scheduled at this time, it is anticipated that San Francisco Opera's presentation of *Moby-Dick* will be seen nationwide in 2013.

"After a ten-year hiatus we are delighted to be back with our first nationally televised production, greatly facilitated by our in-house Koret-Taube Media Suite and our resident production crew," said San Francisco Opera General Director David Gockley. "Jake Heggie and Gene Scheer's opera *Moby-Dick* and its stage production are distinguished achievements and we are thrilled to partner once again with *Great Performances* in getting San Francisco Opera productions out to a wider audience."

San Francisco Opera's HD taping of *Moby-Dick* for *Great Performances* will be video directed by Frank Zamacona, a veteran director of more than 42 operas for San Francisco Opera. Zamacona has also directed for Seattle Opera and the Opera Company of Philadelphia.

The Bay Area premiere of *Moby-Dick* begins this evening, Wednesday, October 10 at the War Memorial Opera House with seven additional performances through November 2. San Francisco Opera Principal Guest Conductor Patrick Summers leads a vocally resplendent cast of singers including Jay Hunter Morris, Stephen Costello, Jonathan Lemalu, Morgan Smith, Talise Trevigne, Matthew O'Neill and Robert Orth, in a production directed by Leonard Foglia and designed by Robert Brill, Jane Greenwood, Gavan Swift and Elaine J. McCarthy. All performances feature the San Francisco Opera Orchestra and Chorus, Ian Robertson Chorus Director. Composed in two acts and sung in English, Heggie and Scheer's work is based on Herman Melville's novel *Moby-Dick; or, The Whale*.

Commissioned by the Dallas Opera and produced in partnership with San Francisco Opera, San Diego Opera, Calgary Opera and the State Opera of South Australia, *Moby-Dick* premiered at the Dallas Opera in April 2010. Most recently, on September 24, *Moby-Dick* was named "Best Opera" and Leonard Foglia was named "Best Director of an Opera" at the 2012 Helpmann Awards for Performing Arts in Australia—that country's highest awards recognizing distinguished artistic achievement and excellence in live performance.

San Francisco Opera's broadcast history with *Great Performances* includes national telecasts of *Samson et Dalila, L'Africaine, Mefistofele, Turandot, Dangerous Liaisons*, San Francisco Opera 75th Anniversary Gala Celebration Concert, *A Streetcar Named Desire* and *The Merry Widow*.

In 2012, WNET is celebrating the 50th Anniversary of THIRTEEN, New York's flagship public media provider. As the parent company of THIRTEEN and WLIW21 and operator of NJTV, WNET brings quality arts, education and public affairs programming to more than 5 million viewers each week. WNET produces and presents such acclaimed PBS series as *Nature, Great Performances, American Masters, Need to Know, Charlie Rose* and a range of documentaries, children's programs, and local news and cultural offerings available on air and online. Pioneers in educational programming, WNET has created such groundbreaking series as *Get the Math, Oh Noah!* and *Cyberchase* and provides tools for educators that bring compelling content to life in the classroom and at home. WNET highlights the tri-state's unique culture and diverse communities through *NYC-ARTS, Reel 13*, *NJ Today* and the new online newsmagazine *MetroFocus*.

Major support for *Great Performances* is provided by the Irene Diamond Fund, The National Endowment for the Arts, Vivian Milstein, The Starr Foundation, the LuEsther T. Mertz Charitable Trust, The Agnes Varis Trust, The Philip and Janice Levin Foundation, and PBS.

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, Ms. Eleanor Caulkins, Ann & Gordon Getty Foundation, Stephen & Diane Heiman, Joan & Irwin Jacobs, The Eugene McDermott Foundation, Bill & Sara Morgan, Jamie Rigler, Classic Arts Showcase, and Dr. Kenneth & Laurel Stein Duty and Devotion Memorial Fund.

Moby-Dick from San Francisco Opera is a co-production of San Francisco Opera and THIRTEEN in association with WNET. For "Great Performances," David Horn is executive producer. The filming of *Moby-Dick* from San Francisco Opera is made possible, in part, by the Koret-Taube Media Suite.

San Francisco Opera presents *Moby Dick* as part of the Company's 2012-13 Season. For more information, visit www.sfopera.com.

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