

# SAN FRANCISCO OPERA'S *THE MAGIC FLUTE, SALOME, IL TRITTICO* AND *OTELLO* AIR ON KQED PUBLIC TELEVISION BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 20, 2012

# Frederica von Stade Hosts Third Season of San Francisco Opera's Broadcast Series on KQED 9

SAN FRANCISCO (September 10, 2012)—San Francisco Opera returns to KQED, Northern California's preeminent public television station, with a new series of grand operas recorded live in high definition at the historic War Memorial Opera House. Airing on four consecutive Thursday evenings at 8 p.m. on KQED 9 beginning September 20, San Francisco Opera's productions of Mozart's *The Magic Flute,* Strauss' *Salome,* Puccini's *Il Trittico* and Verdi's *Otello* feature an array of international opera stars, including Patricia Racette, Nadja Michael, Ewa Podleś, Piotr Beczala, Brandon Jovanovich, Johan Botha and Paolo Gavanelli. Now in its third season, the upcoming series is hosted by celebrated mezzo-soprano and arts advocate Frederica von Stade.

The Magic Flute, Salome, Il Trittico and Otello are presented in their original languages with English subtitles. All productions include the acclaimed San Francisco Opera Chorus and Orchestra. Special educational materials connected to *The Magic Flute* and *Otello* are available on the San Francisco Opera website at <a href="mailto:sfopera.com/fluteresources">sfopera.com/fluteresources</a> and <a href="mailto:sfopera.com/otelloresources">sfopera.com/otelloresources</a>. These programs will repeat the following night and following Monday at 7 p.m. on KQED Life. The operas will also be available through Comcast On Demand for seven days after the initial air date. Visit <a href="mailto:kqed.org/opera">kqed.org/opera</a> or check local listings for a complete broadcast schedule.

San Francisco Opera's broadcast series on KQED TV begins **September 20** with Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's **The Magic Flute**. Filled with ritual and symbolism, Mozart's masterpiece is a playful yet profound look at the human quest for love, wisdom and virtue. Donald Runnicles

conducts an enchanting cast headed by acclaimed lyric tenor Piotr Beczala as Tamino and soprano Dina Kuznetsova as Pamina. The cast also features Erika Miklósa as the Queen of the Night, baritone Christopher Maltman as Papageno, and bass Georg Zeppenfeld as Sarastro. Directed by Stanley Garner, the production is designed by artist Gerald Scarfe, whose captivating vision of *The Magic Flute* features a menagerie of fantastical creatures and a 30-foot-tall pyramid that morphs as the opera's plot unfolds. [Recorded live at the War Memorial Opera House, Fall 2007.]

Richard Strauss' biblical drama *Salome* is presented *September 27*. Inspired by the Oscar Wilde play of the same name, the story of Salome and her lecherous stepfather Herod has shocked opera audiences since its first performance. Starring in the title role is soprano Nadja Michael, who has sung the role to great acclaim at the Royal Opera, Covent Garden and Milan's La Scala. Tenor Kim Begley sings the role of King Herod, with bass-baritone Greer Grimsley as Jokanaan (John the Baptist), mezzo-soprano Irina Mishura as Herodias and tenor Garrett Sorenson as Narraboth. *Salome* is directed by Seán Curran and conducted by San Francisco Opera Music Director Nicola Luisotti. [Recorded live at the War Memorial Opera House, Fall 2009.]

The series continues **October 4** with Giacomo Puccini's complete triptych *Il Trittico*. A trio of one-act operas that runs the gamut from heart-wrenching tragedy to sparkling comedy, *Il Trittico* stars soprano Patricia Racette, one of the premiere American dramatic sopranos of our time, as the heroine in each of *Il Trittico's* three one-act operas—*Il Tabarro, Suor Angelica* and *Gianni Schicchi*. The cast also features baritone Paolo Gavanelli, tenor Brandon Jovanovich, contralto Ewa Podleś and bass Andrea Silvestrelli. San Francisco Opera Principal Guest Conductor Patrick Summers leads these performances and James Robinson directs this inventively updated production. [Recorded live at the War Memorial Opera House, Fall 2009.]

Giuseppe Verdi's masterwork *Otello* airs **October 11**. Considered one of Verdi's greatest operas, *Otello* is based on Shakespeare's play of the same name. Starring in the title role of the flawed warrior Otello is tenor Johan Botha, one of today's preeminent interpreters of the role. Soprano Zvetelina Vassileva sings the role of Otello's faithful and falsely accused wife Desdemona, and Italian baritone Marco Vratogna is the manipulative soldier lago. Rounding out the cast is tenor Beau Gibson (Cassio), mezzo-soprano Renée Tatum (Emilia) and bass Eric Halfvarson (Lodovico). The

production is directed by Stephen Barlow and conducted by San Francisco Opera Music Director Nicola Luisotti. [Recorded live at the War Memorial Opera House, Fall 2009.]

### SAN FRANCISCO OPERA ON KQED PUBLIC TELEVISION

The Magic Flute, Salome, Il Trittico and Otello on KQED 9
BROADCAST SCHEDULE –

# Mozart's *The Magic Flute*:

- \* KQED 9: Thursday, Sept 20, 2012, 8:00 p.m.
- \* KQED 9: Friday, Sept 21, 2012, 2:00 a.m.
- \* KQED Life: Friday, Sept 21, 2012, 7:00 p.m.
- \* KQED Life: Saturday, Sept 22, 2012, 1:00 a.m.
- \* KQED Life: Monday, Sept 24, 2012, 7:00 p.m.
- \* KQED Life: Tuesday, Sept 25, 2012, 1:00 a.m.

#### R. Strauss' Salome:

- \* KQED 9: Thursday, Sept 27, 2012, 8:00 p.m.
- \* KQED 9: Friday, Sept 28, 2012, 2:00 a.m.
- \* KQED Life: Friday, Sept 28, 2012, 7:00 p.m.
- \* KQED Life: Saturday, Sept 29, 2012, 1:00 a.m.
- \* KQED Life: Monday, Oct 1, 2012, 7:00 p.m.
- \* KQED Life: Tuesday, Oct 2, 2012, 1:00 a.m.

#### Puccini's *Il Trittico*:

- \* KQED 9: Thursday, Oct 4, 2012, 8:00 p.m.
- \* KQED 9: Friday, Oct 5, 2012, 2:00 a.m.
- \* KQED Life: Friday, Oct 5, 2012, 7:00 p.m.
- \* KQED Life: Saturday, Oct 6, 2012, 1:00 a.m.
- \* KQED Life: Monday, Oct 8, 2012, 7:00 p.m.
- \* KQED Life: Tuesday, Oct 9, 2012, 1:00 a.m.

## Verdi's Otello:

- \* KQED 9: Thursday, Oct 11, 2012, 8:00 p.m.
- \* KQED 9: Friday, Oct 12, 2012, 2:00 a.m.
- \* KQED Life: Friday, Oct 12, 2012, 7:00 p.m.
- \* KQED Life: Saturday, Oct 13, 2012, 1:00 a.m.
- \* KQED Life: Monday, Oct 15, 2012, 7:00 p.m.
- \* KQED Life: Tuesday, Oct 16, 2012, 1:00 a.m.

To view complete listing information about San Francisco Opera on KQED Public Television, visit <a href="kqed.org/opera">kqed.org/opera</a>. For more information about San Francisco Opera's KQED TV broadcast series, and to view video clips of these operas, visit sfopera.com/Watch-Listen/TV-Broadcasts.aspx.

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The third season of San Francisco Opera's broadcast series on KQED Public Television coincides with the opening of the Company's 90 th Season on September 7, 2012. The broadcast series is one of the many electronic media initiatives launched under the direction of General Director David Gockley. These include the Company's *Grand Opera Cinema Series*, national and international radio broadcast series, and free live simulcasts of San Francisco Opera productions. San Francisco Opera's cinemacasts and simulcasts are made possible through the technology of the Company's Koret-Taube Media Suite, the first permanent HD broadcast-standard video production facility installed in an American opera house. A grant from the Koret Foundation provided lead funding for the Koret-Taube Media Suite, with additional support provided by Tad and Dianne Taube. An anonymous donor committed the remaining required funding.

KQED has served Northern California for more than 50 years and is affiliated with NPR and PBS. KQED owns and operates public television stations KQED 9 (San Francisco/Bay Area), KQED Plus (San Jose/Bay Area) and KQET 25 (Watsonville/Monterey); KQED Public Radio (88.5 FM San Francisco and 89.3 FM Sacramento); the interactive platforms <a href="kqed.org">kqed.org</a> and <a href="kQEDnews.org">KQEDnews.org</a>; and KQED Education. KQED Public Television is the producer of local and national series such as <a href="kquest">QUEST</a>; Check, Please! Bay Area; This Week in Northern California; Truly CA; and Essential Pépin. KQED's digital television stations include KQED 9, KQED Plus, KQED Life, KQED World, KQED Kids and KQED V-me, and are available 24/7 on Comcast. KQED Public Radio, home of Forum and The California Report, is one of the most-listened-to public radio stations in the nation with an award-winning news and public affairs program service delivering more than eighteen local weekday newscasts and news features. KQED Interactive provides KQED's cross-platform news service, <a href="kQEDnews.org">kQEDnews.org</a>, as well as several popular local blogs, video and audio podcasts, and a live radio stream at <a href="kqed.org">kqed.org</a>. KQED Education brings the impact of KQED to thousands of teachers, students, parents and the general public through workshops, community screenings and multimedia resources.

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This press release and downloable photographs of *The Magic Flute, Salome, Il Trittico* and *Otello* are available at <a href="mailto:sfopera.com/press">sfopera.com/press</a>.

For further press information, please contact San Francisco Opera Communications:

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