

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE PRESENTS
 SAN FRANCISCO OPERA IN THE PARK
 36th ANNIVERSARY

Sunday, September 13th, 2009, 1:30pm Sharon Meadow, Golden Gate Park

Sopranos: Leah Crocetto, Sondra Radvanovsky
 Mezzo-soprano: Daniela Mack; Contralto: Ewa Podles
 Tenors: Marco Berti, Brandon Jovanovich, David Lomeli,
 Baritone: Quinn Kelsey; Bass: Andrea Silvestrelli
 with Nicola Luisotti, Music Director of San Francisco Opera, conducting
 the San Francisco Opera Orchestra
 Kay Stern, Concertmaster

Master of Ceremonies: David Gockley, General Director of San Francisco Opera

Time

2:00 THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

7:30 LA FORZA DEL DESTINO Verdi
 Overture Orchestra

7:30 IL TROVATORE Verdi
 Tacea la notte placida . . . Di tale amor Sondra Radvanovsky

Leonora serenely remembers that “the night was peaceful and silent” when she first heard the singing of the troubadour who won her heart. Then she joyfully declares that words alone cannot express the love she feels.

7:30 Deserto sulla terra . . . Di geloso amor Sondra Radvanovsky, Marco Berti, and Quinn Kelsey

The troubadour Manrico serenades beneath Leonora’s window, but his bitter rival Count di Luna overhears. In the darkness she mistakes the Count for Manrico, provoking a jealous outburst. In fury the two men draw swords and challenge each other to a duel.

5:00 THE ITALIAN GIRL IN ALGIERS Rossini
 Cruda sorte Ewa Podles

Shipwrecked and taken captive, the plucky Isabella at first bemoans her “cruel fate,” but quickly pulls herself together, confident that she can handle her captors. After all, what all men really want is a beautiful woman to make them happy.

4:45 THE BARBER OF SEVILLE Rossini
 La calunnia Andrea Silvestrelli

The crafty Don Basilio explains how a slanderous rumor can destroy an enemy, starting as a tiny whisper but gradually growing into a roaring explosion, leaving the hapless opponent lying crushed in the dust.

3:30: LA CENERENTOLA (CINDERLLA) Rossini
 Non più mesta Daniela Mack

Cinderella has become the Prince’s bride, and she sets off some vocal fireworks to celebrate how quickly her life has changed. She’ll no longer sing sadly by the fireplace as she sweeps out the cinders. That life is gone like a passing dream.

8:00 IL TROVATORE Verdi
 Ah, si, ben mio . . .Di quella pira Marco Berti

About to marry Leonora before going off to battle, Manrico assures her that his love for her will endure even beyond the grave. Then, learning that his mother has been captured by the enemy, who plan to execute her, he boldly rallies his men to hurry off to the rescue.

42:30 *first half*

INTERMISSION

4:30 IL TROVATORE Verdi Quinn Kelsey
Il balen del suo sorriso

Count di Luna plans to abduct Leonora before she can fulfill her wish to enter a convent. About to launch his daring plan, he fervently declares that the “brilliant flash of her smile” awakens his love and gives him new courage.

3:35 THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO Mozart Daniela Mack
Voi che sapete

The lovesick teenage pageboy Cherubino is just discovering girls, and asks the Countess and her maid Susanna to explain the strange new sensations he is feeling: he trembles and sighs, burns and freezes, and is filled with inexplicable desires.

8:30 LUCIA DI LAMMERMOOR Donizetti Leah Crocetto
Regnava nel silenzio . . . Quando rapita in estasi

Lucia emotionally recalls how “then night reigned in silence” when she saw the ghost of a murdered maiden. But her mood quickly changes as she thinks of her beloved Edgardo, who makes her feel “enraptured in ecstasy” when he speaks to her of love.

4:40 MANON LESCAUT Puccini Orchestra
Intermezzo

4:30 LA BOHÈME Puccini David Lomeli
Che gelida manina

The penniless poet Rodolfo meets Mimì when she knocks at his chilly garret seeking to light her candle. Clutching her “freezing hand” to warm it in his own, he tells her of his life and dreams, confessing that her beautiful eyes give him newfound hope.

2:30 GIANNI SCHICCHI Puccini Leah Crocetto
O mio babbino caro

Lauretta begs her father Gianni Schicchi to let her marry Rinuccio, though the boy’s arrogant family insultingly disapproves of the match. Playing on her father’s sympathies, she tearfully threatens to drown herself if he doesn’t take pity on her.

7:00 LA BOHÈME Puccini David Lomeli, Quinn Kelsey
O Mimi, tu più non torni

The painter Marcello and the poet Rodolfo put up a brave front with one another as they laughingly pretend not to care about their recent break-ups with their respective girlfriends Musetta and Mimi. But quietly to themselves they express their sadness and heartbreak.

5:00 TOSCA Puccini Brandon Jovanovich
E lucevan le stelle

Awaiting execution for treason, Mario thinks of his love for Tosca, recalling that “the stars were shining” during one of their passionate moments together. He bitterly regrets that his life must end just when he cherishes it the most.

3:00 [encore] not in printed program
“O sole mio” De Capua All Singers

2’30” LA TRAVIATA Verdi Sondra Radvanovsky, Marco Berti,
Libiamo ne’lieti calici and tutti

second half : 45 (with encore repeated)
TOTAL MUSIC: 90:30 total music