



**SAN FRANCISCO OPERA OPENS 88TH SEASON WITH VERDI'S *AIDA*,  
CONDUCTED BY MUSIC DIRECTOR NICOLA LUISOTTI  
SEPTEMBER 10, WAR MEMORIAL OPERA HOUSE**

**OPENING NIGHT FESTIVITIES INCLUDE SAN FRANCISCO OPERA GUILD'S  
*OPERA BALL 2010* AND BRAVO! CLUB'S *OPENING NIGHT GALA***

**FALL 2010 FREE COMMUNITY EVENTS INCLUDE  
*SAN FRANCISCO OPERA IN THE PARK*, SEPTEMBER 12, GOLDEN GATE PARK AND  
*WEBCOR BUILDERS PRESENTS OPERA AT THE BALLPARK*, SEPTEMBER 24, AT&T PARK**

SAN FRANCISCO (July 16, 2010)—San Francisco Opera opens its 2010–11 Season on Friday, September 10 at the historic War Memorial Opera House with Giuseppe Verdi's *Aida*, featuring Micaela Carosi, Dolora Zajick, Marcello Giordani and Marco Vratogna. Music Director Nicola Luisotti conducts the San Francisco Opera Orchestra and Chorus in a magnificent production by British fashion designer Zandra Rhodes. A highlight of the City's fall cultural season, San Francisco Opera's opening-night festivities include San Francisco Opera Guild's *Opera Ball 2010* and BRAVO! CLUB's *Opening Night Gala*.

The opening week celebration continues on Sunday, September 12 with a beloved Bay Area tradition: the annual *San Francisco Opera in the Park* at Sharon Meadow in Golden Gate Park. This free concert features singers from the Fall 2010 Opera Season with the San Francisco Opera Orchestra conducted by Nicola Luisotti.

The opening of the Fall Opera Season is also highlighted by *Webcor Builders Presents Opera at the Ballpark* on Friday, September 24. San Francisco Opera partners with the San Francisco Giants and Webcor Builders once again to bring grand opera to AT&T Park, home of the San Francisco Giants baseball team. One of the Bay Area's most anticipated community events, this unique admission-free evening of entertainment features the Company's production of *Aida*, conducted by Maestro Luisotti and broadcast live

in high definition (HD) from the stage of the War Memorial Opera House to the 103-foot wide scoreboard over the outfield of AT&T Park.

*Opera Ball 2010 / Friday, September 10*

San Francisco Opera Guild kicks off the San Francisco philanthropic season on Friday September 10 with *Opera Ball 2010*, co-chaired by Charlot Malin and Mary Poland. Hailed as one of the City's most glamorous cultural events, *Opera Ball* raises funds for San Francisco Opera and San Francisco Opera Guild's education programs while treating guests to an exceptional evening of food, beverages and world-class entertainment. The event begins at 5 p.m. with an elegant cocktail reception and sumptuous dinner created by renowned Chef Lucas Schoemaker of McCall Associates served in the elegant Beaux-Arts style rotunda of San Francisco City Hall. After dinner, guests will enjoy the season-opening performance of Verdi's *Aida* at the War Memorial Opera House at 8 p.m. The evening culminates with desserts and dancing under the rotunda at City Hall to live musical entertainment. This entire evening will be designed by VanWyck & VanWyck, a leading event production firm based in New York City that is famous for incorporating whimsical details and stunning theatrical elements to their designs.

*BRAVO! CLUB's Opening Night Gala / Friday, September 10*

BRAVO! CLUB, San Francisco Opera's group of young professionals dedicated to building a new audience for opera, presents its 19th annual opening night gala on Friday, September 10, co-chaired by Jane Burkhard and Anjelika Koulebakina. BRAVO! CLUB begins the evening at 5 p.m. with a pre-performance hors d'oeuvres and sparkling wine reception under the soaring arched windows on the 4th floor of San Francisco City Hall. Dinner will follow featuring an exotic menu created by McCall Associates and paired with local wines. After dinner, guests will enjoy San Francisco Opera's performance of Verdi's dazzling Egyptian love story, *Aida*, at the War Memorial Opera House. The evening concludes back at City Hall with dancing to both a live band and the music of DJ Aykut, with delectable desserts by McCall Associates and spirits from SKYY Vodka. The evening will be designed by VanWyck & VanWyck of New York City, famous for their green designs and hip productions, notably including Sean "Diddy" Combs' recent 40th birthday party.

*Giuseppe Verdi's Aida / Friday, September 10*

San Francisco Opera's 2010–11 Season opens with Giuseppe Verdi's classic masterpiece *Aida*. A compelling tale of conflicting loyalties and forbidden passions, this spectacular production, previously seen at Houston Grand Opera and English National Opera, is designed by renowned fashion designer Zandra

Rhodes and directed by Jo Davies. Of the production, General Director David Gockley explains that “Zandra’s work is pure theater, just like she is. It’s bigger than life and full of fantasy.” It’s perfect for making a big impact in a venue the size of ours”. The cast features Italian soprano Micaela Carosi making her Company debut in the title role, Verdian mezzo-soprano and former Adler Fellow Dolora Zajick as Amneris and Marcello Giordani making his role debut as Radames. Returning after his highly-praised performance in last season’s *Otello* is Marco Vratogna as Amonasro; baritone Hao Jiang Tian returns to San Francisco Opera as Ramfis after his 2008 Company debut as Chang the Coffinmaker in *The Bonesetter’s Daughter*. Music Director Nicola Luisotti leads the San Francisco Opera Orchestra and Chorus.

*San Francisco Opera in the Park / Sunday, September 12*

San Francisco Opera’s opening weekend festivities continue with *San Francisco Opera in the Park* on Sunday, September 12 at 1:30 p.m. in Golden Gate Park’s Sharon Meadow. A cherished tradition of San Francisco Opera’s season opening, the annual *Opera in the Park* concert features singers from the Company’s Fall 2010 Season and the San Francisco Opera Orchestra conducted by Maestro Luisotti. The concert draws thousands of music lovers each year, many of whom enjoy the occasion with elaborate picnics on the lawn. Artists will be announced at a later date.

*Webcor Builders Presents Opera at the Ballpark / Saturday, September 24*

San Francisco Opera partners with the San Francisco Giants and Webcor Builders once again to bring grand opera to AT&T Park, home of the San Francisco Giants baseball team on Friday, September 24 at 8 p.m. This free live simulcast of Giuseppe Verdi’s *Aida* features Micaela Carosi, Dolora Zajick, Marcello Giordani and Marco Vratogna and is conducted by Music Director Nicola Luisotti. Conceived by David Gockley as a way to further the Company’s community involvement, San Francisco Opera’s four previous simulcasts at AT&T Park have allowed nearly 100,000 music lovers to experience grand opera for free in one of San Francisco’s most beautiful locations. Through state-of-the-art technology made possible by the Koret-Taube Media Suite, these simulcasts are transmitted in high definition (HD) to AT&T Park’s 103-foot wide scoreboard—one of the highest quality outdoor scoreboards in the nation—live from the stage of the War Memorial Opera House. Concert quality audio combined with AT&T Park’s huge screen creates an unmatched operatic experience for attendees sitting in the stands and on the baseball field. Traditional baseball game concessions are available, providing audiences the rare opportunity to eat hot dogs, peanuts and popcorn while enjoying glorious opera.

## **TICKETS AND INFORMATION**

Tickets for San Francisco Opera Guild's *Opera Ball 2010* are \$850 (SOLD OUT), \$1,500, \$2,500 and \$5,000 and may be purchased at [www.sfopera.com/guild](http://www.sfopera.com/guild) or by calling (415) 565-3204.

Tickets for BRAVO! CLUB'S *Opening Night Gala*, which include performance tickets, are priced from \$375 to \$500 and may be purchased at [www.sfopera.com/bravo](http://www.sfopera.com/bravo). A BRAVO! CLUB membership fee of \$60 is required to attend the *Opening Night Gala*.

Tickets for the performance of Verdi's *Aida* (not including opening night galas) are priced from \$25 to \$320 and may be purchased at [www.sfopera.com](http://www.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 September 12 *San Francisco Opera in the Park* concert at Sharon Meadow in Golden Gate Park is free, no tickets are required. For more information, visit [www.sfopera.com](http://www.sfopera.com) or call (415) 864-3330.

The September 24 *Webcor Builders Presents Opera at the Ballpark* simulcast at AT&T Park is free and open to the public; advance online registration assures early entrance into the ballpark for preferred seating and entry into a special prize drawing. Visit [www.sfopera.com/simulcast](http://www.sfopera.com/simulcast) to register.

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## **SAN FRANCISCO OPERA 88TH SEASON OPENING CELEBRATIONS**

### **OPERA BALL 2010**

**Friday, September 10**

A highlight of the City's cultural and philanthropic season, San Francisco Opera Guild's *Opera Ball 2010* begins with an elegant pre-performance cocktail reception and sumptuous dinner followed by the season-opening performance of Verdi's *Aida* and dancing at San Francisco City Hall. *Opera Ball* raises funds to benefit San Francisco Opera and the Opera Guild's education and community programs. Co-chairs: Charlot Malin and Mary Poland. For tickets or more information about *Opera Ball 2010*, call (415) 565-3204.

5 p.m.            The black-tie evening begins with a cocktail reception and dinner at San Francisco City Hall  
8 p.m.            Opening night performance of *Aida* at the War Memorial Opera House  
11 p.m.            Guests adjourn to San Francisco's historic City Hall for dessert and dancing to live musical entertainment

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**BRAVO! CLUB'S 19TH ANNUAL OPENING NIGHT GALA****Friday, September 10**

Join BRAVO! CLUB's young professionals as they kick off the season in style with a glamorous pre-performance cocktail reception and seated dinner at City Hall followed by the season-opening performance of *Aida* and post-performance dancing. Co-chairs: Jane Burkhard and Anjelika Koulebakina. Tickets are available only to current BRAVO! CLUB members. For tickets and membership information, email [bravoclub@sfoopera.com](mailto:bravoclub@sfoopera.com) or call (415) 565-3285.

5 p.m. The celebration begins with a cocktail reception and dinner at San Francisco City Hall  
 8 p.m. Opening night performance of *Aida* at the War Memorial Opera House  
 11 p.m. Festivities continue with dessert, live music and dancing at San Francisco City Hall

**AIDA** by Giuseppe Verdi**Co-production with English National Opera and Houston Grand Opera****PRODUCTION NEW TO SAN FRANCISCO**  
**September 10** (8 p.m.), **16** (7:30 p.m.), **19** (2 p.m.),  
**24** (8 p.m.), **29** (7:30 p.m.); **October 2** (8 p.m.),  
**6** (7:30 p.m.), **2010**

Libretto by Antonio Ghislanzoni

Approximate running time: 3 hours with one intermission

Sung in Italian with English supertitles

First Performance: Cairo, December 24, 1871

First SFO Performance: October 3, 1925

Most Recent SFO Performances: June 2001

**Cast:***Aida**Amneris**Radames**Amonasro**Ramfis**King of Egypt**Priestess**Messenger***Micaela Carosi\*****Dolora Zajick****Marcello Giordani J****Marco Vratogna****Hao Jiang Tian****Christian Van Horn\*****Leah Crocetto†****David Lomeli†****Production Team:***Conductor**Director**Production Designer**Lighting Designer**Original Choreographer**Revival Choreographer**Chorus Director***Nicola Luisotti****Jo Davies\*****Zandra Rhodes****Christopher Maravich****Jonathan Lunn****Lawrence Pech****Ian Robertson**

\* San Francisco Opera Debut † Current Adler Fellow • OperaVision performance

**SAN FRANCISCO OPERA IN THE PARK****Sunday, September 12 at 1:30 p.m.**

Sharon Meadow, Golden Gate Park

A cherished tradition of San Francisco Opera's opening week, the annual *Opera in the Park* concert features arias and operatic excerpts performed by artists from San Francisco Opera's 2010 Fall Season, accompanied by the acclaimed San Francisco Opera Orchestra conducted by new music director Nicola Luisotti. The concert draws thousands of music lovers each year, many of whom enjoy the occasion with elaborate picnics on the lawn. This concert is free, no tickets are required. For more information visit [www.sfoopera.com/park](http://www.sfoopera.com/park)

**WEBCOR BUILDERS PRESENTS  
OPERA AT THE BALLPARK**

**Friday, September 24 at 8 p.m.**  
AT&T Park, 24 Willie Mays Plaza

Baseball and opera fans alike have the rare opportunity to enjoy world-class opera in the beautiful and convivial outdoor setting of AT&T Park as San Francisco Opera continues its highly successful partnership with the San Francisco Giants and Webcor Builders to present Verdi's *Aida*. This event is free and open to the public; advance online registration assures early entrance into the ballpark for preferred seating and entry into a special prize drawing. Visit [sfopera.com/simulcast](http://sfopera.com/simulcast) to register.

**About San Francisco Opera Guild**

San Francisco Opera Guild was founded in 1939 to provide educational programs to the community and to support San Francisco Opera. Each year, over 50,000 young people in more than 200 schools are introduced to opera through the work of the Guild, which strives to make opera accessible to everyone by taking its programs into schools, hospitals, senior centers and theaters, as well as sponsoring special rehearsals in the War Memorial Opera House. San Francisco Opera Guild's Endowment Campaign, "A Gift for All Seasons," was established to provide the funding and resources necessary to continue bringing opera education to young people throughout Northern California. A professionally managed endowment account was established in 1995, which generates income that goes directly to the continued support of such programs as Opera à la Carte, Sing a Story, and Student Dress Rehearsals. To learn more about San Francisco Opera Guild, visit [sfopera.com/guild](http://sfopera.com/guild).

**About BRAVO! Club**

San Francisco Opera's BRAVO! CLUB is a group of young adults dedicated to building a new audience for San Francisco Opera. Founded in 1991, BRAVO! CLUB has an annual membership of over 500 Bay Area professionals and hosts a variety of educational and performance-related events in support of San Francisco Opera. If you enjoy opera, BRAVO! CLUB offers you a chance to experience San Francisco Opera with other arts lovers aged 21–40. To learn more about BRAVO! CLUB visit [sfopera.com/bravo](http://sfopera.com/bravo).

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Wells Fargo is San Francisco Opera's Season Sponsor. San Francisco Opera is proud to recognize its corporate partners: United Airlines, the Official Airline of San Francisco Opera, and Chevron, fueling great performances everywhere.

*Aida* is made possible, in part, by Opening Weekend Grand Sponsor Diane B. Wilsey. Additional support provided by United Airlines.

San Francisco Opera simulcasts are made possible through the extraordinary technology of the Company's Koret-Taube Media Suite. A grant from the Koret Foundation provided lead funding for the Koret-Taube Media Suite, with additional support provided by Tad and Dianne Taube. *Webcor Builders Presents Opera at the Ballpark* is supported by Presenting Sponsor Webcor Builders, Platinum Sponsor Charles Schwab and Gold Sponsor Chevron and United Airlines. Funding for this simulcast is made possible by an Excellence Award from The Wallace Foundation.

Opera in the Park is made possible, in part, by Opening Weekend Grand Sponsor Diane B. Wilsey. Additional support provided by the William and Gretchen Kimball Fund. Platinum Sponsor Charles Schwab and Silver Sponsor Kaiser Permanete Thrive.

Yamaha is the official piano of San Francisco Opera. Pianos provided by Music Exchange.



2010–11 Season Sponsor

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