



SAN FRANCISCO
OPERA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**SAN FRANCISCO OPERA DEDICATES THE
2007 OPERA IN THE PARK CONCERT
TO THE MEMORY OF LUCIANO PAVAROTTI**

SAN FRANCISCO—San Francisco Opera and the *San Francisco Chronicle* will dedicate the 34th annual *San Francisco Chronicle Presents San Francisco Opera in the Park* concert to the memory of Luciano Pavarotti. The internationally renowned tenor made his San Francisco Opera debut in 1967 as Rodolfo in Puccini's *La Bohème* and sang fifteen productions with the Company over a period of more than two decades, in addition concert and recital appearances. Pavarotti, a beloved figure with his trademark white handkerchief, made three legendary appearances at Opera in the Park: in 1973, 1975 and 1979. His final operatic performances with the Company were in 1988, also as Rodolfo, however he appeared one last time in San Francisco for a concert performance in 1991.

“It’s perfectly appropriate for us to celebrate the memory of Luciano Pavarotti at Opera in the Park,” said David Gockley, general director of San Francisco Opera. “Not only did he have one of the most beautiful lyric tenor voices of our time, he had a down-to-earth personality and a huge passion for bringing opera to the people. Luciano’s larger-than-life persona and the warmth of his spirit, combined with his natural gifts and his love of singing, inspired an entire generation of opera fans, and nowhere more than here in San Francisco.”

San Francisco Opera’s former general director Lotfi Mansouri, who directed Pavarotti in numerous productions in San Francisco and elsewhere, commented, “Luciano began singing regularly in San Francisco long before he became world-famous, and he immediately won the hearts of our audience and vice versa. The fact that he chose to make his role debuts in such important parts as Manrico, Calaf and Radames here at the War Memorial is testimony to how much he felt at home here.”

Luciano Pavarotti was a frequent and popular performer at San Francisco Opera from the start. He made role debuts as Riccardo in Verdi's *Un Ballo in Maschera* (1971), Fernando in Donizetti's *La Favorita* (1973), Rodolfo in Verdi's *Luisa Miller* (1974), Manrico in Verdi's *Il Trovatore* (1975), Calaf in Puccini's *Turandot* (1977), Enzo Grimaldi in Ponchielli's *La Gioconda* (1979) and Radames in Verdi's *Aida* (1981). During his performances here in 1981, he also gave a special concert at the Civic Center to benefit the earthquake-devastated Italian town of Morra de Sanctis. His performances in *La Gioconda* (1979), *Aida* (1981), and *La Bohème* (1988) were recorded and televised internationally.

He was at home working with the Company and was quoted, in 1984, as saying “This [San Francisco] is my second hometown. Musically, it is my first.”

Luciano Pavarotti’s Performance History at San Francisco Opera

YEAR	OPERA / PRODUCTION	ROLE
1967	<i>La Bohème</i>	Rodolfo
1968	<i>Lucia di Lammermoor</i>	Edgardo
1969	<i>La Bohème</i>	Rodolfo
1969	<i>L'Elisir d'Amore</i>	Nemorino
1971	<i>Un Ballo in Maschera</i>	Riccardo*
1972	<i>Lucia di Lammermoor</i>	Edgardo
1973	<i>La Favorita</i>	Fernando*
1973	Opera in the Park	
1974	<i>Luisa Miller</i>	Rodolfo*
1975	<i>Il Trovatore</i>	Manrico*
1975	Opera in the Park	
1977	<i>Turandot</i>	Calaf*
1978	<i>Tosca</i>	Cavaradossi
1979	<i>La Gioconda</i> †	Enzo Grimaldi*
1979	Opera in the Park	
1981	<i>Aida</i> †	Radames*
1982	<i>Un Ballo in Maschera</i>	Gustavus III (Riccardo)
1983	Recital	
1984	Concert	
1988	<i>La Bohème</i> †	Rodolfo
1991	Concert	

*Role debut

†Televised internationally

San Francisco Chronicle Presents San Francisco Opera in the Park

A cherished tradition of San Francisco Opera's opening week, *San Francisco Chronicle Presents San Francisco Opera in the Park* was established by Kurt Herbert Adler in 1971. The free event is open to the public and regularly attracts tens of thousands of music lovers. In the event's time-honored finale, the audience joins with the singers in a rousing rendition of the drinking song ("Libiamo ne' lieti calici") from Verdi's *La Traviata*.

The 2007 Opera in the Park concert, which takes place September 9 in Golden Gate Park's Sharon Meadow, features an array of acclaimed artists from San Francisco Opera's 2007-08 season performing arias and ensembles. Music Director and Principal Conductor Donald Runnicles will conduct the San Francisco Opera Orchestra. Singers for the event will include Dwayne Croft, Oren Gradus, Eric Halfvarson, Rhoslyn Jones, Petra Lang, Brian Leerhuber, Heidi Melton, James Rutherford, Chad Shelton, Andrew Shore, Elza van den Heever, and Ji Young Yang.

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