SAN FRANCISCO OPERA'S *TOSCA*, *PORGY AND BESS* AND *DON GIOVANNI* RETURN TO SUNDANCE KABUKI CINEMAS MARCH, APRIL & MAY 2014

SAN FRANCISCO (February 21, 2014)—San Francisco Opera partners with Sundance Cinemas to present HD screenings of the Company's acclaimed productions of Puccini's *Tosca*, George and Ira Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's *Don Giovanni* at the Sundance Kabuki Cinemas in San Francisco. The Monday evening (7:15 p.m.) screenings begin March 3 with *Tosca* and continue in April and May 2014.

These screenings mark the return of three favorite San Francisco Opera presentations which have shown at the Sundance Kabuki Cinemas as part of the Company's *Grand Opera Cinema Series.* The series focuses on distributing San Francisco Opera presentations to arts centers, independent film theaters, universities and other venues in the Western region of the country and around the world. Titles from San Francisco Opera's *Grand Opera Cinema Series*—which at this time includes 16 operas—have been presented by theaters in Washington, Oregon, Arizona, Nevada and California as well as in 14 countries throughout Europe and in Mexico.

The series begins on March 3 with Giacomo Puccini's *Tosca*. A fierce melodrama set to magnificent music, *Tosca* brings to life a tempestuous world of cruelty and deception through the tragic story of Floria Tosca, a beautiful yet volatile singer; Mario Cavaradossi, the idealistic painter that she loves; and Baron Scarpia, an amoral police chief who uses his power to satisfy his lecherous appetite. Canadian soprano Adrianne Pieczonka appears in the title role opposite tenor Carlo Ventre as Cavaradossi and baritone Lado Ataneli as Baron Scarpia. Italian conductor Marco Armiliato leads the

San Francisco Opera Orchestra and Chorus and Jose Maria Condemi directs this San Francisco Opera production recorded in 2009.

The series continues on April 21 with George and Ira Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*, based on the play by Dubose and Dorothy Heyward. A turbulent story of love found and lost, *Porgy and Bess* is a quintessentially American masterpiece highlighted by almost a dozen of Gershwin's most recognizable melodies, including "Summertime," "I Got Plenty o' Nuttin'" and "It Ain't Necessarily So." Bass-baritone Eric Owens, who was recently featured on the Metropolitan Opera's 2013 Grammy Award-winning recording of *Der Ring des Nibelungen*, and soprano Laquita Mitchell headline the cast as Porgy and Bess, an unlikely couple who manage to find love amidst the squalor of Catfish Row. The cast also features Lester Lynch as Crown, Karen Slack as Serena, Chauncey Packer as Sportin' Life and Eric Greene as Jake. Francesca Zambello directs her acclaimed production from 2009 and John DeMain conducts.

The series concludes on May 26 with Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's *Don Giovanni*. The Don Juan legend crackles to life in the hands of one of the world's most beloved composers. Cannily balancing comedy and tragedy, Leah Hausman directs this riveting San Francisco Opera/Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie co-production by David McVicar, conducted by Donald Runnicles in 2007. The cast features leading baritone Mariusz Kwiecien in the title role, with soprano Elza van den Heever as Donna Anna, soprano Twyla Robinson as Donna Elvira, tenor Charles Castronovo as Don Ottavio and bass Oren Gradus as Leporello.

Recorded live in high definition at San Francisco's historic War Memorial Opera House, all shows include English subtitles and a brief intermission with behind the scenes interviews. All performances feature the San Francisco Opera Orchestra and San Francisco Opera Chorus (Ian Robertson, Chorus Director).

Tickets for San Francisco Opera's *Grand Opera Cinema Series* at the Sundance Kabuki Cinemas are priced at $12 for adults and $10.25 for seniors plus a $2 amenity fee. Screenings are available only for patrons age 21 and over; light food, snacks and alcoholic beverages are available for purchase at the Sundance bistro and bar and may be brought into the theater. Tickets for reserved seats are

available via sundancecinemas.com and at the Sundance Kabuki Box Office. For more information about Sundance Kabuki Cinemas, visit sundancecinemas.com or call (415) 346-3243.

For more information about San Francisco Opera's *Grand Opera Cinema Series*, including additional theaters screening the series, and further information and video clips of *Porgy and Bess, Aida, Boris Godunov* and *Lucrezia Borgia*, visit sfopera.com/cinemaseries.

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San Francisco Opera's simulcasts and cinemacasts 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.

SAN FRANCISCO OPERA'S *GRAND OPERA CINEMA SERIES* AT THE SUNDANCE KABUKI CINEMAS, MARCH-MAY 2014

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INFORMATION: For more information about Sundance Kabuki Cinemas, visit sundancecinemas.com or call (415) 346-3243. For more information about San Francisco Opera's *Grand Opera Cinema Series* and to view video clips of these operas, visit sfopera.com/cinemaseries.

San Francisco Opera's *Tosca* in HD

Monday, March 3 at 7:15 p.m.
Sung in Italian with English subtitles

Sundance Kabuki Cinemas
1881 Post Street, San Francisco

A fierce melodrama set to magnificent music, Puccini's *Tosca* brings to life a tempestuous world of cruelty and deception through the tragic story of Floria Tosca, a beautiful yet volatile singer; Mario Cavaradossi, the idealistic painter that she loves; and Baron Scarpia, an amoral police chief who uses his power to satisfy his lecherous appetite. Canadian soprano Adrianne Pieczonka appears in the title role opposite tenor Carlo Ventre as Cavaradossi and baritone Lado Ataneli as Baron Scarpia. Italian conductor Marco Armiliato leads the San Francisco Opera Orchestra and Chorus and Jose Maria Condemi directs. This San Francisco Opera production, which was first conceived by Lotfi Mansouri and Production Designer Thierry Bosquet, is a re-creation of Armando Agnini's *Tosca* production that opened the War Memorial Opera House in 1932. [Recorded live at the War Memorial Opera House, Summer 2009]

San Francisco Opera's *Porgy and Bess* in HD

Monday, April 21, 2014 at 7:15 p.m.
Sung in English with English subtitles

Sundance Kabuki Cinemas
1881 Post Street, San Francisco

A turbulent story of love found and lost, George and Ira Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*, based on the play by Dubose and Dorothy Heyward, is a quintessentially American masterpiece. Bass-baritone Eric Owens and soprano Laquita Mitchell headline the cast as Porgy and Bess alongside Lester Lynch as Crown, Karen Slack as Serena, Chauncey Packer as Sportin' Life and Eric Greene as Jake. Francesca Zambello directs her acclaimed production and John DeMain conducts.
[Recorded live at the War Memorial Opera House, Summer 2009]

San Francisco Opera's *Don Giovanni* in HD

Monday, May 26 at 7:15 p.m.
Sung in Italian with English subtitles

Sundance Kabuki Cinemas
1881 Post Street, San Francisco

Leading baritone Mariusz Kwiecien sings the title role of Mozart's Don Juan setting in this riveting San Francisco Opera/Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie co-production conceived by director David McVicar and production designer John McFarlane. The cast features sopranos Elza van den Heever (Donna Anna) and Twyla Robinson (Donna Elvira), mezzo-soprano Claudia Mahnke (Zerlina), tenor Charles Castronovo (Don Ottavio), basses Oren Gradus (Leporello) and Kristinn Sigmundsson (Commendatore), and bass-baritone Luca Pisaroni (Masetto). Conducted by Donald Runnicles and directed by Leah Hausman. [Recorded live at the War Memorial Opera House, Summer 2007]

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This press release and downloadable photographs of *Tosca*, *Porgy and Bess* and *Don Giovanni* are available at sfopera.com/press.

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