



SAN FRANCISCO
OPERA

**SAN FRANCISCO OPERA TO PARTNER WITH EUROARTS MUSIC INTERNATIONAL
FOR TELEVISION AND HOME VIDEO DISTRIBUTION OF HIGH-DEFINITION
SAN FRANCISCO OPERA PRODUCTIONS**

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (May 7, 2013)—San Francisco Opera today confirmed plans to forge a business partnership with EuroArts Music International, one of the world’s leading and most prestigious distributors of classical programming, for international television and home video distribution of high-definition San Francisco Opera productions.

Initial plans include the release of six San Francisco Opera productions—recorded live in high definition at the War Memorial Opera House—over two years on DVD and Blu-ray and international television distribution beginning later this year. The partnership also includes the possibility of future co-productions between San Francisco Opera and EuroArts Music International. Further details, including opera titles and release dates, will be announced at a later date.

“Today’s announcement that we have signed a partnership with EuroArts is an important step forward for San Francisco Opera as we continue to expand our global profile and showcase some of the many wonderful live performances from the historic War Memorial Opera House,” said San Francisco Opera General Director David Gockley. “EuroArts is recognized as one of the world’s leading distributors of classical arts programming for television and home video, and there was no question that San Francisco Opera should align itself with the best. I’m very proud of this new relationship and anticipate audiences worldwide will be the true beneficiary.”

Bernd Hellthaler, CEO and Executive Producer at EuroArts Music International, said: "We are thrilled to be working with the San Francisco Opera. It is a privilege to add these sumptuously produced

performances to our portfolio of first-class opera productions. Internationally recognized as one of the top opera companies in the world, San Francisco Opera is the ideal partner to work with us on the TV distribution and release on DVD and Blu-ray disc of these splendid programs.”

San Francisco Opera’s media history includes telecasts of classic productions including *La Gioconda* with Renata Scottò and Luciano Pavarotti; *Samson et Dalila* with Shirley Verrett and Plácido Domingo; and *La Bohème* with Mirella Freni and Luciano Pavarotti in the late 1970’s and 1980’s. More recently, televised broadcasts have featured world-premiere operas such as Conrad Susa’s *The Dangerous Liaisons* and André Previn’s *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Beginning in 2007, under the leadership of General Director David Gockley, the Company launched a series of major initiatives in the electronic media arena including the Koret-Taube Media Suite, the first permanent high-definition broadcast-standard video production facility installed in an American opera house, and the return of regular San Francisco Opera broadcasts to local, national, and international radio after a break of 25 years via Classical KDFC Radio and the WFMT Radio Network. Gockley also began annual free live simulcasts of San Francisco Opera performances in the Bay Area which to date have drawn nearly 200,000 people, many experiencing opera for the first time. In 2008, the Company launched its digital cinema series of high-definition performances recorded live at the War Memorial Opera House; to date, 16 San Francisco Opera titles have been released as part of the Company’s *Grand Opera Cinema Series*. Regular San Francisco Opera broadcasts also returned to public television beginning in 2010 through the Company’s partnership with KQED Public Television 9.

About EuroArts Music International

EuroArts Music International was founded in 1979 by Bernd Hellthaler. Soon, the company became internationally renowned for the production and distribution of audio-visual classical music recordings, acclaimed documentaries, opera and ballet films, and jazz as well as other music and art programs for TV and home video. Today the company sells the catalogues of EuroArts Music, Berlin and Idéale Audience, Paris as well as Arthaus Musik (TV only), BBC Legends and BBC Classic Archive Programs. It is active in TV licensing to more than 150 clients in 40 countries around the world, in DVD and audio distribution, as well as in distribution of digital files and other internet applications. The EuroArts Label distributes its catalog with more than 400 titles worldwide through its international distribution network partner Naxos Global.

EuroArts Music’s Berlin-based production department has built a reputation for the highest artistic standards and innovation. Multi-camera music events have been produced in countries throughout the world—it was the first company to do a live broadcast to 50 European cinemas of a concert and in 2010 started the first 3D production in Germany in cooperation with Context and Sony for

“Lang Lang – The Third Dimension (Berghain, Berlin)”. Other 3D music performance films include the “Berliner Philharmoniker - A Musical Journey in 3D”, recorded at the Esplanade Theatres on the Bay in Singapore and Tchaikovsky’s “The Nutcracker in 3D” from the Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg. The company’s new sound productions include the first HD audio on Blu-ray disc.

Since 1990, EuroArts Music has had a close cooperation with the Berlin Philharmonic on prestigious events such as the annual Europa Konzert and New Year’s Eve concerts. The Company has also forged exclusive or long lasting relationships with conductors including Sir Simon Rattle, Valery Gergiev, Claudio Abbado, and Daniel Barenboim; and artists such as Martha Argerich, Andrés Schiff, Lang Lang and Yuja Wang.

The company’s numerous awards include the Oscar® (for the co-production of “Journey of Hope”), a Peabody Award and Grammy Award Nomination (for “Blue Note – A Story of Modern Jazz”), the Emmy Award (for “Robbie Robertson” and for “Knowledge is the Beginning”), the Grammy Award (for “Kurt Weill’s Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny”), the National Education Award, two German ECHOs and various national and international prizes. For more information about EuroArts Music International, visit euroarts.com.

#####

San Francisco Opera’s media initiatives are made possible, in part, by the generous support of John A. and Cynthia Fry Gunn. 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.

For further press information, contact San Francisco Opera Communications –
Jon Finck (415) 565-6472 / jfinck@sfoopera.com
Julia Inouye (415) 565-6430 / jinouye@sfoopera.com