

# SD OPERA Media Release

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## **San Diego Opera Announces “A Night to Dream” The Company’s 2022 Midsummer Gala**

***Honoring Sherry and Kevin Ahern for their contributions  
to the San Diego Community***

***Features performance by star of this season’s *Così fan  
tutte*, bass-baritone Reginald Smith, Jr.***

***Saturday, June 4, 2022 at 6 PM  
The Hilton La Jolla Torrey Pines***

**San Diego, CA** – San Diego Opera is honored to announce “A Night to Dream,” the Company’s 2022 midsummer gala that will honor the contributions to the community by **Sherry and Kevin Ahern** while featuring a private performance by Grammy-award winning opera star **Reginald Smith, Jr.** who dazzled audiences in his Company debut this season in *Così fan tutte*.

“A Night to Dream” will be held on **Saturday, June 4, 2022 at 6 PM at the Hilton La Jolla Torrey Pines**. Chaired by **Rebecca and Mitch Mitchell**, the evening will feature a champagne reception, al fresco dining on the beautiful grounds of the hotel, performances by singers Reginald Smith, Jr., Tasha Koontz, and Ted Pickell, and a program with live auction and a paddle raise.

The Gala this year is chaired by Soraya and Hank Alexander, Sarah Almujaheed and Dallin Young, Laura and Rick Bregman, Amy and Reid Carr, Adam and Suzi Day, Lucy Labruzzo, Jason Paguio and Rebecca Maxwell, Dan Ryan, Chris and Jennifer Wahl, Cassandra Weinlein and James Hauser, and Tony and Jacqueline Young

Each year, San Diego Opera identifies honorees who exhibit leadership, positively affect people's lives, and demonstrate a deep commitment to fulfilling our mission - to deliver exceptional vocal performances and exciting, accessible programs to diverse audiences, focusing on community engagement and the transformative power of live performance. We are profoundly grateful for the generosity and dedication of Sherry and Kevin Ahern.

#### About Sherry and Kevin Ahern

With a lifelong love of poetry, arts and music, Sherry and Kevin have been champions of San Diego Opera for over ten years. As dedicated philanthropists and respected leaders, they have invested their time into giving back to the community they love. As Chairman and CEO of the company he founded, Ahern Agribusiness, Inc., Kevin envisioned new possibilities for the cross-border relationship of San Diego County and Mexico, with special focus on accelerating the growth of agri-business. While serving on the SDO Board of Directors, Kevin played an important role in influencing many of the Hispanic initiatives that have created a lasting change in our community. By forming unique partnerships, Kevin propelled SDO's commitment to accessing diverse audiences and providing a lasting cultural service.

In addition to her support of SD Opera, Sherry is an advocate for many organizations in San Diego, graciously giving her time and talents to raise financial support and awareness. Twenty-three years ago, Sherry successfully founded the La Jolla Open Aire Farmers Market that takes place every Sunday. All monies are donated to La Jolla Elementary School. And fourteen years ago, she founded The La Jolla Art & Wine Festival that takes place every October. All monies are donated to the five public schools. Sherry is involved with and has been the recipient of The Women of Dedication award as well as Women of the Year for City of Hope, Volunteer of the Year for the La Jolla Kiwanis, Town Council Hometown Heroes and Volunteer of the Year 2021 for Diabetes Research Connection to name a few.

Sherry and Kevin have stood by San Diego Opera every step of the way, especially during the two years when our stages fell silent. We thank Sherry and Kevin for their unmatched service and generosity.

#### About Rebecca and Mitch Mitchell

Gala chairs Rebecca and Mitch Mitchell love to teach, motivate and inspire! San Diego Opera recognizes their shared and individual efforts in serving the city of San Diego. Over the last decade, Mitch Mitchell has focused on his greatest passion: leading a collective effort toward diversity and inclusion. As senior vice president of diversity and community partnerships for Sempra Energy, Mitch encourages a high-performance culture with diverse perspectives and inclusive environments. His expertise has been pivotal while serving on San Diego Opera's Board of Directors to advance SDO initiatives in expanding access to diverse audiences and promoting diversity on stage. Mitch has generously invested his time and energy into addressing the needs of fellow San Diegans by serving as a board member for multiple organizations including, San Diego Housing Commission, Lucky Duck Foundation, Sharp Hospital Board of Trustees, Voice of San Diego, and San Diego Museum of Art.

Rebecca's passion for helping local children has provided vulnerable youth with the tools, resources and support they need to transform their lives. Rebecca currently assists Youth Assistance Coalition during their daytime education program for homeless youth. As an enthusiastic mentor herself, Rebecca hopes to establish a monthly career night where youth will receive resources for professional development and life-long skills for self-sufficiency. Additionally, Rebecca volunteers with Promises to Kids, an organization building brighter futures for local children who are now living in the foster care system.

Their broad experience and compassionate hearts have ensured the future of San Diego Opera.

Single tickets to A Night to Dream start at \$500 with preferred seating options beginning at \$1,000. Tables of 10 start at \$5,000 with preferred seating tables beginning at \$10,000. All tickets include a three-course dinner, champagne upon arrival, wine service with dinner and complimentary valet service. Suggested attire is black tie.

The evening will include a champagne reception, dinner with entertainment, auction and paddle raise and an after-dinner performance.

To purchase tickets, or more information, please visit  
<https://www.sdopera.org/dream-gala>

**San Diego Opera Mission Statement**

The mission of San Diego Opera is to deliver exceptional vocal performances and exciting, accessible programs to diverse audiences, focusing on community engagement and the transformative power of live performance.

**San Diego Opera Vision Statement**

San Diego Opera will be recognized internationally as a leading example of adaptability, innovation and sustainability in the operatic arts, promoting diversified programming and unique performance venues with world-class and emerging talent.

**San Diego Opera Core Values Statement**

Through excellence in innovative programming and education, SDO provides a lasting cultural service to the community.

- Our tradition of excellence in fully staged opera is augmented with new models of opera and venues. Our unique and deep commitment to the community propels us to explore ways of increasing affordability and accessibility.
- Through fiscal responsibility and nimble adaptation to the changing marketplace, we protect the future of San Diego Opera.
- Our educational and community involvement coupled with relevant programming will build the audience of the future.

**[www.sdopera.org](http://www.sdopera.org)**

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