

# SD OPERA Media Release

**EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE:  
July 15, 2018**

Contact: Edward Wilensky (619) 232-7636  
Edward.Wilensky@sdopera.org

## **San Diego Opera Repertoire Change:**

***“All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914” to replace  
“Hansel and Gretel” in December***

***Ailyn Pérez withdraws due to scheduling conflicts,  
replaced by tenor Stephen Costello who joins Stephen  
Powell for “One Amazing Night”***

**San Diego, CA** – San Diego Opera announced today that the opera *Hansel and Gretel*, originally scheduled for performances in December, has been replaced by performances of *All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914* as part of the *détour* series. The Company is actively rescheduling *Hansel and Gretel* for the future as part of the main stage season.

“In preparing for our season we realized the production of *Hansel and Gretel* we are committed to produce would not fit into the confines of the Balboa Theatre and to reduce the production would erode the artistic vision I have for the opera,” shares San Diego Opera General Director, David Bennett. “We’re incredibly pleased to replace this opera with *All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914*; a family-friendly holiday opera about unity that I believe is better suited to the intimacy of the Balboa Theatre and the holiday season in which it is being performed. I am actively scheduling the same production and cast of *Hansel and Gretel* for the future as part of our main stage season.”

*All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914* opens on **Friday, December 7, 2018** with additional performances December 8 and 9 (matinee) at the Balboa Theatre. All current ticket holders to *Hansel and Gretel* have been contacted directly by the Company to be resealed or offered a refund. Patrons with tickets to *Hansel and Gretel*, who have not yet spoken directly to a Patron Services representative, are encouraged to call (619) 533-7000, Monday-Friday from 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM.

*All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914* is based on the real-life events during the Great War along the Western Front when soldiers from France, England, and Germany ventured into no-man’s land on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day to exchange food and gifts, and perform burials. Games of football were played and most encounters ended with the singing of Christmas carols. The truce was unofficial

and unsanctioned and combat resumed the next day. The opera tells the story of this testament to humanity and unity through Christmas carols and narrated letters from actual soldiers from the war in an uplifting and family-friendly production. This production is new to San Diego Opera and is a co-presentation with Bodhi Tree Concerts and SACRA/PROFANA. Casting will be announced at a later date.

The Company has also announced that soprano Ailyn Pérez has withdrawn from her engagement with baritone Stephen Powell for “One Amazing Night” on **Wednesday, May 15, 2019** due to a scheduling conflict. Stephen Powell will now be joined by tenor **Stephen Costello**. All current ticket holders to “One Amazing Night” have been contacted. Tenor Stephen Costello is no stranger to San Diego Opera, having made his Company debut in 2010 as Romeo in *Romeo and Juliet*, returning in 2011 in the title role of *Faust* and the Italian Singer in *Der Rosenkavalier*, Tonio in 2013’s *The Daughter of the Regiment*, and in recital in 2015. He made his Metropolitan Opera debut at age 26 and two years later he won the prestigious Richard Tucker Award. He has since appeared at many of the world’s most important opera houses and music festivals, including London’s Royal Opera, Covent Garden; the Deutsche Oper Berlin; the Vienna Staatsoper; the Lyric Opera of Chicago; San Francisco Opera; Washington National Opera; and the Salzburg Festival.

#### **Purchasing Tickets**

Subscriptions to the 2018-2019 season are now on sale. Single tickets are on sale in the summer.

Single tickets start at \$49 for all mainstage performances. Single tickets start at \$35 for all d etour Series operas. Children prices exist, please visit [www.sdopera.org](http://www.sdopera.org) or call 619.533.7000 for more information.

Senior citizen discounts of 15% are available to the Main Stage series on Tuesday and Friday subscription packages. Senior citizen discounts of 15% are available to the d etour Series on Saturday subscription packages.

Military discounts (active and retired) of 50% are available to the Main Stage series on Tuesday and Friday subscription packages. Military discounts of 50% are available to the d etour Series on Saturday subscription packages.

For information about tickets please visit [www.sdopera.org](http://www.sdopera.org) or call 619.533.7000

#### **San Diego Opera 2018-2019 Season**

<i>The Marriage of Figaro</i>	Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart	October 20, 23, 26, and 28 (mat), 2018
<i>All is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914</i>	Peter Rothstein	December 7, 8, and 9 (mat), 2018
<i>Rigoletto</i>	Giuseppe Verdi	February 2, 5, 8, and 10 (mat), 2019
<i>Three Decembers</i>	Jake Heggie	March 8, 9, 10 (mat), 2019
<i>Carmen</i>	Georges Bizet	March 30, April 2, 5, and 7 (mat) 2019
<i>One Amazing Night –Stephen Powell and Stephen Costello</i>		May 15, 2019

#### **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**

The 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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