

# SD OPERA Media Release

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## San Diego Opera Presents “*Carmen in the Desert*”

*Company to make first professional appearance in Palm Springs since 1981 on Sunday, March 17, 2019 at 2 PM*

**San Diego, CA** – San Diego Opera is excited to announce the Company is once again bringing opera to the Palm Springs community on **Sunday, March 17, 2019 at 2 PM with “*Carmen in the Desert*.”** This program will feature a number of San Diego Opera singers performing excerpts of Bizet’s classic opera, *Carmen*, opening at San Diego Opera on March 30, 2019 for four performances only.

San Diego Opera first brought opera to Palm Springs in 1977 with a touring production of *La traviata*, returned the following year with a production of *Madama Butterfly*, and last appeared professionally in 1981 with a production of *Faust*. In more recent years, the Company’s General Director, David Bennett, has judged a number of vocal competitions in Palm Springs and a number of schools from the Palm Springs region attend the Company’s free “Student Night at the Opera” performances.

“Palm Springs counts many opera lovers among its residents. Many attend opera in San Diego, and the city has two important organizations that raise funds to support opera in their community,” shares San Diego Opera General Director, David Bennett. “So it only makes sense that we bring San Diego Opera to the desert, and we hope this relationship will continue to grow in the future.”

Singers for “*Carmen in the Desert*” include mezzo-soprano **Guadalupe Paz**, winner of the Palm Springs Opera Guild’s Inaugural Rossini Vocal Competition in 2015, tenor **Bernardo Bermudez**, soprano **Tasha Koontz**, and tenor **Felipe Prado**. Bios for all artists appear below.

“*Carmen in the Desert*” will be held at the private residence of David Freeman at 1350 E. Murray Canyon Rd. Tickets to attend are \$20 but Palm Springs Opera Guild Members can attend for free. Space is limited and RSVPs are required no later than March 13, 2019

by calling (619) 533-7000 or by emailing [tickets@sdopera.org](mailto:tickets@sdopera.org). Light refreshments will be served.

“*Carmen* in the Desert” artist bios:

### **Guadalupe Paz**

Notable appearances for mezzo-soprano Guadalupe Paz include Melibea in *Il Viaggio a Reims* and Hansel in *Hansel and Gretel* with Bellas Artes National Opera, Rosina in *The Barber of Seville* and Angelina in *Cinderella* with Teatro del Bicentenario and Bellas Artes National Opera, Isolier in *Le Comte Ory* with the Philharmonic Orchestra of Jalisco, and Maddalena in *Il Viaggio a Reims* at the Rossini Opera Festival. Her concert repertory includes *Glagolitic Mass* at the International Cervantino Festival, *Ode to Common Things* with La Jolla Symphony and Chorus, *Tres Canciones para Orquestra y Mezzosoprano* at International Festival Instrumenta, and *Seven Deadly Sins* at the Aspen Music Festival. She was the 2015 first place winner in the Rossini Vocal Competition presented by the Palm Springs Opera Guild. She will sing the role of Mercedes in San Diego Opera’s upcoming production of *Carmen*.

### **Bernardo Bermudez**

Venezuelan-American baritone Bernardo Bermudez made his Company mainstage debut in 2016’s *Madama Butterfly* as Prince Yamidori and was heard last season as a member of the Ensemble in 2018’s *Maria de Buenos Aires* and as a Sailor in *Florencia en el Amazonas*. He was a member of the ensemble in *All Is Calm* earlier this season. Notable operatic roles performed include Figaro in *The Barber of Seville*, Stanley Kowalski in *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Silvio in *Pagliacci*, Escamillo in *Carmen*, Valentin in *Faust*, Belcore in *The Elixir of Love*, Papageno in *The Magic Flute*, Count Almaviva in *The Marriage of Figaro*, Vidal Hernando in *Luisa Fernanda*, Scarpia in *Tosca*, Schaunard in *La bohème*, Alfio in *Cavalleria Rusticana*, Aeneas in *Dido & Aeneas*, Melchior in *Amahl and The Night Visitors*, Mercurio in *L’incoronazione di Poppea*, Teniente Cantalapiedra in *Cecilia Valdes*, Count Capulet in *Romeo et Juliette*, Marullo in *Rigoletto*, and Morald in Richard Wagner’s *Die Feen*. He recently performed the role of Diego Rivera in *Frida* at Long Beach Opera. He is a former of instructor at Opera at the Schools, an educational program the Palm Springs Opera Guild presents. He sings Dancairo in San Diego Opera’s upcoming production of *Carmen*.

### **Tasha Koontz**

Soprano Tasha Koontz made her San Diego Opera debut as Annina in 2017’s *La traviata*. Recent appearances include Mimì in *La bohème* and Violetta in *La traviata* with Opera on the Avalon in St. John's, Newfoundland. Other highlights include Alice Ford in *Falstaff* at IU Opera Theater, Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni* at Bay View Music Festival, and The Countess in *The Marriage of Figaro* at Northwestern University. She was recently awarded 2nd Place in the Voice Division of the Music Merit Awards in San Diego, CA and 1st Place in the Coeur d’Alene Symphony Young Artist Competition. She sings Frasquita in San Diego Opera’s upcoming production of *Carmen*.

### **Felipe Prado**

Notable appearances by tenor Felipe Prado include Spoletta in *Tosca* with Guild Opera, Borsa in *Rigoletto* and Gastone and Giuseppe in *La traviata* with Antelope Valley Symphony Orchestra and Master Chorale, Tamino in *The Magic Flute* with Ridgecrest Opera Guild, and Alfredo in *La traviata* with Pacific Lyric Association. He has been a featured soloist for the concert Opera Highlights with the California Philharmonic Orchestra. As an active member of multiple professional ensembles such as the California Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorale he has had the great honor to perform in great venues such as the Walt Disney Concert Hall, the Warner Grand Theater, The Santa Anita Race Track, and the UCLA’s Royce Hall. In 2010 he joined the AVC Concert Choir and Master Chorale and took part in many concerts in a wide range of repertoire. In 2013 he started collaborating with several groups in Los Angeles area, such as the Pacific Palisades Symphony, Los Angeles Lawyers Philharmonic and Legal Voices among others. He also became part of the California Philharmonic Chorale as a chorister under the baton of Victor Vener and vocal direction of Marya Basaraba, and the Golden State Pops Orchestra. He sings Remendado in San Diego Opera’s upcoming production of *Carmen*.

**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**

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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