

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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San Diego Opera Partners With *The Enchanted Tail*

Original 40-minute opera for young audiences to have free performance Saturday, June 1, 2019 at 1:30 PM

Greek Amphitheatre, Point Loma Nazarene University

San Diego, CA – San Diego Opera is proud to partner with *The Enchanted Tail* to present a free, family-friendly, 40-minute English language opera with piano on Saturday, June 1, 2019 at **The Greek Amphitheatre on the campus of Point Loma Nazarene University (3900 Lomaland Dr.) starting at 1:30 PM**. The event will begin at 1:30 PM with an art show and animal watercolors for children. The performance will start at 2 PM. *The Enchanted Tail* is delightful story of a princess and a fox with music from famous operas written by Mozart, Verdi, Rossini and more, with new English lyrics to tell an enchanting story that will appeal to children of all ages. *The Enchanted Tail* is the creation of former San Diego Opera chorister, **Victoria Robertson** and San Diego Opera singer **Bernardo Bermudez**.

“I think there is a very strong desire to have music and live theatrical performances available for kids and families,” shares creator Victoria Robertson. “This is especially true since there is less and less music education in the schools. In a world of digital technology and pop music, it is nice to keep culturing children by exposing them to classical music which, in turn, can enhance their math, language, and social skills. I think we have really achieved that with *The Enchanted Tail*.”

Entrance to *The Enchanted Tail* are free and no reservations are required. Seating is first-come first-served. There is ample free parking on the Point Loma Nazarene University campus. The Greek Amphitheatre is a sunny outdoor venue, so please bring plenty of sunscreen, water, and hats. Feel free to bring a picnic lunch, blankets or cushions to sit on and enjoy the music and the view.

About the Creative Team

Creator and director **Victoria Robertson** is no stranger to the San Diego music and theater scene. Over a decade ago she founded one of the first children's entertainment companies in San Diego, *Princess Parties and Friends*, bringing joy to hundreds of little kids' birthday celebrations. She has also been the music director for several children's theaters, working with kids in the performing arts. Her involvement in the San Diego community spans from singing with the San Diego Opera, the San Diego Symphony, and touring with the San Diego USO as Miss USO. The operatic soprano has a visual arts degree in film production from UCSD and a graduate music degree from SDSU. She is thrilled to dedicate her energy towards this beautiful program enriching the lives of families and children through some of the greatest pieces of music in history. Works from Mozart, Bizet, Verdi, and Lehár are seamlessly integrated into the original fairytale. *The Enchanted Tail* teaches kids about accomplishing goals by meeting new friends and working together.

Bernardo Bermudez plays the leading male character, the Fox, and partners with Robertson on the business development of *The Enchanted Tail*. As well as having a concert and national operatic career, Bermudez has a degree in cognitive psychology specializing in child development. The baritenor has strong alliances with opera companies across the country and has helped contribute to many kids' education missions. He has performed several years with the San Diego Opera and the LA Opera's outreach program.

Nina Leilani Deering worked with Robertson to compose the interlude music and a couple of original pieces in *The Enchanted Tail*. Her expertise in classical music and jazz improvisation help the musical flow of the program giving it an original presentation. Her background as a concert pianist and songwriter made her the perfect match for this project. She is also a strong community advocate, having co-founded the rising San Diego homeless choir, *Voices of our City*.

"The opera could not have had the success it did without the contributions of Bernardo and Nina. I wrote the role of the Fox specifically for Bernardo, my duet partner, and it complimented the touring show we already have called Duetto - a program of opera and musical theater duets. Nina is extremely musical and one of the most talented people I know. She notated the musical interludes and composed a few original songs and adaptations for the show. It is a really special team," shares Robertson.

The Enchanted Tail History

Victoria Robertson was commissioned to write *The Enchanted Tail* by Port Ludlow Performing Arts in Washington State, in February 2017. The show received great reviews and the kids responded enthusiastically to the performance. After being hired back for a second performance the following year, Robertson knew that this could be a much bigger project and enlisted Bernardo and Nina to bring *The Enchanted Tail* to life.

The Enchanted Tail will receive its orchestral debut on Thursday, May 16th, 2019 at the Balboa Theater in downtown San Diego as part of the Classics 4 Kids Season. An encore performance will take place the following day on Friday, May 17, 2019 also with Classics 4 Kids. For these debut performances, approximately 5000 children will get to experience professional opera singers performing with a 17-piece orchestra in this original fairytale based on well-known aria and duets from classic operas.

Another performance of *The Enchanted Tail* will take place on Sunday May 26th from 9:30 – 11AM at the New Children's Museum, Downtown San Diego for members of the museum.

For more information on The Enchanted Tail please visit: <https://www.enchantedit.com/>

The 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.

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