

SD OPERA Media Release

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San Diego Opera Announces Yves Abel as Company's New Principal Conductor

***Beloved maestro will conduct three operas over three
years beginning in the 2020-2021 season***

San Diego, CA – San Diego Opera is pleased to announce the **Maestro Yves Abel** has been appointed to the position of Principal Conductor for the Company. This position is a three year commitment beginning in the 2020-2021 season with the maestro conducting a double-bill opera, a French opera in the 2021-2022 season, and another opera in the 2022-2023 season. The appointment was announced at a dinner with the maestro to a group of San Diego Opera board members traveling in Florence, Italy, last night.

“Mo. Abel has demonstrated strong artistic leadership during his numerous appearances with San Diego Opera, as well as great rapport with our singers, musicians, and artistic staff - he already feels like a part of our artistic family. This new relationship will guarantee regular appearances by him in San Diego and build upon our long-standing artistic strengths,” shares San Diego Opera General Director, David Bennett.

“It is a great joy and honor for me to be asked to become Principal Conductor of the San Diego Opera. My relationship with the company goes back several years, covering operas from *bel canto* through French Opera to verismo, all of them memorable,” shares Maestro Abel. “It’s been an absolute pleasure collaborating with the international casts of singers, and the ever classy San Diego Symphony and San Diego Opera Chorus. I look forward to working closely with David Bennett, the excellent board, and the devoted people behind the scenes, to bring world class Opera to the people of San Diego!”

Photos of Maestro Abel can be found online at: <https://sandiegoopera.smugmug.com/Yves-Abel-San-Diego-Opera-Principal-Conductor/n-jpdgdP>

Maestro Abel has already established a strong relationship with San Diego Opera, making his Company debut in 2013 for performances of *The Daughter of the Regiment*. He returned in 2014 for *Pagliacci*, in 2016 for *Madama Butterfly*, and was last heard locally in 2019 for performances of *Carmen*. He is the Chief Conductor designate of the NordwestDeutsche Philharmonie, Germany. A frequent guest with the world’s great opera companies, Yves Abel has conducted performances at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden; La Scala, Milan; the Metropolitan Opera, New York; Lyric Opera of Chicago; San

Francisco Opera; Seattle Opera; Glyndebourne Festival; Bayerische Staatsoper; Opéra National de Paris; Netherlands Opera; Grand Théâtre de Genève; Teatro San Carlo, Naples; Teatro Comunale Bologna; New National Theatre, Tokyo; Welsh National Opera and Opera North. He has conducted new productions in Liceo (*The Pearl Fishers*), Munich (*I Capuleti e i Montecchi*), Geneva (*Les Vêpres Siciliennes*), Barcelona (*Madama Butterfly*), Bilbao (*Norma*), Toulouse (Lalo's *Le Roi d'Ys* and *The Tales of Hoffmann*), Lisbon (*Il Turco in Italia*), Naples (Gounod's *Faust*), Dallas (*Ermione*), Seattle (*Il trovatore* and Heggie's *The End of Affair*), Monte Carlo Opera (*Il Turco in Italia*) and Santa Fe (*Così fan tutte*), and at the festivals of Pesaro, Caramoor, the Menuhin festival in Gstaad, and the Spoleto festival in Charleston and Spoleto, Italy. As Principal Guest Conductor of the Deutsche Oper, Berlin from 2005 to 2011, he conducted new productions of *Don Pasquale*, *Simon Boccanegra*, *d'Albert's Tiefland*, and *Carmen*, as well as performances of *The Marriage of Figaro*, *La traviata*, *Dialogues des Carmélites*, *La bohème* and *Carmina Burana*. He is a frequent guest at the Vienna Staatsoper where his repertoire includes *The Daughter of the Regiment*, *The Elixir of Love*, *Carmen*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Simon Boccanegra*, *A Masked Ball*, and *L'italiana in Algeri*. In concerts he has performed with the Copenhagen Philharmonic Orchestra at the Tivoli Festival, the RTE National Symphony Orchestra, Dublin, the Rotterdam Philharmonic, the Orchestre du Capitole de Toulouse, the Stavanger Symphony Orchestra, and the Filarmonica Arturo Toscanini in Parma. He has also conducted the Toronto Symphony, Montreal Symphony, Netherlands Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, Orchestre National de Lyon, Orchestra of St. Luke's New York, the Royal Liverpool, the Haydn Orchestra in Bolzano and the orchestras of Genoa, Naples, and Palermo among others. A Franco-Canadian, he has a particular affinity with the French repertoire and has won significant critical acclaim for his achievements as founder and Music Director of L'Opéra Français de New York, with whom he has regenerated rare French operas and also performed the world premiere of Dusapin's *To be Sung*. Since 1994, the company has performed regularly to capacity audiences at the Lincoln Center. He conducts at various festivals around the world including the Rossini Opera Festival in Pesaro and the Glyndebourne festival, among others. His recordings include *Thaïs* with Renée Fleming and *Werther* with Andrea Bocelli (Decca), *Madama Butterfly* with the Philharmonia Orchestra (Chandos), and two discs of French arias, one with Susan Graham and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra (Erato) and the other with Patricia Petibon and the Orchestra of the Opera National de Lyon (Decca). His most recent recording, 'Romantique', is a disc of romantic arias with Elīna Garanča on Deutsche Grammophon. In 2009 he was awarded the title Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French Government.

San Diego Opera 2019-2020 Season

<i>Aida: Theatrical Concert Opera</i>	Giuseppe Verdi	October 19, 22, 25, and 27 (mat), 2019
<i>One Amazing Night with Ailyn Pérez and Joshua Guerrero</i>	Guerrero	December 11, 2019
<i>Hansel & Gretel</i>	Engelbert Humperdinck	February 8, 11, 14, and 16 (mat), 2020
<i>Aging Magician</i>	Paola Prestini	March 13 and 14 (evening and mat), 2020
<i>The Barber of Seville</i>	Gioachino Rossini	April 25, 28, May 1 and 3 (mat) 2020
<i>The Falling and the Rising</i>	Zach Redler	May 8, 9, and 10 (mat) 2020

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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