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
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.

**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.