

SD OPERA Media Release

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San Diego Opera Announces 2015-2016 Season

- Tenor **René Barbera** Makes His U.S. Recital Debut in the Polly Puterbaugh Emerging Artist Award Recital

Saturday, September 19, 2015
(The Balboa Theatre)

- Soprano **Patricia Racette** performing her “Diva on Detour” recital in San Diego

Saturday, November 14, 2015
(The Balboa Theatre)

- Puccini’s gripping opera *Tosca* starring **Greer Grimsley** as Scarpia, **Alexia Voulgaridou** as Tosca and **Gwyn Hughes Jones** as Cavaradossi

Saturday, February 13, 2016 at 7 PM
Tuesday, February 16, 2016 at 7 PM
Friday, February 19, 2016 at 7 PM
Sunday, February 21, 2016 at 2 PM
(San Diego Civic Theatre)

- Bass **Ferruccio Furlanetto** in concert with the
San Diego Symphony

Saturday, March 5, 2016
(Jacobs Music Center's Copley Symphony Hall)

- Puccini's tragic opera *Madama Butterfly* starring
Latonia Moore as Cio-Cio San, **J'nai Bridges** as
Suzuki, and **Teodor Ilincăi** as Pinkerton

Saturday, April 16, 2016 at 7 PM
Tuesday, April 19, 2016 at 7 PM
Friday, April 22, 2016 at 7 PM
Sunday, April 24, 2016 at 2 PM
(San Diego Civic Theatre)

- The West Coast Premiere of Jake Heggie and Terrence
McNally's opera *Great Scott*, directed by **Jack
O'Brien** and starring **Isabel Leonard** as Arden Scott,
Nathan Gunn as Sid Taylor and **Frederica von Stade**
as Mrs. Winnie Flato

Saturday, May 7, 2016 at 7 PM
Tuesday, May 10, 2016 at 7 PM
Friday, May 13, 2016 at 7 PM
Sunday, May 15, 2016 at 2 PM
(San Diego Civic Theatre)

- All ticket prices remain the same with tickets as low as
\$35 with a three-opera season subscription starting at
\$105

San Diego, CA – Exciting premieres, Company debuts by internationally renowned artists, and returning San Diego Opera favorites are all part of San Diego Opera's 2015-2016 Season. Three mainstage operas performed at the San Diego Civic Theatre make up

the core of the season with two Puccini operas; *Tosca* (January/February) and *Madama Butterfly* (April). The Company is also pleased to announce the West Coast premiere of Jake Heggie's (*Dead Man Walking, Moby-Dick*) and Terrence McNally's new opera, *Great Scott* (May), directed by former Old Globe Artistic Director, **Jack O'Brien**. Three other special events round out the season including a concert by San Diego favorite, the great Italian bass **Ferruccio Furlanetto** with the San Diego Symphony performing hits from his 31 year history with the Company, soprano **Patricia Racette** also returns, performing cabaret and jazz standards in her "Diva on Detour" recital. The season kicks off with the return of tenor **René Barbera** making his American recital debut as the winner of the Polly Puterbaugh Emerging Artist Award, which recognizes exceptional talent with a recital or mainstage appearance.

Internationally renowned singers **Greer Grimsley, Latonia Moore, Ferruccio Furlanetto, Patricia Racette, and René Barbera** all make welcome returns to San Diego Opera while the 2015-2016 season also marks some very important Company debuts by **Teodor Ilincăi, Alexia Voulgaridou, Isabel Leonard, Nathan Gunn, Frederica von Stade, Gwyn Hughes Jones, Joyce El-Khoury, and J'Nai Bridges**. Returning conductors are **Massimo Zanetti, Yves Abel and Joseph Mechavich**.

The season opens on **Saturday, September 19, 2015 at the Balboa Theatre** with the American recital debut of tenor **René Barbera**. Mr. Barbera made his Company debut during the Company's 50th Anniversary Celebration Concerts to critical and popular acclaim. So noticeable was his performance here, that he was awarded the first ever Polly Puterbaugh Emerging Artist Award, a new annual award that will recognize exceptional young talent with a recital or mainstage appearance. Mr. Barbera will perform a selection of arias, art songs and zarzuelas. Tickets start at \$20.

The season continues on **Saturday, November 14, 2015 at 7 PM at the Balboa Theatre** with a special concert by soprano **Patricia Racette** called "Diva on Detour". Last seen in San Diego in 2009 as Cio-Cio San in *Madama Butterfly*, Racette is a regular performer at San Francisco Opera and the Metropolitan Opera. She began her singing career in cabarets and is now bringing her career full circle with a recital of songs by Stephen Sondheim, Cole Porter, George Gershwin, and Edith Piaf, among others. Tickets start at \$20.

Puccini's dramatic *Tosca* is the first mainstage opera of the season when it opens on **Saturday, February 13, 2016 at 7 PM at the San Diego Civic Theatre**. Sex, politics, corruption, violence and torture come together in a gripping story that could be ripped from the headlines of today's papers. The great bass-baritone **Greer Grimsley** returns to sing the role of the villainous police chief Scarpia, a role he performed here in 2009. Making important Company debuts are soprano **Alexia Voulgaridou** as the opera singer Tosca and tenor **Gwyn Hughes Jones** as her lover, the painter Cavaradossi. Conductor **Massimo Zanetti**, who last led the orchestra in 2014's *A Masked Ball* and the Verdi *Requiem* returns for these performances. This production is a new production to San

Diego audiences, designed by Ft. Worth Opera and now owned by San Diego Opera. Other performances are February 16, 19 and 21.

The Company is incredibly pleased to welcome back the great Italian bass, **Ferruccio Furlanetto**, who will present a concert on **Saturday, March 5, 2016 at 7 PM at The Jacobs Music Center's Copley Symphony Hall**. This concert will be a selection of "greatest hits" pulled from Furlanetto's 31 year history with the Company including arias from *Don Giovanni*, *Don Quixote*, *Boris Godunov*, *Faust*, *The Barber of Seville* and *Simon Boccanegra*, among others. He will be accompanied by the San Diego Symphony for this performance. Tickets start at \$35.

The season continues with Puccini's beloved *Madama Butterfly* on **Saturday, April 16, 2016 at 7 PM at the San Diego Civic Theatre**. Soprano **Latonia Moore**, last heard as *Aida* in 2013, returns as the geshia Cio-Cio San. She is joined by tenor **Teodor Ilincăi** in his Company debut, singing the role of Pinkerton which has earned him accolades around the world. Mezzo-soprano **J'nai Bridges** makes her Company debut as Suzuki. **Yves Abel**, last heard leading the orchestra in 2014's *Pagliacci* returns to the podium. Director **Garnett Bruce** stages the action in the Opéra de Montréal production, which will be new to San Diego audiences. Additional performances are April 19, 22 and 24.

An erupting volcano, an opera within an opera, football fight songs and an opera company on the brink of failure set the stage for *Great Scott*, a new opera by composer Jake Heggie (*Moby-Dick*, *Dead Man Walking*) and librettist Terrence McNally. The West Coast premiere of this opera will take place on **Saturday, May 7, 2016 at the San Diego Civic Theatre**. Directed by **Jack O'Brien**, the former artistic director of San Diego's Old Globe Theatre, this production welcomes the Company debuts of baritone **Nathan Gunn** as Sid Taylor, soprano **Isabel Leonard** as opera singer Arden Scott, and **Frederica von Stade** as Mrs. Winnie Flato. **Joseph Mechavich**, who conducted last season's *Nixon in China*, will conduct the performances. This opera is a co-commission with San Diego Opera and The Dallas Opera in a production owned by these two companies. *Great Scott* will have its world premiere in Dallas on October 30, 2015.

"Coming off of our 50th Anniversary with incredible, memorable performances, record ticket sales and a theater filled with new faces, San Diego Opera is experiencing a renaissance. And the 2015-2016 season promises to be even better," shares San Diego Opera Board President Carol Lazier. "*Tosca* and *Madama Butterfly*, two timeless classics will be presented in productions new to our audiences. The West Coast Premiere of *Great Scott* reinforces the Company's commitment to not just present the classics, but to keep opera fresh and new. San Diego favorite, the great bass Ferruccio Furlanetto, in concert will be a highlight talked about for years to come and the return of Patricia Racette shows that San Diego Opera will continue to present the best voices in the world for years to come in unique and interesting ways."

Only subscriptions to the 2015-2016 season are now on sale. There has been no price increase this season. A subscription for the three mainstage operas begins at a low \$105 and subscriptions start at \$180 for a full series including the three operas, René Barbera

in recital, Patricia Racette's "Diva on Detour", and Ferruccio Furlanetto in Concert. Single tickets will go on sale in the Fall. Casts and repertoire are subject to change.

Pre-production artwork is available online at: <http://sandiegoopera.smugmug.com/2016-PreProduction-Artwork/>

Purchasing Tickets

Subscriptions range from \$105 for a three-opera series to \$1,305 for a full season package (Orchestra level subscription on Saturdays to the three mainstage operas, premiere tickets to René Barbera in recital, premiere tickets to Patricia Racette's "Diva on Detour" plus reception, premiere tickets Ferruccio Furlanetto in Concert). Subscriptions can be purchased by calling (619) 533-7000 or online at www.sdopera.com.

For information about single tickets please visit www.sdopera.com. Single ticket prices will be announced in the winter.

www.sdopera.com

San Diego Opera 2015-2016 International Season Performance
Schedule

René Barbera in Recital

Saturday September 19, 2015 7:00pm

Patricia Racette “Diva on Detour”

Balboa Theatre

Saturday November 14, 2015 7:00pm

Tosca

Giacomo Puccini

San Diego Civic Theatre

Saturday February 13, 2016 7:00pm
Tuesday February 16, 2016 7:00pm
Friday February 19, 2016 7:00pm
Sunday February 21, 2016 2:00pm

Ferruccio Furlanetto in Concert

Jacobs Music Center’s Copley Symphony Hall

Saturday March 5, 2016 7:00pm

Madama Butterfly

Giacomo Puccini

San Diego Civic Theatre

Saturday April 16, 2016 7:00pm
Tuesday April 19, 2016 7:00pm
Friday April 22, 2016 7:00pm
Sunday April 24, 2016 2:00pm

West Coast Premiere

Great Scott

Jake Heggie

San Diego Civic Theatre

Saturday May 7, 2016 7:00pm
Tuesday May 10, 2016 7:00pm
Friday May 13, 2016 7:00pm
Sunday May 15, 2016 2:00pm

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René Barbera in Recital

Saturday, September 19, 2015 at 7 PM
(The Balboa Theatre)

René Barbera, tenor

Tenor René Barbera, a graduate of Lyric Opera of Chicago's Patrick G. and Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center, has swiftly established himself as a young artist on the rise. At Plácido Domingo's Operalia 2011 in Moscow, he was awarded First Prize for Opera, First Prize for Zarzuela, and the Audience Prize. He is the first artist to be the sole recipient of all three awards since the competition began in 1993. Of his 2014 performances with Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, as Nemorino in *The Elixir of Love*, the St. Louis Dispatch raved: "Tenor René Barbera, born to sing bel canto... On Saturday night he brought out Nemorino's innate lovability while singing with melting beauty and an effortless high range. It's no wonder Adina comes around." Mr. Barbera began the 2014-15 season singing Almaviva in *The Barber of Seville* with Opera National de Paris. He performed Ramiro in San Francisco Opera's production of *La Cenerentola*, Tonio in *The Daughter of the Regiment* with Greensboro Opera, and Almaviva with Los Angeles Opera. Mr. Barbera has made several important company debuts throughout North America. He recently made his company and role debut as Elvino in *La sonnambula* with Washington Concert Opera, followed by his debut with Michigan Opera Theater as Almaviva, and his return to Lyric Opera of Chicago for his role debut as Ernesto in *Don Pasquale*. He sang performances of Don Ramiro in *La Cenerentola* in his debuts with Seattle Opera and Los Angeles Opera, and was heard as Almaviva at the Stanislavsky Music Theatre in Moscow. In the summer of 2013, he made his Santa Fe Opera debut as Rodrigo in Rossini's *La donna del lago*.

Patricia Racette "Diva on Detour"

Saturday, November 14, 2015 at 7 PM
(The Balboa Theatre)

Patricia Racette, Soprano

American soprano Patricia Racette made her San Diego Opera debut in 1995 as Mimì in *La bohème*, returned in 2001 as Love Simpson in *Cold Sassy Tree* (a role she created for the world premiere at Houston Grand Opera), in 2004 for the title role of *Katya Kabanova*, and in 2009 as Cio-Cio San in *Madama Butterfly*. She recently sang at San Francisco Opera to open the season as Margherita/Elena in Boito's *Mefistofele* and sang the title role of Picker's *Dolores Claiborne*. Other recent roles include *Tosca* for the Metropolitan Opera, Cio-Cio San for the Lyric Opera of Chicago and San Francisco Opera, Maddalena in *Andrea Chénier* at the Metropolitan Opera, Julie La Verne in *Showboat* for San Francisco Opera, and a role debut as *Salome* in concert for the Ravinia Festival. Racette has performed the role of Cio-Cio-San in *Madama Butterfly* at the Met, which was a part of *The Met: Live in HD* series broadcast in movie theatres worldwide. She has developed strong relationships, not only with the Metropolitan Opera, but also San Francisco Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Houston Grand Opera, Washington National Opera, Los Angeles Opera and Santa Fe Opera. Seen regularly at these houses, her many roles include Violetta in *La traviata*, Mimì and Musetta in *La bohème*, Magda in *La Rondine* the title role in *Jenufa*, Cio-Cio-San in *Madama Butterfly*, Desdemona in *Otello*, the title role of *Katya Kabanova*, Marguerite in

Faust, Tatyana in *Eugene Onegin*, Ellen Orford in *Peter Grimes*, Micaela in *Carmen*, the title role in *Luisa Miller*, Leonora in *Il trovatore*, Amelia in *Simon Boccanegra*, Antonia in *The Tales of Hoffmann*, Elisabetta in *Don Carlo*, Mathilde in *Guillaume Tell*, Margherita in Boito's *Mefistofele*, and Fosca in *Passion*, among many others. Racette has also appeared at the Royal Opera, Covent Garden, Vienna Staatsoper, La Scala in Milan, the Welsh National Opera, l'Opera National de Paris, the Saito Kinen Festival and the Grand Théâtre de Genève. A supporter of new works by today's leading composers, she created the title role in Tobias Picker's *Emmeline*, appeared in the Metropolitan Opera's world premiere of *An American Tragedy* and, in July of this year, creates the role of Leslie Crosbie in the world premiere of Paul Moravec's *The Letter* with Santa Fe Opera.

Craig Terry, Pianist

American pianist Craig Terry made his Company debut last season accompanying Stephanie Blythe in recital. He is the Music Director of the Ryan Opera Center at the Lyric Opera of Chicago. Previously, he served Assistant Conductor at the Metropolitan Opera after joining its Lindemann Young Artist Development Program. He has performed with Stephanie Blythe, Christine Brewer, Nicole Cabell, Sasha Cooke, Eric Cutler, Giuseppe Filianoti, Denyce Graves, Joseph Kaiser, Kate Lindsey, Anna Maria Martinez, Danielle De Niese, Susanna Philips, Patricia Racette, Catherine Wyn-Rogers, Gail Sorenson, and Amber Wagner. He has collaborated as a chamber musician with members of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, the Lyric Opera of Chicago Orchestra, the Gewandhaus Orchester, the Berlin Philharmonic, the Vienna Philharmonic, and Pro Arte String Quartet. He made his Carnegie Hall debut in 2000 and has performed at Avery Fisher Hall, Alice Tully Hall, the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Recent performances include recitals with Ana Maria Martinez at the Kennedy Center, Patricia Racette at the Ravinia Festival, 54Below in New York, and the Winspear Opera House in Dallas, Christine Brewer for the Celebrity Series of Boston and the Gillmore Keyboard Festival, Stephanie Blythe at both the American Songbook series at "Jazz at Lincoln Center" and the Ravinia Festival, Giuseppe Filianoti in his American recital debut on the Harriman-Jewell Series in Kansas City, Susanna Philips and Dimitri Pittas at the Tokyo City Opera House, under the auspices of the Metropolitan Opera, Nicole Cabell in St. Petersburg, Russia, Kate Lindsey at both Rockefeller University and Smith College, and Ms. Philips at Alice Tully Hall. In 2008, he was twice featured as a soloist with the Chicago Philharmonic, performing piano concertos of Chopin and Mendelssohn. In March 2010, he made his conducting debut at Lyric Opera of Chicago, leading student matinee performances of *The Elixir of Love* and in 2012 made his Lyric Opera of Chicago stage debut as Jake in *Show Boat*. Mr. Terry was also featured in a "Live from Lincoln Center" national broadcast on PBS with Stephanie Blythe in April 2013. His 2013-2014 season schedule includes recitals with Stephanie Blythe, Christine Brewer, Nicole Cabell, Joyce DiDonato, Denyce Graves, Kate Lindsey, Ana Maria Martinez, Patricia Racette, Hugh Russell, and Heidi Stober as well as chamber music concerts with members of the Lyric Opera of Chicago Orchestra. His discography includes two recordings released in 2013: one with Patricia Racette entitled *Divas on Detour*, and the other, entitled *As Long as There are Songs*, with Stephanie Blythe.

Tosca

Giacomo Puccini

Sung in Italian with English translations above the stage
Production from Fort Worth Opera, now owned by San Diego Opera
San Diego Civic Theatre

February 13, 16, 19 and 21 (matinee), 2016

Scarpia: Greer Grimsley
Tosca: Alexia Voulgaridou*
Cavaradossi: Gwyn Hughes Jones*
Spoletta: Joel Sorensen
Sacristano: Scott Sikon
Angelotti/Sciarrone: Kristopher Irmiter

Conductor: Massimo Zanetti
Director: TBA

*San Diego Opera debut

Select cast biographies for *Tosca*

Alexia Voulgaridou, Tosca

San Diego Opera Debut. Greek soprano Alexia Voulgaridou made her professional debut at the Prinzregententheater in Munich as Susanna in *The Marriage of Figaro*. Notable performances include Mimì in *La bohème*, Marguerite in *Faust*, and Cio-Cio San in *Madama Butterfly* for The Royal Opera, Covent Garden. Notable roles included Sophie in *Der Rosenkavalier*, Violetta in *La traviata*, Adina in *The Elixir of Love* and the three heroines in *The Tales of Hoffmann*. She sings regularly with the Hamburg State Opera, where her many roles include Marguerite, Blanche in *Dialogues des Carmélites*, Cio-Cio-San, Nedda in *Cavalleria rusticana* and Desdemona in *Otello*. Notable engagements elsewhere include the title role of Tosca and Magda in *La rondine* for Opera Australia, Mimì, Massenet's Manon and Micaëla in *Carmen* at La Scala, the title role of Luisa Miller for Stuttgart State Opera, Maria in *Mazepa* for De Vlaamse Opera, Amelia Grimaldi in *Simon Boccanegra* in Toulouse and Anna Bolena in Turin and Palermo. Her concert performances include Verdi's *Requiem* at the Ravenna Festival under Riccardo Muti. Her recordings include a solo album with Nicola Luisotti and the Munich Radio Orchestra on the Arte Nova label.

Gwyn Hughes Jones, Cavaradossi

San Diego Opera debut. Welsh tenor Gwyn Hughes Jones has sung at the Royal Opera, Covent Garden, English National Opera, Opéra National de Paris, Opéra de Lyon, La Monnaie Brussels and Norwegian National Opera. In America, he has appeared at the Metropolitan Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, San Francisco Opera, Los Angeles Opera, Washington National Opera and Sante Fe Opera. Roles include Manrico in *Il trovatore*, Calaf in *Turandot*, Duke of Mantua in *Rigoletto*, Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly*, Rodolfo in *La bohème*, Nemorino in *The Elixir of Love*, Chevalier des Grieux in *Manon Lescaut*, and the title role of *Faust*. He has appeared with orchestras including the Academia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, Trondheim Symfoniorkester, Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra, Royal Flanders Philharmonic Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, London Sinfonietta and Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, and in recital at St Olaf Festival, Trondheim, Musashino Civic Cultural Hall, Tokyo, Wigmore Hall and Purcell Room, London, and Auditorium du Louvre, Paris. Recordings include Macduff in Verdi's *Macbeth*. Recent roles include Pinkerton at the Metropolitan Opera and Walther von Stolzing *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* for English National Opera.

Greer Grimsley, Scarpia

American bass-baritone Greer Grimsley made his San Diego Opera debut as Telramund in *Lohengrin* in 2000, returned for Pizarro in *Fidelio* in 2003, The High Priest of Dagon in *Samson and Delilah* in 2007, Scarpia in *Tosca* in 2009, Méphistophélès in *Faust* in 2010, and in 2012 as

Jochanaan in *Salome*. He made his Metropolitan Opera debut as Captain Balstrode in *Peter Grimes* and has returned as Escamillo in *Carmen*, Jochanaan, Scarpia, Telramund, and Amfortas in *Parsifal*. Recent engagements include Wotan in Seattle Opera's Ring Cycle, Don Pizarro in *Fidelio* with Opera Company of Philadelphia, Portland Opera and the Portuguese National Opera, Kurwenal in *Tristan und Isolde* at Lyric Opera of Chicago, John the Baptist with the companies of Santa Fe, Vancouver and San Francisco and Scarpia with L'Opera de Montreal, Opera Colorado and Lyric Opera of Kansas City. Other roles include *The Flying Dutchman* in Lithuania and Seattle Opera, the title role of *Macbeth* with Vancouver Opera, Amonasro in *Aida* with Portland Opera, Méphistophélès in *Faust* with New Orleans Opera, and the title role of *Sweeney Todd* with Vancouver Opera. A frequent singer in Europe, Grimsley has performed leading roles at Deutsche Oper Berlin, Teatro Comunale di Bologna, Royal Danish Opera, Prague National Theatre, Aarhus-Den Jyske Opera in Denmark, the Scottish Opera and the Stadttheater Basel in Switzerland, among others.

Massimo Zanetti, Conductor

Italian conductor Massimo Zanetti made his Company debut in 2014 conducting both *A Masked Ball* and the Verdi *Requiem*. He has collaborated for many years with renowned opera houses such as Berlin Staatsoper, Semperoper Dresden, Opernhaus Zürich, Bayerische Staatsoper, Hamburgische Staatsoper, the Lyric Opera of Chicago, San Francisco Opera, Royal Opera, Covent Garden, Opéra de Paris Bastille, Teatro alla Scala di Milano, Teatro del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, Teatro dell'Opera di Roma, Teatro Regio di Parma, Teatro Comunale di Bologna, Teatro Regio di Torino and Teatro Carlo Felice di Genova. Zanetti recently held a residency in Japan conducting symphonic concerts with the Nagoya Philharmonic Orchestra. Other recent productions include *A Masked Ball* at Teatro Regio di Parma and Teatro las Palmas, *Don Carlo* and *La traviata* at Berlin Staatsoper, *Turandot* with the Royal Stockholm Opera and *Macbeth* at the Bayerische Staatsoper, where in 2007, he made his debut with *Luisa Miller*, followed by many revivals. Other notable performances include two concert performances of *Simon Boccanegra* with the Vienna Symphoniker that will subsequently be released on Decca. After a highly successful visit last season with the China Philharmonic and Guangzhou Symphony Orchestras, he returned to conduct these orchestras in a special Verdi/Wagner program for the 2013 anniversary. He also conducted Verdi's *Requiem* in Linz and *Otello* at Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires. Over the last ten years, Zanetti has worked regularly at the Semperoper Dresden and has conducted productions of *Otello*, *Carmen*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Norma*, *Don Carlo*, *Madama Butterfly*, and *La bohème* as well as symphonic concerts with the Dresden Staatskapelle. He enjoys a close relationship with Opernhaus Zürich since his debut in 2008 where he most recently conducted *Luisa Miller* and revivals of *La Fanciulla del West*, *Anna Bolena*, *Turandot*, *Otello* and *La bohème*. As a symphonic conductor, he has worked with the Czech Philharmonic, Weimar Staatskapelle, Konzerthaus Orchestra (Berlin), Bamberg Symphony, Stuttgart Radio, NDR Symphony Hamburg, the City of Birmingham Symphony and the Hallé Orchestras as well as the New Zealand Symphony, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France and the Finnish and Swedish Radio Orchestras, among others.

Ferruccio Furlanetto in Concert

Jacobs Music Center – Copley Symphony Hall

San Diego Symphony

Conducted by Emanuele Andrizzi

Saturday, March 5, 2016 at 7 PM

Ferruccio Furlanetto, Bass

Italian bass Ferruccio Furlanetto made his San Diego Opera debut in 1985 in the title role in Verdi's *Oberto*, returning for Méphistophélès in *Faust* and the title role in *Don Giovanni* on two occasions each, King Philip in *Don Carlo*, Basilio in *The Barber of Seville*, the title roles of *Boris Godunov* and *Don Quixote*, and Thomas Becket in *Murder in the Cathedral*. He was last with the Company in 2014 where he sang in the Verdi *Requiem* and closed the season as Don Quixote. Recent engagements include Mustafa in *The Italian Girl in Algiers* at Vienna Staatsoper, Jacopo Fiesco in *Simon Boccanegra* at the Lyric Opera of Chicago, the title role of *Attila* at San Francisco Opera, Boris Godunov at the Vienna Staatsoper, the Bolshoi Theatre, Teatro Massimo in Palermo and the Lyric Opera of Chicago, De Silva in *Ernani*, Méphistophélès, Don Basilio in *The Barber of Seville* and King Philip at the Metropolitan Opera, De Silva in Tokyo and Bologna, Jacopo Fiesco in *Simon Boccanegra* at the Vienna Staatsoper and the Metropolitan Opera, the London Proms, the Royal Opera, Covent Garden, and Madrid's Teatro Real, Don Quixote at Madrid's Teatro Real, Oroveso in *Norma* at the Salzburg Festival and King Philip and Boris Godunov at The Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg, making him the first Italian ever to sing those roles there. At the Salzburg Festival he was first heard in 1986 as Mozart's Figaro, returning as Leporello, Don Alfonso, Don Giovanni and King Philip. He appears regularly with the opera companies in Vienna, Milan, Paris, London, Florence, Rome, Turin and with the Metropolitan Opera. Many of his performances are available on more than twenty-seven CDs and DVDs including King Philip, Don Giovanni, Attila, Figaro, Alfonso and Leporello. Ferruccio Furlanetto is a Kammersänger of the Vienna Staatsoper and an Honorary Ambassador to the United Nations.

Madama Butterfly

Giacomo Puccini

Sung in Italian with English translations above the stage

Production from Opéra de Montréal

San Diego Civic Theatre

April 16, 19, 22 and 24 (matinee), 2016

Cio-Cio San (Butterfly): Latonia Moore

Pinkerton: Teodor Ilincăi*

Suzuki: J'nai Bridges *

Goro: Joseph Hu

Bonze: Scott Sikon

Conductor: Yves Abel

Director: Garnett Bruce

*San Diego Opera debut

Select cast biographies for *Madama Butterfly*

Latonia Moore, Cio-Cio San

American soprano Latonia Moore made her Company debut in the title role of *Aida* in 2013. Recent roles include *Aida* at the Royal Opera, Covent Garden, the Metropolitan Opera, Opera Australia and Hamburgische Staatsoper, Cio-Cio-San in *Madama Butterfly* at Hamburgische Staatsoper, West Palm Beach Opera and Semperoper Dresden, the title role of *Susannah* in Bilbao, Lucrezia Contarini in *I due Foscari* at Teatro Verdi in Trieste and in Bilbao, Desdemona in *Otello* at Opera Carolina, Amelia in *A Masked Ball* at Hamburgische Staatsoper, Liù in *Turandot* for the Royal Opera, Covent Garden, Teatro Verdi and Semperoper Dresden, Amelia

Grimaldi in *Simon Boccanegra* at Hamburgische Staatsoper, and Micaëla in *Carmen* at Bilbao, New York City Opera and The Dallas Opera. She is a recipient of a Richard Tucker Foundation Grant and a winner of the Metropolitan Opera's National Auditions.

Teodor Ilincăi, Pinkerton

San Diego Opera debut. Romanian tenor Teodor Ilincăi was a principal singer with the Bucharest National Opera where he has enjoyed a long relationship. Notable performances include MacDuff in *Macbeth* at Hamburgische Staatsoper, Ismaele in *Nabucco* with Vienna Staatsoper, Rodolfo in *La bohème* at the Royal Opera, Covent Garden as well as in the cities of Timișoara, Bucharest and Hannover. He has performed in the opera houses of Monte Carlo, Seville, Berlin, Düsseldorf, Dresden, Duisburg, Toulouse, Barcelona, Marseille, Budapest, Lausanne, Munich, Geneva, Strasbourg, Santiago, Frankfurt, London, and Paris. Other roles in his repertoire include Alfredo in *La traviata*, Cassio in *Otello*, the title role of *Faust*, Romeo in *Romeo and Juliette*, and Lensky in *Eugene Onegin*.

J'nai Bridges, Suzuki

San Diego Opera debut. Recent performances from American mezzo-soprano J'nai Bridges include Inez in *Il trovatore*, Vlasta in *The Passenger*, Flower Maiden in *Parsifal*, Flora in *La traviata*, and the 2nd Wood Nymph in *Rusalka* with Lyric Opera Of Chicago, Rebecca in Charlier Parker's *Yardbird* with Opera Philadelphia, Adalgisa in *Norma* with Knoxville Opera, and the title role in *Carmen* for Finger Lakes Opera. Her repertory includes Carolina Kirchstetten in *Elegy for Young Lovers*, Idamante in *Idomeneo: King of Crete*, Teresa in *La Sonnambula*, Iras in *Antony and Cleopatra* and Baba the Turk in *The Rake's Progress*. She is a member of the Lyric Opera of Chicago's Ryan Opera Center.

Yves Abel, Conductor

Franco-Canadian conductor Yves Abel made his Company debut in 2013 leading the orchestra for *The Daughter of the Regiment* and returned in 2014 for *Pagliaci*. He has been principal guest conductor at Deutsche Oper Berlin since 2005 where he has conducted performances of *Don Pasquale*, *Simon Boccanegra*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *La traviata*, *Dialogues of the Carmélites*, *Tiefland*, *Carmen* and *Carmina Burana*. He is a regular guest at the Vienna Staatsoper where he has led performances of *The Elixir of Love*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Simon Boccanegra*, *A Masked Ball*, *The Daughter of the Regiment* and *Carmen*. A frequent guest with the world's great opera companies, he has conducted performances at the Royal Opera, Covent Garden, Milan's La Scala, the Metropolitan Opera, 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 in Naples, Teatro Comunale di Bologna, New National Theatre in Tokyo, Welsh National Opera and Opera North. In 2009 he was awarded the title of Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French Government.

Garnett Bruce, Director

Madama Butterfly marks the fourth occasion that American director Garnett Bruce has directed this opera for the Company, including his Company debut in 1998 and most recently in 2009. For the Company he also directed *Cold Sassy Tree* in 2001, *Vanessa* in 2005 and *Aida* in 2008. He has directed *Turandot* for San Francisco Opera, *Lucia di Lammermoor* for The Dallas Opera, *Don Pasquale* for Opera Memphis, *Cenerentola* for Madison Opera, *La traviata* for Austin Lyric Opera and Madison Opera, *Street Scene* and *La Clemenza di Tito* with Wolf Trapp Opera, *La bohème* for Lyric Opera Kansas City and The Dallas Opera, *Tosca* and *Madama Butterfly* at Houston Grand Opera, *Carmen* for Palm Beach Opera and *Jenufa* for The Dallas Opera. Garnett Bruce has served on the staffs of San Francisco Opera, Santa Fe Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Dallas Opera and Washington National Opera over the past years.

Great Scott

West Coast Premiere

Jake Heggie and Terrence McNally

Sung in English with English text above the stage

Co-production with The Dallas Opera

San Diego Civic Theatre

April 16, 19, 22 and 24 (matinee), 2016

Arden Scott: Isabel Leonard*

Conductor: Joseph Mechavich

Sid Taylor: Nathan Gunn*

Director: Jack O'Brien

Mrs. Winnie Flato: Frederica von Stade *

Tatyana Bakst: Joyce El-Khoury*

The Stage Manager: Anthony Rosth Costanzo*

*San Diego Opera debut

Select cast biographies for ***Great Scott***

Isabel Leonard, Arden Scott

San Diego Opera debut. American mezzo-soprano Isabel Leonard has graced the stages of the Metropolitan Opera, Vienna Staatsoper, Paris Opera, Salzburg Festival, Bavarian State Opera, Glyndebourne Festival, Lyric Opera of Chicago, San Francisco Opera as Rosina in *The Barber of Seville*, Angelina in *Cenerentola*, Cherubino in *The Marriage of Figaro*, Dorabella in *Così fan tutte*, Blanche de la Force in *Dialogues des Carmélites*, the title roles in *Griselda*, *La Périochole*, and *Der Rosenkavalier*, as well as Sesto in both Mozart's *La clemenza di Tito* and Handel's *Giulio Cesare*. She has appeared with some of the foremost conductors of her time: James Levine, Valery Gergiev, Charles Dutoit, Gustavo Dudamel, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Franz Welser-Möst, Edo de Waart, James Conlon, Andris Nelsons, and Harry Bicket with the Cleveland Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Boston Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra of the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, and Vienna Philharmonic, among others. She is a recent Grammy Award winner for Thomas Ades' *The Tempest* (Best Opera Recording) and the recipient of the 2013 Richard Tucker Award.

Nathan Gunn, Sid Taylor

San Diego Opera debut. American baritone Nathan Gunn has appeared at the Metropolitan Opera, San Francisco Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Royal Opera, Paris Opera, Bayerische Staatsoper, Glyndebourne Opera Festival, Theater an der Wien, Teatro Real in Madrid, and the Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie. His many roles include the title roles in *Billy Budd*, *Eugene Onegin*, *The Barber of Seville*, and *Hamlet*, Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte*, the Count in *The Marriage of Figaro*, Malatesta in *Don Pasquale*, Belcore in *The Elixir of Love*, Ottone in *L'incoronazione di Poppea*, Tarquinius in *The Rape of Lucretia*, and The Lodger in *The Aspern Papers*. Mr. Gunn most recently created the role of Yeshua *The Gospel of Mary Magdalene* at San Francisco Opera. He also created the roles of Paul in *Amelia* at the Seattle Opera, Alec Harvey in *Brief Encounter* at the Houston Grand Opera, Father Delura in *Love and Other Demons* at the Glyndebourne Opera Festival, and Clyde Griffiths in *An American Tragedy* at the Metropolitan Opera. A distinguished concert performer, Mr. Gunn has appeared with the New York Philharmonic, Boston Symphony Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, Cleveland Orchestra, Minnesota Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra, Münchner

Rundfunkorchester, and the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra. The many conductors with whom he has worked with include, Sir Andrew Davis, Sir Colin Davis, Christoph von Dohnányi, Christoph Eschenbach, Alan Gilbert, Daniel Harding, James Levine, Kurt Masur, Kent Nagano, Antonio Pappano, David Robertson, Donald Runnicles, Esa-Pekka Salonen, Robert Spano, Michael Tilson Thomas, and Mark Wigglesworth.

Frederica von Stade, Mrs. Winnie Flato

San Diego Opera debut. American mezzo-soprano Frederica von Stade made her Metropolitan Opera debut in 1970 and she has sung nearly all of her great roles with that company. In January 2000, the company celebrated the 30th anniversary of her debut with a new production of *The Merry Widow* specifically for her, and in 1995, as a celebration of her 25th anniversary, the Metropolitan Opera created a new production of *Pelléas et Mélisande* for her. In addition, she has appeared with every leading American opera company, including San Francisco Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, and Los Angeles Opera. Her career in Europe has been no less spectacular, with new productions mounted for her at Teatro alla Scala, Royal Opera, Covent Garden, the Vienna Staatsoper, and the Paris Opera. She is invited regularly by the finest conductors, among them Claudio Abbado, Charles Dutoit, James Levine, Kurt Masur, Riccardo Muti, Seiji Ozawa, André Previn, Leonard Slatkin, and Michael Tilson Thomas, to appear in concert with the world's leading orchestras, including the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Chicago Symphony, Cleveland Orchestra, New York Philharmonic, Philadelphia Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony, London Symphony Orchestra, Washington's National Symphony, and the Orchestra of La Scala. A noted bel canto specialist, she excelled as the heroines of Rossini's *Cenerentola* and *The Barber of Seville* and Bellini's *La sonnambula* and is noted for her Marguerite in Berlioz' *La damnation de Faust*. Other notable roles in her repertory include title role in *The Merry Widow* and Desirée Armfeldt in *A Little Night Music*. Her repertoire is continually expanding with the works of contemporary composers. She created the role of Tina in The Dallas Opera's world premiere production of *The Aspern Papers*, Madame de Merteuil in *Dangerous Liaisons* and Mrs. Patrick De Rocher in *Dead Man Walking*, both for San Francisco Opera.

Joseph Mechavich, Conductor

American Conductor Joseph Mechavich made his Company debut in the 2012 season leading the performances of *Moby-Dick*, which he also conducted for Calgary Opera. He returned last season for *Nixon in China*. He is the Principal Conductor and Music Director for Kentucky Opera, where he has conducted *La bohème*, *The Marriage of Figaro* and *Carmen*. Recent performances include *Romeo and Juliet* for Florida Grand Opera, *Susannah* for The Florentine Opera, *The Barber of Seville* at Washington National Opera, *Porgy and Bess* at Deutsche Oper Berlin, *Madama Butterfly* at New York City Opera, *La bohème* at Dayton Opera and *Cendrillon* at the Aspen Music Festival. Mechavich was the Principal Conductor for Opera Birmingham from 2004-10, conducting *Turandot*, *Madama Butterfly*, *La bohème*, *La traviata*, *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *The Elixir of Love*, *Aida*, *La Cenerentola* and *The Barber of Seville*. He has also presided over highly-recognized productions for Calgary Opera, Utah Opera, Tulsa Opera, Des Moines Metro Opera, Sugar Creek Festival, Pine Mountain Music Festival, Oberlin Opera Theatre, Lake George Opera Festival, Virginia Opera, Fargo-Moorhead Opera and Spokane Opera. Others companies with which he has collaborated include Austin Lyric Opera, New Orleans Opera, Mobile Opera, Nevada Opera and Berkshire Opera.

Jack O'Brien, Director

American stage director Jack O'Brien made his Company debut in 1986 directing *The Lighthouse* and then *Porgy and Bess* the following year. He served as the Artistic Director of The Old Globe from 1981 through 2007. Mr. O'Brien recently directed *It's Only a Play* on Broadway starring F. Murray Abraham, Matthew Broderick, Nathan Lane, Stockard Channing, and Megan Mullally; as

well as the Broadway revival of *Macbeth* with Ethan Hawke. His Broadway credits also include *The Nance*, *Dead Accounts*, *Catch Me If You Can*, *Impressionism*, *The Coast of Utopia* (Tony Award), *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* (Tony nomination), *Henry IV* (Tony Award), *Hairspray* (Tony Award), *Imaginary Friends*, *The Invention of Love* (Tony nomination, Drama Desk Award), *The Full Monty* (Tony nomination), *More to Love*, *Getting Away with Murder*, *Pride's Crossing*, *The Little Foxes*, *Hapgood* (Lucille Lortel Award, Best Director), *Damn Yankees*, *Two Shakespearean Actors* (Tony nomination), *Porgy and Bess* (Tony Award). He directed *II Trittico* for the Metropolitan Opera. Awards include a 2008 Theatre Hall of Fame Inductee, a 2005 John Houseman Award, an ArtServe Michigan 2008 International Achievement Award, a Honorary Doctorate, University of Michigan and a Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, University of San Diego. *Jack Be Nimble: The Accidental Education of an Unintentional Director*, his memoir about the early years of his career, was released in the summer of 2013 by Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

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