

SD OPERA Media Release

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Contact: Edward Wilensky (619) 232-7636

Edward.Wilensky@sdopera.com

Tenor René Barbera to Kick Off San Diego Opera's 2015-2016 Season

*Star tenor of Company's 50th Anniversary Celebration
Concert to make American recital debut on Saturday,
September 19, 2015 at 7 PM at the Balboa Theatre*

San Diego Opera Announces the The Polly Puterbaugh Emerging Artist Award

San Diego, CA – San Diego Opera is pleased to announce that tenor **René Barbera**, who made his San Diego Opera debut this past April in the Company's 50th Anniversary Celebration Concerts, will be returning for a recital on **Saturday, September 19, 2015 at 7 PM at the Balboa Theatre** as part of the Company's 2015-2016 season. This recital marks his American recital debut.

Mr. Barbera is also the first winner of the Polly Puterbaugh Emerging Artist Award, which has been created to support and encourage emerging young singers at the exciting launch of their careers. This new award program will underwrite a concert or mainstage appearance by a young artist of exceptional skill and promise in future seasons at San Diego Opera. The award has been created by local philanthropist Polly Puterbaugh to support young American talent in the vocal arts. Mrs. Puterbaugh is best known in the community for lobbying for a new theatre in Old Town San Diego that resulted in the state appropriation of \$700,000 and creation of the Cygnet Theatre. She campaigned to save the Lyceum Theatre, and was a member of the steering committee to rebuild The Old Globe Theatre when it burned in the 1980s. She has served on the Board of the San Diego Performing Arts League (SDPAL) from 1993-1999 and is currently a member of the SDPAL Civic Advisory Council. She has served for the Balboa Theatre Arts and Education Fund, Coronado Playhouse, Hahn Cosmopolitan Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, Lyceum Theatre, Old Globe Theatre, and Old Town Opera House, among others.

“It is such a great opportunity for our vital San Diego Opera to create new space for this critical endeavor,” shares Mrs. Puterbaugh. “Developing new talent is the lifeblood of art in all its forms and to be at the forefront of this treasure couldn’t be more timely. After hearing about René Barbera, I knew who I wanted to be the inaugural recipient of the first Polly Puterbaugh Emerging Artist Award.”

“People spoke, then asked, and finally begged us to bring René back after his debut in April,” shares David Bennett, San Diego Opera’s incoming General Director. “And while our mainstage season has commitments until 2017, and René is in demand at all the world’s leading opera houses, we decided a recital would be a wonderful showpiece for this fast rising tenor’s skill and virtuosity. René is also the perfect inaugural recipient of this new and exciting award. A recital enables René to perform opera standards, show tunes and zarzuelas in the intimate setting of the Balboa Theatre. We look forward to fostering a relationship with this exciting young tenor for many years to come.”

Immediately following his performances here in April, Mr. Barbera was awarded the Mabel Dorn Reeder Foundation Prize, an award giving every other year by the Opera Theatre of St. Louis to up-and-coming young singers. He will spend the summer singing Iopas in *Les Troyens* at San Francisco Opera and then head off to the Rossini Festival in Pesaro, Italy, where he will sing Gianetto in *La Gazza Ladra* and will appear as a soloist in *Stabat Mater* before returning to San Diego. He’ll finish the season in San Francisco as Count Almaviva in *The Barber of Seville*.

“I’m very pleased to be returning to San Diego Opera,” shares Mr. Barbera. “Earlier this season, I was honored to be part of their 50th Anniversary concert and fell in love with the city, the audience and the Company. I look forward to developing a long term relationship with San Diego Opera and I am incredibly honored to be the first recipient of the Polly Puterbaugh Emerging Artist Award. I look forward to sharing my first American recital with all of you.”

A Texas native, Mr. Barbera is a graduate of the Lyric Opera of Chicago Ryan Opera Center. He was awarded first prize at Plácido Domingo’s Operalia 2011 competition for opera, zarzuela and won the audience prize, making him the first artist to be the sole recipient of all three awards since the competition began. For this recital he will be accompanied by Cheryl Cellon Lindquist in piano.

Tickets to René Barbera in Recital range from \$20 to \$75. A post-concert reception at the Westin San Diego Gaslamp Quarter hotel is also available for \$50 per person. Tickets are only on sale to current subscribers of San Diego Opera’s 2015-2016 season. Any remaining tickets will go on sale to the general public on July 1, 2015. 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.

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*.

Cheryl Cellon Lindquist, Pianist

Pianist Cheryl Cellon Lindquist collaborates with an array of singers, instrumentalists, choirs and chamber ensembles. With appearances throughout the U. S. and Europe, she has been a featured soloist with several symphony orchestras. She has studied with distinguished artists and professors such as Douglas Fisher, Carolyn Bridger, Timothy Hoekman, Valerie M. Trujillo, Lita Guerra, Jerry Alan Bush and Paul Nitsch, and has worked with notable composers John Harbison, Jake Heggie and Krzysztof Penderecki. Through master classes and festivals, she has enjoyed performance opportunities with Martin Katz, John Wustman and Dalton Baldwin. Maintaining an active performing schedule, Dr. Lindquist is a performer with CMASH, a new-music repertory group dedicated to fostering and sustaining long-term collaborative relationships between composers and performers. She was invited to serve on the faculty at the American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria as repetiteur and recital pianist and participated in the Songfest Music Festival at Pepperdine University and at the Académie Internationale d’Été de Nice in Nice, France. She has served on the faculty at University of Texas-Pan American, University of North Carolina-Pembroke, Northwest Vista College and Our Lady of the Lake University. During her brief time in San Antonio, she has enjoyed performances with the San Antonio Symphony, Opera San Antonio, Q Chamber Music Series and the Children’s Chorus of San Antonio and has served as adjudicator for the Artist Foundation of San Antonio Classical Singing Competition and the J.K. Hodges Piano Competition at UTSA. She serves as Chair of the Young Artists Competition in Piano for the Tuesday Musical Club of San Antonio and organist for Trinity Baptist Church. Dr. Lindquist also maintains a private coaching studio and enjoys promoting the works of American living composers.

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.

Tickets to René Barbera in Recital are only available to subscribers. Any remaining single tickets will go on sale at July 1, 2015.

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

The 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.com

San Diego Opera 2015-2016 International Season Performance
Schedule

René Barbera in Recital

Balboa Theatre

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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