

# SD OPERA Media Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**August 13, 2015**

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## **Soprano Patricia Racette Returns to San Diego Opera**

### ***“Diva on Detour” Program Features Famed Soprano Singing Cabaret and Jazz Standards***

***Saturday, November 14, 2015 at 7 PM at the Balboa  
Theatre***

San Diego, CA – San Diego Opera is delighted to welcome back soprano **Patricia Racette** for her wildly-acclaimed “Diva on Detour” program which features the renowned singer performing cabaret and jazz standards by Stephen Sondheim, Cole Porter, George Gershwin, and Edith Piaf, among others, on **Saturday, November 14, 2015 at 7 PM at the Balboa Theatre**. Racette is well known to San Diego Opera audiences, making her Company debut in 1995 as Mimì in *La bohème*, and returning 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 continues to appear regularly in the most acclaimed opera houses of the world, including the Metropolitan Opera, San Francisco Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Houston Grand Opera, Washington National Opera, Los Angeles Opera, and Santa Fe Opera. Known as a great interpreter of Janáček and Puccini, she has gained particular notoriety for her portrayals of the title roles of *Madama Butterfly*, *Tosca*, *Jenůfa*, *Katya Kabanova*, and all three leading soprano roles in *Il Trittico*. Her varied repertory also encompasses the leading roles of Mimì and Musetta in *La bohème*, Nedda in *Pagliacci*, Elisabetta in *Don Carlos*, Leonora in *Il trovatore*, Alice in *Falstaff*, Marguerite in *Faust*, Mathilde in *Guillaume Tell*, Madame Lidoine in *Dialogues of the Carmélites*, Margherita in Boito’s *Mefistofele*, Ellen Orford in *Peter Grimes*, The Governess in *The Turn of the Screw*, and Tatyana in *Eugene Onegin* as well as the title roles of *La traviata*, *Susannah*, *Luisa Miller*, and *Iphigénie en Tauride*.

Joining her for her recital is pianist **Craig Terry** who made his Company debut last season accompanying Stephanie Blythe for her acclaimed presentation of “We’ll Meet Again: The Songs of Kate Smith.”

Tickets to “Diva on Detour” at the Balboa Theatre range from \$20 to \$120. A post-concert reception at the US Grant Hotel is also available for \$75 per person. Tickets can be purchased at (619) 533-7000, Monday-Friday from 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM or online anytime at [www.sdopera.com](http://www.sdopera.com). Subscriptions are also on sale for San Diego Opera’s 2015-2016 season. 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 at (619) 533-7000, Monday-Friday from 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM or online anytime at [www.sdopera.com](http://www.sdopera.com).

### **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.

#### **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](http://www.sdopera.com).

#### **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](http://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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