

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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San Diego Opera and Councilmember Sherman Announce Return of *My Voice in the Arts*

Successful partnership with San Diego City Council Provides Opera Subscriptions to Students in Each Council District

San Diego, CA – San Diego Opera and the San Diego City Council is pleased to announce the second year of My Voice in the Arts, an educational program that provides free season subscriptions to San Diego Opera performances to middle or high-school students (plus their chaperones) in each of the nine San Diego city council districts. My Voice in the Arts, under the guidance of **7th District Councilmember Scott Sherman**, and supported by **Councilmember Lori Zapf (District 2)**, **Councilmember Mark Kersey (District 5)**, and **Councilmember Chris Cate (District 6)**, and **Councilmember Marti Emerald (District 9)** will provide comprehensive arts education to all areas of San Diego youth.

My Voice in the Arts is open to all students within the city of San Diego between grades 6 and 12. Students will be asked to submit responses to the prompt:

“Describe a time when you were affected by the arts”

Students must complete an application and submit a written response to San Diego Opera. After the submission deadline on December 16, 2016, all submissions will be reviewed by a committee of arts educators, artists, art administrators, and council representatives. Winners will be contacted by January 18, 2017. Students and their chaperones will receive orchestra level seats to *Falstaff*, *The Tragedy of Carmen*, and *La traviata*. Students will also have the opportunity to take backstage tours, attend closed rehearsals, and meet civic leaders, arts leaders, and other opera supporters.

Last year’s winners covered topics that ranged from attending theatre to discovering cosplay (the act of dressing up in costumes and accessories as a fictional character from movies or books), to singing for patients in hospice care.

“I am delighted to partner again with Councilmembers Zapf, Cate, Kersey, and Emerald to bring back for another year, My Voice in the Arts,” shares Councilmember **Scott Sherman**. “After the overwhelming success of last year it seemed only natural to continue this program for another year.”

“When I first heard about *My Voice in the Arts*, I was beyond eager to participate. I had a chance to attend operas for the first time, and all I had to do was write. I was excited because I got to mix my love of music and writing to create a paper about the effect music had on my life.” shares first year participant **Karrin Evans**. “I had never been to an opera before this program, and I had wanted to go to one. I got to see three different operas. They were all very well written, and attending them was truly a magical experience. I am very thankful for the *My Voice in the Arts* program, because it gave me an experience I’ll never forget.”

For more information about My Voice in the Arts, or to submit your entry, visit: <https://www.sdopera.org/education/my-voice-in-the-arts>

The 2016-2017 International Season

<i>Piotr Beczala in Recital</i>		September 17, 2016
<i>La Cenerentola (Cinderella)</i>	Gioachino Rossini	October 22, 25, 28 and 30 (mat), 2016
<i>Soldier Songs</i>	David T. Little	November 11, 12 and 13 (mat), 2016
Falstaff	Giuseppe Verdi	February 18, 21, 25 and 26 (mat), 2017
<i>La Tragédie de Carmen</i>	Georges Bizet/Peter Brook	March 10, 11 and 12 (mat) 2017
<i>La traviata</i>	Giuseppe Verdi	April 22, 25, 28 and 30 (mat), 2017

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.

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