

SD OPERA Media Release

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San Diego Opera Presents “Taste of Opera” A Series of Communitywide Events Designed to Offer a Casual Introduction to the San Diego Opera Season

Events feature tango classes, magic realism painting classes, an exploration transgender representation in the arts, and more.

San Diego, CA – San Diego Opera is pleased to announce a series of communitywide events designed to offer a fun and casual introduction to San Diego Opera’s 2017-2018 season offerings for both the operaphile and opera curious. Centered on themes that are covered in the Company’s season –*As One*, *Maria de Buenos Aires*, *Turandot*, and *Florenca en el Amazonas* – Taste of Opera events are fun community building gatherings that brings people together for a drink, a bite to eat, and an educational component that should make coming to the opera more enjoyable.

San Diego Opera is proud to present the opera *As One*, part of the dētour series which reflects topics and stories that are important to diverse communities. *As One* explores the journey of Hannah from her youth in a small town to a place where she learns to embrace herself and her true identity emerges. *As One* strips the topic of being transgender bare to one human being’s personal and emotional story with a beautiful score illuminated by empathy and humor. To engage our community in dialogue about this current topic, San Diego Opera is please to present ***Transgender Visibility in the Arts* on Thursday, October 26, 2017 at 6:30 PM at Diversionary Theatre (4545 Park Blvd. #101 San Diego, CA 92116)**. In this community panel discussion, San Diego Opera’s General Director David Bennett will join Diversionary Theatre's Executive Artistic Director Matt M. Morrow, and a special guest from the transgender community, as they explore transgender visibility in opera and theatre, and the important issues this visibility addresses. There will be an audience Q&A session as well. Pre-reception catered by Plumeria Vegetarian Restaurant with wine and beer from San Diego Opera’s beer sponsor, Modern Times. Cost is \$25.

Piazolla’s opera *Maria de Buenos Aires* is also part of the Company’s dētour series. This tango opera is as sensual as it is surreal. On **Wednesday, January 17, 2018 at 7 PM** at

Tango del Rey (3567 Del Rey St. San Diego, CA 92109) San Diego Opera will present *Gritty Streets and Sensual Beats*. Guests will immerse themselves in the sights and sounds of this captivating opera while enjoying a glass or wine or beer and light hors d'oeuvres. Guests will be treated to a performance by the Bonita Trio, a tango demonstration, and a class where they can practice what they learn on the dance floor. The club will be open after the event so guests can dance the night away. Cost is \$40.

Ever wonder where did the story of the ice princess Turandot come from? Many point to an 18th century play by Carlo Gozzi but it is, in fact, *much* older than that! Children's literature and folktale expert Joseph Thomas, professor of literature at SDSU, will join Dr. Nic Reveles for an in-depth conversation about the story and its origins that is sure to delight audiences when San Diego Opera explores *The Origins of Turandot* on **Sunday, February 4, 2018 at 3 PM** at the **Neil Morgan Auditorium at the Downtown Public Library** (330 Park Blvd. San Diego, CA 92101). Among other surprises, learn about Khutulun, the wrestler princess and why she kept her suitors at bay! A member of SDO's Opera Exposed program will join us to sing excerpts from the Puccini score. Light refreshments will be served. This is a free event.

Turandot is a story with deep Persian roots with detours through China and Italy and the San Diego Museum of Art's Asian collection has unique connections to this story. Join us on **Thursday, February 8, 2018 at 6:30 PM (VIP tour) 7 PM (reception)** at the **San Diego Museum of Art (1450 El Prado, San Diego, CA 92102)** for **Puccini & Persia: A Celebration of Art and Opera**. Puccini's opera Turandot is truly a synthesis of the art and culture of that 'Silk Road' and its vastly differently cultures. This event will have two ways for guests to deepen their knowledge and appreciation of this magical tale. VIP tours with Asian Collection Curator Diana Chou and Dr. Nic Reveles are available or simply join us for a reception that will feature a conversation between these two experts, light hors d'oeuvres, wine and Modern Times beer and special performance by Angel Blue, who is making her San Diego Opera performance in *Turandot* as Liù. The Asian Art Collection will be open for guests to enjoy during the reception. Cost is \$55 for the VIP tour and reception. General admission (does not include the VIP tour) is \$45. Please note the VIP tour has limited capacity.

Storytelling is the social and cultural activity of sharing stories, often with improvisation or embellishment. Magical realism is a literary, artistic and cinematic technique that surrounds us every day and merges fantastic or mythical elements with realistic ones. These two important artistic components merge in *Florenzia en el Amazonas*, specifically because the libretto is heavily influenced by the writings of Gabriel Garcia Marquez. Join Dr. Nicolas Reveles and William Nericcio, Professor of English and Comparative Literature at SDSU, on **Wednesday, February 21, 2018 at 6:30 PM** at the **La Jolla Community Center (6811 La Jolla Blvd, La Jolla, CA 92037)** for **Storytelling, Magic Realism and Florenzia**, a unique evening that will explore the use of magical realism in the storytelling. Don't miss the mix and mingle pre-event reception with light hors d'oeuvres, wine, and beer. Cost is \$20. Free valet parking will also be provided for guests.

Magical realism is a literary, artistic and cinematic technique that merges the everyday mundane with fantastic or mythical elements. San Diego Opera’s *Florencia en el Amazonas* is influenced by the magical realism writings of Gabriel Garcia Marquez and now guests can try their hand at this magic style of painting at **Pinot’s Palette** (2820 Roosevelt Rd. #106, Liberty Station, San Diego, CA, 92106) on **Tuesday, March 6, 2018 at 7 PM** with **What in the World is Magical Realism?** Guests will get their creative juices flowing with a glass of wine or beer, light hors d’oeuvres, and a look into the sights and sounds of Daniel Catan’s opera presented by Dr. Nicolas Reveles. Cost is \$50.

Tickets can be purchased at <https://www.sdopera.org/engage/taste-of-opera> or by phone at 619.533.7000.

The 2017-2018 International Season

<i>The Pirates of Penzance</i>	Gilbert & Sullivan	October 14, 17, 20, and 22 (mat), 2017
<i>As One</i>	Laura Kaminsky	November 10, 11 and 12 (1 PM, mat), 2017
<i>Maria de Buenos Aires</i>	Ástor Piazzolla	January 26, 27 and 28 (mat), 2018
<i>Turandot</i>	Giacomo Puccini	February 24, 27, March 2, and 4 (mat), 2018
<i>Florencia en el Amazonas</i>	Daniel Catán	March 17, 20, 23, and 25 (mat) 2018
<i>One Amazing Night – Greer Grimsley & Lise Lindstrom in Concert</i>		May 5, 2018

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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