

Contact: Edward Wilensky
 Phone: 619.232.7636 x248
Edward.Wilensky@sdopera.com
 Afterhours: 619.384.7636

Massenet's Masterpiece *Don Quixote (Don Quichotte)* Returns to San Diego after 40 Year Absence

Italian bass Ferruccio Furlanetto makes his American role debut as Don Quixote opposite American mezzo-soprano Denyce Graves as Dulcinea

“Prowling the stage throughout like a... cheetah, mezzo-soprano Denyce Graves proved the perfect worldly foil for the ascetic Don Quixote.”

- *The Washington Post*

“Graves' vocal control is effortless, her French diction is clear and impeccable, and her multi-octave voice has a dusky boldness on the bottom and a featherlight creaminess on top. She's also beautiful and playfully seductive, a fine singing actress”

- *North County Times*

“The Italian basso [Ferruccio Furlanetto] dominated”

- *The Los Angeles Times*

San Diego, CA – San Diego Opera's 44th International Season continues on **Saturday, February 14, 2009** with its second production of the season, Jules Massenet's rarely performed French masterpiece *Don Quixote (Don Quichotte)*, an opera based on the novel by Miguel Cervantes. Last seen in San Diego in 1969, this new production by San Diego Opera features the return of San Diego Opera favorite, the great Italian bass **Ferruccio Furlanetto** in the title role. These performances will mark his American role debut. Also returning to San Diego in the role of Dulcinea is American mezzo-soprano **Denyce Graves**, who was last seen in San Diego in 2006 in *Samson and Delilah* to critical and popular acclaim. Rounding out the cast is Argentinean bass-baritone **Eduardo Chama** as Don Quixote's faithful companion, Sancho Panza, American tenor **Bryan Register** as Juan, American tenor **Joel Sorensen** as Rodriguez, American soprano **Laura Portune** as Pedro and American soprano **Rebecca Skaar** as Garcias. San Diego Opera's resident conductor **Karen Keltner** brings her mastery of the French repertoire to the podium and San Diego Opera's General and Artistic Director, **Ian Campbell**, will stage the production. The ballet will be choreographed by **Nicola Bowie**.

Performed in French with English translations above the stage, Massenet's *Don Quixote* takes its story from the novel of the same name. The wandering knight Don Quixote filled with old fashioned notions of chivalry and honor, has fallen in love with the town beauty, Dulcinea, and

offers her his devotion. Dulcinea instead offers him a quest; retrieve a stolen necklace from a group of dangerous bandits. So begins a fantastical voyage of the knight-errant and his faithful servant Sancho Panza that takes them from a Spanish village, to the misty countryside where windmills are mistaken for giants, and mountain hideaways inhabited by bandits. But Dulcinea's destiny is different from Don Quixote's and the eccentric knight is left wondering if there is a place for him and his ways in this world anymore. With a familiar story and moving music such as Don Quixote's "Seigneur, reçois mon âme, elle n'est pas méchante" and Sancho Panza's scathing critique of women "Comment peut-on penser du bien de ces coquines", *Don Quixote* will delight audiences who have not had a chance to see this opera in San Diego in over forty years.

Don Quixote was last performed by San Diego Opera in 1969. This is a new production built and owned by San Diego Opera with sets by **Ralph Funicello** and costumes by **Missy West**.

Pre-production photos can be found online at:

<http://www.sdopera.com/pressphotos/09Overview.aspx>

Electronic Press Kits for this opera, including multimedia content can be found online at:

<http://www.sdopera.com/epk/Default.aspx>

The Cast

Ferruccio Furlanetto, Don Quixote

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*, and most recently in the title role of *Boris Godunov* in 2007. Recent engagements include King Phillip with Royal Opera Covent Garden and Opéra National de Paris, *Boris Godunov* at the Vienna Staatsoper 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. Other roles include Fiesco in *Simon Boccanegra* and Zaccaria in *Nabucco*. 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 Wiener Staatsoper and an Honorary Ambassador to the United Nations.

Denyce Graves, Dulcinea

American mezzo-soprano Denyce Graves made her Company debut as Delilah in *Samson and Delilah* in 2007. Her many varied roles include Federica in *Luisa Miller* with the Metropolitan Opera, Cuniza in *Oberto* with Covent Garden, Judith in *Bluebeard's Castle* with Los Angeles Opera, Dulcinea in *Don Quixote* with Washington National Opera, Charlotte in *Werther* with Teatro Carlo Felice in Genoa, and Baba The Turk in *The Rake's Progress* at Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris. Denyce Graves is a very active concert performer, and her recordings include the aria CD *Voce di Donna*, and *The Lost Days*, a recording with jazz musicians of Latin songs in Spanish and Portuguese. Her complete opera recordings include *La vestale*, *Hamlet*, *Rigoletto*, and *Otello*.

Eduardo Chama, Sancho Panza

Argentinean bass-baritone Eduardo Chama made his San Diego Opera debut as Bartolo in *The Barber of Seville* in 2006. Recent engagements include Leporello in *Don Giovanni* with Nashville Opera, Seattle Opera, New York City Opera, Florentine Opera, Cleveland Opera, Opera Colorado and Opera Omaha, Méphistophélès in *Faust* with Calgary Opera, Don Magnifico in *Cinderella* with Glimmerglass Opera, Mustafa in *The Italian Girl in Algiers* with Palm Beach Opera and the title role of *Gianni Schicchi* with New Israeli Opera. Well known for the role of Figaro in *The Marriage of Figaro* he has performed this with New York City Opera, Calgary Opera, Orlando Opera, Kentucky Opera, Tulsa Opera, Cleveland Opera, Utah Opera and Deutsche Oper am Rhein in Düsseldorf. Other notable performances include the title role of *Don Pasquale* with Seattle Opera and Kentucky Opera, Don Alfonso in *Così fan tutte* with Portland Opera, Crespel in *The Tales of Hoffmann* with New York City Opera, Amonasro in *Aida* with Opera de Puerto Rico and Sancho Panza in *Don Quixote* with Teatro Colon in Buenos Aires. Mr. Chama is also an accomplished concert soloist.

Bryan Register, Juan

American tenor Bryan Register made his San Diego Opera debut in 2006 as Arturo in *Lucia di Lammermoor* and returned in 2007 as the First Philistine in *Samson and Delilah*. Other roles include Don José in *Carmen* with Virginia Opera, Astolf in *Die Verschworenen*, Don Ottavio in *Don Giovanni* and Leander in *Maskerade* with Bronx Opera Company. An active concert soloist, he has appeared at Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall performing such works as Mozart's *Requiem*, Haydn's *Lord Nelson Mass*, Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony* and Handel's *Messiah* and *Judas Maccabeus*, among others. He has been part of the apprentice programs at The Santa Fe Opera and Glimmerglass Opera and received the Birgit Nilsson Scholarship at Manhattan School of Music. Most recently, he has been added to the roster of the "Emerging Singers Program" sponsored by the Wagner Society of Washington D.C. and was a 2008 winner of the Gerda Lissner Competition.

Joel Sorensen, Rodriguez

American tenor Joel Sorensen made his San Diego Opera debut as Curley in *Of Mice and Men* in 1999, returning as Camp Williams in *Cold Sassy Tree* in 2001 and again as Andres in *Wozzeck* in 2007. He made his Metropolitan Opera debut in 2000 in *Samson and Delilah*, returning for *Sly*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Der Rosenkavalier* and *War and Peace*. With New York City Opera he has given more than 200 performances since his 1994 debut there as Monostatos in *The Magic Flute*, returning in *Madama Butterfly*, *Falstaff*, *Turandot*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Prince Igor*, *La rondine*, *The Seven Deadly Sins* and *Margaret Garner*, among others. He recently made his Los Angeles Opera debut in *Tosca* and performed King Herod in *Salome* with the Florentine Opera. Other companies with which he has sung include San Francisco Opera, Seattle Opera, Opera Company of Philadelphia, Portland Opera and Palm Beach Opera.

Laura Portune, Pedro

American soprano Laura Portune made her San Diego Opera debut in *Madama Butterfly* in 2003, was a member of the San Diego Opera Ensemble from 2000-2002, returned as Tebaldo/Celestial Voice in *Don Carlo* in 2004, the Shepherd Boy in *Tannhäuser* in 2008 and was most recently seen earlier this season as the Shepherd Boy in *Tosca*. Roles include Musetta in *La bohème*, Gilda in *Rigoletto*, Rosina in *The Barber of Seville*, Susanna in *The Marriage of Figaro*, Mabel in *The Pirates of Penzance*, Phyllis in *Iolanthe* and Gianetta in *The Gondoliers* in such houses as Dayton Opera, Opera Columbus, Des Moines Metro Opera and Lake George Opera. An active concert soloist, she has performed with North Czech Philharmonic, Chicago Chamber Orchestra and Glens Falls Symphony Orchestra among others.

Rebecca Skaar, Garcias

San Diego Opera debut. American soprano Rebecca Skaar has enjoyed performing with several young artist programs, including the San Diego Opera Ensemble, Opera Tampa, Anchorage Opera Studio Theater and Pine Mountain Music Festival. In San Diego she performed Nell in *Rumpelstiltskin* and Briar Rose in *Sleeping Beauty*. Other roles have included Norina in *Don Pasquale*, 2nd Lady in *The Magic Flute* and Rosine in Offenbach's one act opera *A Mixed Up Marriage*. At Luther College and Northwestern University she enjoyed the opportunity to perform such Mozart roles as Papagena, Fiordiligi, and Susanna, as well as Beth in Mark Adamo's *Little Women*. Most recently she performed Pamina in *Die Zauberflöte* with the Intermezzo Foundation in Brugge, Belgium. She has been a Regional Metropolitan Opera Finalist twice.

Ian Campbell, Director

Ian Campbell has been the General Director and Artistic Director of San Diego Opera for the past 25 years. His work as a stage director includes *La bohème*, *The Tales of Hoffmann*, *Cavalleria rusticana* and *Pagliacci*, *Il trovatore*, *Katya Kabanova* and *La traviata*. Born in Australia, Campbell began his operatic career as a tenor with the Australian Opera and then moved into management with the Australia Council. Before coming to San Diego Opera, his career has included positions as General Manager of The State Opera of South Australia in Adelaide, and Assistant Artistic Administrator at the Metropolitan Opera. He is a graduate of the University of Sydney, and a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management.

Karen Keltner, Conductor

San Diego Opera's Resident Conductor, Karen Keltner, has been associated with the Company since 1982 and has conducted a broad repertoire including last season's *The Pearl Fishers*. Other operas which she has conducted for San Diego Opera include *Samson and Delilah*, *Wozzeck*, *Carmen*, *The Conquistador*, *Così fan tutte*, *Thérèse Raquin*, *The Flying Dutchman*, *The Lighthouse*, *Cold Sassy Tree*, *A Streetcar Named Desire* and *Rigoletto*. As guest conductor throughout the United States, she has appeared with the Washington National Opera, the New York City Opera, Seattle Opera, Pittsburgh Opera, the Opera Company of Philadelphia, Opera Carolina and Lyric Opera of Kansas City, among others. Internationally Keltner has conducted for Vancouver Opera and Manitoba Opera in Canada and returned to Strasbourg, France, site of her student days, to appear with the Opéra National du Rhin. She was principal conductor of Anchorage Opera between 1990 to 2004, and summer 2009 will mark her 14th season as conductor for Utah Festival Opera where she conducts multiple productions and performances each year. She holds degrees in French from Indiana University and l'Université de Strasbourg and earned music degrees through the Doctorate from Indiana University's prestigious School of Music. Keltner often gives master classes for singers in universities and cities where she guest conducts.

Nicola Bowie, Choreographer

British Choreographer Nicola Bowie debuted at San Diego Opera in *Salome* in 1998 and returned last season for *Tannhäuser*. She trained at the Legat School of Russian Ballet and the Royal Ballet Upper School and danced professionally with English National Ballet. Bowie joined English National Opera in 1976 and was appointed Head of Movement in 1988, a post she held until 2001. In this capacity she worked on over 60 productions. Most recently, she directed *Madama Butterfly* for Eugene Opera and *La bohème* for Florida Grand Opera. She has worked extensively in Europe and the US most notably for the Lyric Opera of Chicago, Glimmerglass, Boston, Seattle, Cincinnati, Dallas, Bonn, Dresden, Munich and Glyndebourne. She has directed productions for NYCO, Portland Opera, San Francisco Opera Merola Program, Madrid, Scottish Opera, Tel Aviv and Opera Zuid. In California she directed productions for USC and CSULB.

Ralph Funicello, Scenic Designer

San Diego Opera debut. American Scenic Designer Ralph Funicello’s Broadway credits include: *Julius Caesar*, *Brooklyn Boy*, *Henry IV* (Outer Critic’s Circle, Drama Desk and Tony Award nominations) and *King Lear*. For Off Broadway he has designed *Ten Unknowns* and *Pride’s Crossing*. He has designed for numerous theatres including the American Conservatory Theatre, Lincoln Center Theatre, Mark Taper Forum, South Coast Rep, New York City Opera, The Shakespeare Theatre in Washington D.C., Stratford Festival of Canada, and The Royal Shakespeare Company, Stratford on Avon. Funicello has received The Merritt Award for Excellence in Design and Collaboration, A Los Angeles Music Center Distinguished Arts Award and the L.A. Drama Critics’ Circle Award and his work has been seen at the Library of Performing Arts in New York City, USD, Tiffany & Co., San Diego and The Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in Los Angeles. He currently holds the position of Powell Chair in Set Design at SDSU.

Missy West, Costume Designer

San Diego Opera debut. American Costume Designer Missy West has been the Costume Supervisor for San Diego Opera for over 14 years and was the assistant designer for *Wozzeck* in 2007, *The Pearl Fishers* in 2004 and *The Magic Flute* in 2001. Other opera works include assistant designer for the world premier of *Frau Margot* at Fort Worth Opera. For Broadway her work includes building costumes for *Phantom of the Opera*, *Les Miserables*, *Jelly’s Last Jam*, *Cats*, *Starlight Express* and *Black and Blue*. Film credits include on-set costuming for *Seabiscuit*, *Legend of Bagger Vance*, *Thomas Crown Affair*, *For the Love of the Game*, *Die Hard with a Vengeance*, *Mighty Aphrodite* and *Fried Green Tomatoes*. West has also worked for Alvin Ailey Dance Company, on international tours and fashion as well as television and commercials.

Marie Barrett, Lighting Designer

American lighting designer Marie Barrett made her debut with San Diego Opera with *The Passion of Jonathan Wade* in 1991. Her work with San Diego Opera includes *Tannhäuser* in 2008, *Katya Kabanova* in 2004, *Fidelio* in 2003, *Tosca* in 2002, *The Magic Flute* in 2001 and 2006, *Il trovatore* in 2000, *Falstaff* in 1999, *The Barber of Seville* in 1998 and *La traviata* in 1997. An acclaimed designer, Barrett has worked for many companies in her 25 years of lighting opera including, Houston Grand Opera, Los Angeles Opera, San Francisco Opera, Netherlands Opera, l’Opéra National de Paris, The Dallas Opera, Canadian Opera Company and Fort Worth Opera.

About the Producers’ Circle Sponsors

These performances of *Don Quixote* are made possible by **Esther Burnham (Co-Title Sponsor)** and **David Copley (Co-Title Sponsor)**.

Performance Schedule

Saturday	February 14, 2009	7 PM
Tuesday	February 17, 2009	7 PM
Friday	February 20, 2009	8 PM
Sunday	February 22, 2009	2 PM

Educational Events Surrounding *Don Quixote*

Artists’ Roundtable

Meet the singers, conductor and director of *Don Quixote* in this free and informal panel discussion on **Thursday, February 5, 2009 at 5:30 PM** in the Beverly Sills Salon, Civic Theatre. Free.

Pre- Opera Lectures

These 30-minute informative lectures take place in the Civic Theatre one-hour prior to every performance and offer wonderful insight into the production audience members are about to see. These lectures are free to all ticket holders and are generously sponsored by *The San Diego Union-Tribune*.

San Diego OperaTalk! with Nick Reveles

Join Dr. Nicolas Reveles, San Diego Opera's Geisel Director of Education, for a fascinating half-hour television program on *Don Quixote*. Viewers will learn about the story, music and history of each opera and will pick up rich insight into the structure and composition of the music.

OperaTalk! with Nick Reveles airs on UCSD-TV. For a complete listing of schedules and where to view it visit: <http://www.sdopera.com/education/operatalk.aspx>

San Diego Opera Spotlight

Produced by San Diego Opera and UCSD-TV, the award-winning *San Diego Opera Spotlight* gives viewers a unique and entertaining look behind-the-scenes of each of San Diego Opera's five main-stage productions. Viewers will see how the singers, directors, conductor and crew work together to create each opera, get a sneak peak at rehearsal footage and hear exclusive interviews with the stars. *San Diego Opera Spotlight Don Quixote* airs on **Friday, February 13 at 9:00 PM on UCSD-TV** and repeats daily throughout the run of the production. For a complete listing of schedules and where to view it visit: <http://www.sdopera.com/education/spotlight.aspx>

Purchasing Tickets

Three, four or five-opera subscriptions for the 2009 International Season are now available. Regular subscriptions range from \$87 - \$850 (some Saturday subscriptions slightly higher) and can be purchased by calling (619) 533-7000 or online at www.sdopera.com.

Weekday Super Savings Subscription Packages are also available which offer a full series of five operas for the price of four and can be purchased by calling (619) 533-7000 or online at www.sdopera.com.

For information about single tickets please visit www.sdopera.com or call (619) 533-7000 to speak to an opera representative.

\$20 rush tickets, subject to availability, are available 90-minutes prior to performances. There is a one-ticket per person limit. Cash and credit cards only.

The 2009 International Season

<i>Tosca</i>	Giacomo Puccini	January 24, 27, 30 February 1 (mat) and 4, 2009
<i>Don Quixote</i>	Jules Massenet	February 14, 17, 20 and 22 (mat), 2009
<i>Rigoletto</i>	Giuseppe Verdi	March 28, 31, April 3, 5 (mat) and 8, 2009
<i>Peter Grimes</i>	Benjamin Britten	April 18, 21, 24 and 26 (mat), 2009
<i>Madama Butterfly</i>	Giacomo Puccini	May 9, 12, 15, 17 (mat) and 20, 2009

General Information

A widely respected member of the international opera community, *San Diego Opera* brings the world's finest artists to San Diego. Founded in 1965, and led for the last 25 years by General Director and Artistic Director Ian D. Campbell, San Diego Opera produces performances of the highest artistic quality while remaining financially stable. San Diego Opera is also home to one of the most extensive, diverse opera education and outreach programs in North America, reaching over 70,000 schoolchildren and 20,000 adults in San Diego County and Baja California.

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