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Puccini's *Tosca* Opens the 2009 Season

Important Company Debuts by Sylvie Valayre as Tosca and Marcus Haddock as Cavaradossi

“The top of [Sylvie Valayre’s] soprano voice is nothing less than extraordinary. Such overflowing arias as “Vissi d’arte” were filled with sparkling, stratospheric moments... There was a pleasing artistry in her singing that merged accurate intonation with an ability to move her sound smoothly across a wide vocal range.”

- *The Washington Post*

“[Marcus] Haddock's performance, which is distinguished by a confident top voice, presents the painter-lover-rebel as an aristocrat, encountering life with gloves on.”

- *The Washington Post*

San Diego, CA – San Diego Opera’s 44th International Season opens on **January 24, 2009** with Giacomo Puccini’s operatic thriller *Tosca*. Last performed by San Diego Opera in 2002, *Tosca* features the exciting Company debut of French soprano **Sylvie Valayre** who has dazzled audiences as Tosca in Paris, Zurich, Vienna, Washington DC and at the Metropolitan Opera in New York. Also making a Company debut is American tenor **Marcus Haddock** who’s Cavaradossi has been heard to critical acclaim in Paris, Munich, and Washington DC. Returning to San Diego to round out the cast are bass-baritone **Greer Grimsely** as Scarpia, German bass **Jamie Offenbach** as Angelotti/Sciarrone, American bass-baritone **Scott Sikon** as Sacristano and Taiwanese tenor **Joseph Hu** as Spoletta. San Diego Opera’s principal guest conductor, **Edoardo Müller**, will conduct his first of three operas this season and Australian stage director **Andrew Sinclair** directs.

Performed in Italian with English translations above the stage, *Tosca* is Giacomo Puccini’s gripping drama filled with torture, treachery, lust, execution and suicide. Scarpia, the chief of police, wants only two things: to recapture the escaped prisoner Angelotti and to seduce Tosca, an opera singer of incredible voice and beauty. Tosca is in love with Cavaradossi, an artist and sympathizer of Angelotti. After arresting Cavaradossi for harboring Angelotti, Scarpia plays with Tosca’s emotions, promising to free Cavaradossi if Tosca will have sex with him. But Tosca has a plan of her own and Scarpia a secret order, all of which unfolds with tragic consequences from which no one can escape. Soaring and sensuous, filled with such beautiful arias as Tosca’s “Vissi

d'arte", Cavaradossi's "Recondita armonia" and the beautiful choral piece "Te Deum", *Tosca* has some of Opera's most beloved music, and one of Opera's most gripping plots.

Tosca was last performed by San Diego Opera in 2002. This production is owned by San Diego Opera with sets by **Jean-Pierre Ponnelle** and costumes by **Suzanne Mess** and **Ray Diffen**.

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

Sylvie Valayre, Tosca

San Diego Opera debut. French soprano Sylvie Valayre is well known for her portrayals of Lady Macbeth in Verdi's *Macbeth*, Abigail in *Nabucco*, and the title roles of *Norma*, *Tosca*, *Madama Butterfly*, *La Gioconda* and *Salome* which she has sung at all the world's major houses. She received international attention with her debut at the Royal Opera House Covent Garden in *Nabucco*. She has sung several roles at the Metropolitan Opera including her debut as Cio-Cio-San in *Madama Butterfly*, Maddalena di Ciogny in *Andrea Chenier* and the title role of *Tosca* which she has also performed in Zurich, Berlin, Washington, Rome, Bologna, Paris, Tokyo and Vienna. Recent engagements include Lady Macbeth for the Glyndebourne Festival, *Tosca* for Opéra National de Paris and *Nabucco* for Deutsche Opera Berlin. Valayre debuted at the Teatro alla Scala in *La Gioconda*, at Lyric Opera of Chicago as *Tosca*, at San Francisco Opera in *Madama Butterfly*, at the Bayerische Staatsoper in Munich in the title role of *Aida*, at Opernhaus Zurich and at the the Bolshoi Opera in Moscow in *Nabucco*. She sings in concert throughout Europe and has appeared with all the major Paris orchestras, with Radio France and at the Montpellier Festival.

Marcus Haddock, Cavaradossi

San Diego Opera debut. American tenor Marcus Haddock has sung with many of the finest companies in the world as Don José in *Carmen* including the Bavarian State Opera, Rome Opera, Semperoper Dresden and Houston Grand Opera. He is well known for the title role of *Werther* which he sang for his debut with the Vienna State Opera and at Grand Théâtre de Genève. Haddock is also known for the title role of *Faust* which he has performed at the Metropolitan Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago and Deutsche Oper Berlin. Other notable performances include the title role of *Don Carlo* at the Teatro del Maggio Musicale, Operá de Monte Carlo and Cologne Opera, Ricardo in *A Masked Ball* with the Opera Company of Philadelphia and San Francisco Opera, Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly* at Covent Garden and Alfredo in *La traviata* at the Metropolitan Opera, Dallas Opera and Gran Teatre del Liceu. An accomplished recording artist, he can be heard on recordings of Montemezzi's *L'amore dei tre re*, Mercadante's *Gli Orazi e i Curiazi* and the title role of *Werther* with the Orchestre de Lille on Naxos.

Greer Grimsley, Scarpia

American bass-baritone Greer Grimsley made his San Diego Opera debut in *Lohengrin* in 2000 and returned for *Fidelio* in 2003 and *Samson and Delilah* in 2007. He made his Metropolitan Opera debut as Captain Balstrode in *Peter Grimes* and has subsequently performed Escamillo in *Carmen*, Jokanaan in *Salome*, Scarpia in *Tosca*, Telramund in *Lohengrin* and Amfortas in *Parsifal*. Recent engagements include Wotan in Seattle Opera's Ring Cycle, the title role of *The Flying Dutchman* in Lithuania and Seattle Opera, the title role of *Macbeth* with Vancouver Opera,

Don Pizzarro in *Fidelio* with the Saint Louis Symphony, Amonasro in *Aida* with Portland Opera and Méphistophélès in *Faust* with New Orleans Opera. A frequent singer in Europe, Grimsley has performed leading roles at Deutsche Oper Berlin, Teatro Comunale di Bologna, Royal Danish Opera, Prague National Theatre, Aarhus-Den Jyske Opera in Denmark, the Scottish Opera and the Stadttheater Basel in Switzerland, among others.

Jamie Offenbach, Angelotti/Sciarrone

American bass-baritone Jamie Offenbach made his San Diego Opera debut as Ceprano in *Rigoletto* in 2002 and returned later that season for *Tosca* in these same roles. Recent engagements include the title role in *The Mikado*, Basilio in *The Barber of Seville* and Grand Inquisitor in *Don Carlo* with Hawaii Opera Theatre, Capellio in *I Capuletti ed I Montecchi* and Ramfis in *Aida* with Florentine Opera, Old Hebrew in *Samson and Delilah* with Nashville Opera, Basilio in *The Barber of Seville* with Michigan Opera Theater, Bogdanovich in *Merry Widow* with Los Angeles Opera and The Dallas Opera, Mustafa in *The Italian Girl in Algiers* with Santa Barbara Opera, Bartolo in *The Marriage of Figaro* with Opera Pacific, Zuniga in *Carmen* with Los Angeles Opera, Sparafucile in *Rigoletto* with Hawaii Opera Theatre and Opera Carolina and Tiger Brown in *The Threepenny Opera* with Arizona Opera. He has appeared as a featured soloist in concert with the Honolulu Symphony, Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival and Colorado Springs Orchestra, among others.

Scott Sikon, Sacristano

Since his San Diego Opera debut in 1991 as Superintendent Budd in *Albert Herring*, American bass-baritone Scott Sikon has sung more than twenty roles here including Schaunard in *La bohème*, Monterone in *Rigoletto*, Dikoi in *Katya Kabanova*, Steve Hubble in *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Montano in *Otello*, Morales in *Carmen*, Curio in *Julius Caesar in Egypt*, the Second Philistine in *Samson and Delilah*, the First Journeyman in *Wozzeck*, Antonio in *The Marriage of Figaro*, and most recently, Reinmar von Zweter in last season's *Tannhäuser*. He has performed throughout the United States with Houston Grand Opera, San Francisco Opera, New York City Opera, The Dallas Opera, Hawaii Opera Theatre, Cincinnati Opera and Cleveland Opera. His European debut was at the Vienna Volksoper in the premiere of *The Number 11 Bus*. An active concert artist, Scott Sikon has performed with the Spoleto Festival USA, the San Antonio Symphony and the Arkansas Symphony.

Joseph Hu, Spoletta

Taiwanese tenor Joseph Hu made his San Diego Opera debut as Arturo in *Lucia di Lammermoor* in 1995. His many performances here include Goro in *Madama Butterfly*, Spoletta in *Tosca*, the Steersman in *The Flying Dutchman*, Roderigo in *Otello*, Pong in *Turandot*, Benvolio in *Romeo and Juliet*, Count Lerma in *Don Carlo*, the Messenger in *Samson and Delilah*, Ruiz and the Messenger in *Il trovatore* and most recently Don Curzio in *The Marriage of Figaro*. Among other companies with which he has sung are The Dallas Opera, Cincinnati Opera, Kentucky Opera, Nashville Opera, Fort Worth Opera and Dayton Opera.

Samuel Spade, Jailer

San Diego Opera debut. Notable roles in American bass Samuel Spade's repertoire include Pandolfe in *Cendrillon*, Sharpless in *Madama Butterfly*, Schaunard in *La bohème*, Friedrich Bhaer in *Little Women*, Sacristano in *Tosca* and Mr. Webb in *Our Town*. Mr. Spade has appeared with Opera Illinois, Quad Cities Opera, Indianapolis Opera and Central City Opera. He made his European debut in the role of Marullo at Lyrique en Mer, France. He is a current member of the San Diego Opera Ensemble.

Laura Portune, Shepherd Boy

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 and was most recently seen as the Shepherd Boy in *Tannhäuser* in 2008. 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.

Edoardo Müller, Conductor

Italian conductor and San Diego Opera's Principal Guest Conductor, Edoardo Müller, has led more than 30 productions in San Diego, beginning in 1980 with *Giovanna d'Arco*. Last season he conducted *Mary, Queen of Scots* and *Cavalleria rusticana / Pagliacci*. Known worldwide for his mastery of the Italian operatic repertoire, he has enjoyed a long association with the Teatro alla Scala in Milan where he conducted *Aida*, *I due Foscari*, *Il trovatore*, *I masnadieri*, *La forza del destino*, *Ernani*, *The Barber of Seville* and *Anna Bolena*, among others. His career has taken him to the Metropolitan Opera, Teatro Municipal in Santiago, Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires, Seattle Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, The Dallas Opera, Cincinnati Opera as well as companies in Paris, Rome and Tokyo.

Andrew Sinclair, Director

Australian stage director Andrew Sinclair made his San Diego Opera debut in 2000 with *Lohengrin* followed by *Aida* in 2001 and the highly successful *The Pearl Fishers* in 2004 and 2008, a production he has also directed for New York City Opera, San Francisco Opera, Washington National Opera, Opéra de Montréal and Florida Grand Opera. He returned in 2006 to stage *Lucia di Lammermoor* and also directed last season's *Mary, Queen of Scots*. He is a Staff Director with Covent Garden where he has worked on many productions including *Der Rosenkavalier* and both *Lohengrin* and *Der Ring des Nibelungen* with Götz Friedrich. He was also at the Bayreuth Festival with *Lohengrin*. Andrew Sinclair began his association with Opera Australia in 1981, directing new stagings of *La bohème* and *The Bartered Bride*, and from 1983 to 1985 was Principal Resident Director of that company. He has since returned for many productions including *Cavalleria rusticana / Pagliacci*, *Peter Grimes* and *Lohengrin*. Other United States engagements have included *Norma* for San Francisco Opera and *The Marriage of Figaro* for Seattle Opera.

Jean-Pierre Ponnelle, Set Design

One of the world's most noted directors and designers, the late Jean-Pierre Ponnelle conceived and designed this production of *Tosca*. He studied at the Sorbonne in Paris, his native city, and in 1952 created the scenery for the world premiere of *Boulevard Solitude*, Hans Werner Henze's first opera. During the 1950s, he designed for the principal German theatres, both opera and drama and made his design debut at the Vienna Staatsoper, the Rome Opera, L'Opera Comique in Paris and San Francisco Opera where his US debut was marked by productions of Orff's *The Wise Maiden* and *Carmina Burana*. His other productions in San Francisco included the 1959 US premiere of *Die Frau ohne Schatten*, as well as *Carmen*, *Rigoletto*, *I pagliacci*, *The Flying Dutchman*, *Così fan tutte*, *King Lear*, *Cavalleria rusticana*, *Otello*, *Falstaff*, *Gianni Schicchi*, *Tosca*, *Turandot*, *La bohème*, *Il prigioniero* and *Idomeneo*. For the Zurich Opera, he mounted highly acclaimed cycles of operas by Monteverdi and Mozart with other notable successes in Munich, Paris, Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, the Metropolitan Opera, Bayreuth and the Munich Opera Festival. For television, viewers have seen his productions including *Idomeneo* and *The Marriage of Figaro* from the Met, *The Magic Flute* from the Salzburg Festival and

filmed versions of *Madama Butterfly*, *Carmina Burana*, *Rigoletto*, *The Barber of Seville*, *La Cenerentola*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *La clemenza di Tito* and three extant Monteverdi operas.

Suzanne Mess, Costume Design

The works of Canadian Costume Designer Suzanne Mess have been seen in seventeen previous San Diego Opera productions, beginning with *The Tales of Hoffman* in 1970. For many years, Mess has been associated with Toronto's Canadian Opera Company, where her credits include the world premiere of Wilson's *Abelard and Heloise*. She has also designed for Vancouver Opera, the Opera de Montreal and Festival Ottawa, as well as for several productions produced by CBC television and seen throughout North America and Great Britain. In addition, she has created costumes for some of the most important opera companies in the US including Washington National Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Opera Company of Boston, Cincinnati Opera, Santa Fe Opera and Seattle Opera and her designs have covered virtually the entire standard repertoire.

Ron Vodicka, Lighting Designer

American Ron Vodicka made his San Diego Opera debut with *Cinderella* in 1996, having served as Assistant Lighting Designer for the previous five seasons. He has since returned for *The Marriage of Figaro* in 1998 and *Lohengrin* in 1999, *The Pearl Fishers* in 2004, *Lucia di Lammermoor* in 2006 and *Mary, Queen of Scots (Maria Stuarda)* in 2008. He has designed lighting for San Francisco Opera, New York City Opera, Washington National Opera and The Old Globe Theater, among others. He was Lighting Supervisor for The Santa Fe Opera as well as the National Tours of *A Tuna Christmas* and *Red White and Tuna*. Ron Vodicka served as Production Manager for *Tap Dogs*, National Tour and Assistant Stage Manager for the National Tours of *Man of La Mancha*, *Evita*, *Saturday Night Fever* and *Hairspray*. He is currently the Production Stage Manager for Disney's *The Lion King* on Broadway.

About the Producers' Circle Sponsors

These performances of *Tosca* are made possible by **Don and Karen Cohn (Co-Title Sponsors)**, **John Calabotta, Sheila Potiker** and **Donald and Darlene Shiley**.

Performance Schedule

Saturday	January 24, 2009	7 PM
Tuesday	January 27, 2009	7 PM
Friday	January 30, 2009	8 PM
Sunday	February 1, 2009	2 PM
Wednesday	February 4, 2009	7 PM

Educational Events Surrounding Tosca

Artists' Roundtable

Meet the singers, conductor and director of *Tosca* in this free and informal panel discussion on **Thursday, January 15, 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 *Tosca*. 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 Tosca* airs on **Friday, January 23 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.

www.sdopera.com