

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

Puccini's *Turandot* Opens 2011 Season Saturday, January 29, 2011

Company debut of American soprano Lise Lindstrom in signature title role

Return of Albanian soprano Ermonela Jaho as Liù

Uruguayan tenor Carlo Ventre returns to sing Caláf

Famed visual artist David Hockney designed visually striking production

San Diego, CA – San Diego Opera's 46th International Season opens **Saturday, January 29, 2011** with Giacomo Puccini's grand opera, *Turandot* and the exciting Company debut of American soprano **Lise Lindstrom** in the title role. Of Lise's house debut as *Turandot* at the Metropolitan Opera *The New York Times* reported, "she sang with chilling power and nailed the top notes. Her sound was impressively focused, with a vibrant vibrato on sustained tones and no wobble. The youthful shimmer of her singing was balanced by rich emotional maturity." These performances also mark the return of Albanian soprano **Ermonela Jaho** as the slave girl Liù and the return of San Diego favorite, the Uruguayan tenor **Carlo Ventre** as Caláf. Rounding out the cast is German bass **Reinhard Hagen** as Timur, American baritone **Jeff Mattsey** as Ping, American tenor **Joel Sorensen** as Pang, Taiwanese tenor **Joseph Hu** as Pong, American bass baritone **Scott Sikon** as a Mandarin and American tenor **Joseph Frank** as Emperor Altoum. Persian stage director **Lotfi Mansouri** continues his long history with the Company, and Italian conductor **Edoardo Müller** brings his mastery of the Italian repertory to the podium.

Performed in Italian with English translations above the stage, *Turandot* was last performed by San Diego Opera in 2004 and tells the story of Princess Turandot and her three riddles one must answer to win her heart. Every man who has tried has failed, but Prince Caláf is determined to win Turandot's heart even at great peril to his life and the lives of those around him.

The sets and costumes of *Turandot* are owned by San Francisco Opera. The sets were designed by famed visual artist **David Hockney** and the costumes were designed by **Ian Falconer**. The Lighting Designer is **Michael Whitfield**.

Turandot was composed by Giacomo Puccini to a libretto by Giuseppe Adami and Renato Simoni based on a fairy-tale by Carlo Gozzi. *Turandot* received its world premiere at Milan's Teatro alla Scala on April 25, 1926. These performances mark the fifth time this opera has been performed in San Diego with other performances in 2004, 1997, 1982 and 1971.

A broadcast of this opera will air on KPBS Radio (89.5 FM / 89.1 FM La Jolla / 97.7 FM Calexico) on Sunday, May 28, 2011 at 7PM.

Electronic Press Kits for this opera, including photos, videos and podcasts can be found online at: <http://www.sdopera.com/Company/News/PressKits/2011>

The Cast

Lise Lindstrom, Turandot

San Diego Opera debut. American soprano Lise Lindstrom is well known for her portrayal of Turandot having made her Metropolitan Opera debut in the role in 2009. Other companies with which she has performed Turandot include De Nederlandse Opera, Festival Ópera de Coruña, Deutsche Oper Berlin, Opera Hong Kong, Palm Beach Opera, Kentucky Opera, Orlando Opera, Cleveland Opera, Opera Grand Rapids, Mobile Opera and the Savonlinna Festival. Other notable performances include Senta in *The Flying Dutchman* with New Orleans Opera, Tosca with Glimmerglass Opera, Elisabeth and Venus in *Tannhäuser* with Greek National Opera and Suor Angelica with Opera Tampa. Other notable roles include Amelia in *A Masked Ball*, Ariadne in *Ariadne auf Naxos*, Giulietta in *The Tales of Hoffmann*, Lady Rich in *Gloriana* and Magda in *The Consul*. Her concert work has brought her to the Washington National Cathedral, San Francisco Symphony, the Brattleboro Festival, and New York's Bard College, among others.

Carlo Ventre, Calaf

Uruguayan tenor Carlo Ventre made his San Diego Opera debut in 2005 as Gabriele in *Simon Boccanegra* and returned in 2008 as Radames in *Aida* and again in 2009 for Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly*. Notable highlights in his career include Arrigo in *I Vespri Siciliani* in Tokyo with Teatro Massimo Palermo, Pollione in *Norma* at Arena Sferistica Macerata in Italy, *Andrea Chénier* at Barcelona's Liceo, Cavaradossi in *Tosca* with Frankfurt Opera, Hamburg State Opera and Arena di Verona, Lugì in *Il tabarro* in Hamburg and Ricardo in *A Masked Ball* in Frankfurt. For his La Scala debut, he sang the Duke in *Rigoletto* and also appeared there as Ismaele in *Nabucco*. Roles for Welsh National Opera include Rodolfo in *La bohème* and Cavaradossi in *Tosca*. Other roles include Don José in *Carmen*, Alfredo in *La traviata*, and the title role of *Andrea Chénier*. He has sung in opera houses in Berlin, Rome, San Francisco, Vienna, St. Petersburg, Amsterdam, Frankfurt, Washington, Verona, Chicago, Genoa and Cologne.

Ermonela Jaho, Liù

Albanian soprano Ermonela Jaho made her San Diego Opera debut in 2008 in the title role of *Mary, Queen of Scots (Maria Stuarda)*. Recent notable engagements include Cio-Cio-San in *Madama Butterfly*, Liù for the Opera Company of Philadelphia, Violetta in *La traviata* for her Metropolitan Opera debut, Royal Opera House, Covent Garden debut and for L'Opera de Marseille, Marguerite in *Faust* at Finnish National Opera, Mimì in *La bohème* at Berlin Staatsoper, Michigan Opera Theatre, Opera Company of Philadelphia and Baltimore Opera, Giulietta in *I Capuleti ed i Montecchi* as well as Vitellia in *La Clemenza di Tito* in Avignon. Other recent performances include the title role of *Anna Bolena* for Opera de Lyon, the title role of *Zaira* for the Festival de Radio France in Montpellier, Micaela in *Carmen* with Teatro dell'Opera di Roma, Madga in *La Rondine* at Teatro Giuseppe Verdi in Trieste and the title role of *Manon Lescaut* at L'Opera de Marseille. She made her professional debut as Violetta at the

age of 17 in her native Tirana. Other roles in her repertoire include the title roles of *Lucia di Lammermoor* and *Thais* as well as Blanche in *Dialogues de Carmelites*.

Reinhard Hagen, Timur

German bass Reinhard Hagen made his San Diego Opera debut in 2000 as Heinrich in *Lohengrin* and returned in 2003 as Rocco in *Fidelio*, in 2006 as Raimondo in *Lucia di Lammermoor*, in 2007 as Landgraff Hermann in *Tannhäuser*, in 2008 as Talbot in *Mary, Queen of Scots* and Ramfis in *Aida*. For several seasons Hagen was a member of the Deutsche Oper Berlin after his debut in *Tannhäuser*. He made his Metropolitan Opera debut as Sarastro in *The Magic Flute*, a role he has sung with L'Opera de Montreal, Gran Opera Paris, Bastille, Los Angeles Opera, Gran Teatro Liceu and Hamburg and Munich State Operas, among others. Other appearances include King in *Aida* with Metropolitan Opera, Rocco in *Fidelio* with The Dallas Opera and Théâtre Châtelet, König in *Lohengrin* with Hamburg State Opera, Seneca in *L'incoronazione di Poppea* in Los Angeles, Fasholt in *Das Rheingold*, Hunding in *Die Walküre*, the Commendatore in *Don Giovanni* and Titirel in *Parsifal* for San Francisco Opera.

Jeff Mattsey, Ping

American baritone Jeff Mattsey made his San Diego Opera debut in 1995 as Schaunard in *La bohème* and returned in 1998 as Mercutio in *Romeo and Juliet*, in 2001 as Valentin in *Faust*, in 2006 as Dancaire in *Carmen* and last season as Marcello in *La bohème*. His Metropolitan Opera appearances include Ned Keene in *Peter Grimes*, Mercutio in *Romeo and Juliet*, Silvano in *A Masked Ball* and Schaunard in *La bohème*. Other appearances include the title role in *Don Giovanni* with Central City Opera and Manitoba Opera, Count Carl-Magnus in *A Little Night Music* with Central City Opera, Silvio in *Pagliacci* with Michigan Opera Theatre, Figaro in *The Barber of Seville* with Opera Tampa, Captain Corcoran in *H.M.S. Pinafore* with Utah Symphony and Opera and Renato in *A Masked Ball* with Vancouver Opera. He has also sung with New York City Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Washington National Opera, Portland Opera, Tulsa Opera, Lyric Opera of Kansas City, Cincinnati Opera, Pittsburgh Opera, Utah Opera and Hawaii Opera Theater.

Joel Sorensen, Pang

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, as Andres in *Wozzeck* in 2007, Rodriguez in *Don Quixote* in 2009 and Tybalt in *Romeo and Juliet* last season. 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*, performed King Herod in *Salome* with the Florentine Opera, Pedrillo in *Entführung aus dem Serail* for Atlanta Opera, Mime in *Siegfreid* for Opera Theatre of Pittsburgh, a role he also sang for his British debut at the Longborough Festival. Other companies with which he has sung include San Francisco Opera, Seattle Opera, Opera Company of Philadelphia, Portland Opera and Palm Beach Opera.

Joseph Hu, Pong

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*, Benvolio in *Romeo and Juliet*, Count Lerma in *Don Carlo*, the Messenger in *Samson and Delilah*, Ruiz and the Messenger in *Il trovatore*, Don Curzio in *The Marriage of Figaro*, Spoletta in *Tosca*, Borsa in *Rigoletto*, Abdallo

in *Nabucco* and Gaston in *La traviata*. Among other companies with which he has sung are The Dallas Opera, Cincinnati Opera, Kentucky Opera, Nashville Opera, Tulsa Opera, Fort Worth Opera and Dayton Opera and his International debut with Israeli Opera.

Scott Sikon, A Mandarin

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*, Reinmar von Zweter in *Tannhäuser*, Sacristan in *Tosca*, Count Monterone in *Rigoletto* and The Bonze in *Madama Butterfly*. He has performed throughout the United States with Utah Opera, Arizona Opera, 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, Sikon has performed with the Spoleto Festival USA, the San Antonio Symphony and the Arkansas Symphony.

Joseph Frank, Emperor Altoum

American tenor Joseph Frank has a long association with San Diego Opera since his debut here in 1979 as the Lamplighter in *Manon Lescaut*, returning in *Tosca* in 1981, *Turandot* in 1982 and 2004, *Die Fledermaus* in 1980 and 2005, *Andréa Chenier* in 1981, *Peter Grimes* in 1984 and 2009, *Madama Butterfly* in 1989, *Salome* in 1998 and both *Boris Godunov* and *Wozzeck* in 2007. He made his San Francisco Opera debut as the Dancing Master in *Manon Lescaut* in 1974 and has since sung in over 80 roles. He made his Metropolitan Opera debut in 1979 as the Dancing Master in *Ariadne auf Naxos*. Recent engagements include Prince Orlofsky in *Die Fledermaus* and *The Marriage of Figaro* for Austin Lyric Opera, *La fanciulla del west*, *Tosca* and the world premiere of *Nicholas and Alexandra* for Los Angeles Opera, Shuisky in *Boris Godunov* for Le Théâtre du Capitole Toulouse, *Tosca* and *Turandot* for San Francisco Opera, *Turandot* for Opera Pacific and *Eugene Onegin* for Baltimore Opera.

Edoardo Müller, Conductor

Italian conductor, Edoardo Müller, has led more than 30 productions in San Diego, beginning in 1980 with *Giovanna d'Arco*. Last season, he conducted *Nabucco*. 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.

Lotfi Mansouri, Director

A native of Iran, director Lotfi Mansouri is the former General Director of San Francisco Opera and the Canadian Opera and made his San Diego Opera debut in 1973 directing *The Daughter of the Regiment*. Recent productions here include *Nabucco* in 2010, *Rigoletto* in 2009, *Cavalleria rusticana / Pagliacci* in 2008, *Boris Godunov* and *Samson and Delilah* in 2007, *The Barber of Seville* in 2006, *Die Fledermaus* and *Simon Boccanegra* in 2005 along with *Don Carlo*, *Turandot*, *Otello* and *Idomeneo* in previous seasons. He attended UCLA and took U.S. citizenship before becoming resident stage director at Opernhaus Zürich in 1976. He has directed at many opera houses throughout Italy including Teatro alla Scala, Milan. In North America, his work has been seen at the Metropolitan Opera, New York City Opera and in Chicago, Houston, Santa Fe,

Philadelphia, Dallas and many other cities, and he has a lengthy association with Opera Australia at the Sydney Opera House. Six of his productions have been videotaped for telecast and commercial sale: *Mefistofele*, *Orlando furioso*, *Capriccio*, *Turandot*, *The Dangerous Liaisons* and *A Streetcar Named Desire*. In 2009, Mansouri was a recipient of a 2009 NEA Opera Honor in the category of General Director.

David Hockney, Set Designer

British-born artist David Hockney is one of the best-known and commercially successful contemporary artists, working in a wide range of media including oil painting, photography and printmaking. In addition to *Turandot*, he also designed the sets for operas such as *The Rake's Progress*, *Oedipus Rex*, and *Tristan und Isolde*, for companies including Glyndebourne Opera, the Royal Opera House at Covent Garden, the Metropolitan Opera and Los Angeles Opera.

Ian Falconer, Costume Designer

American artist Ian Falconer has worked with David Hockney on numerous other productions. He is the author and illustrator of the critically acclaimed and New York Times bestselling children's books *Olivia*, a 2001 Caldecott Honor book; *Olivia Saves the Circus*, *Olivia's Opposites* and *Olivia Counts*. Falconer has also designed more than a dozen covers for The New Yorker and floats for Disneyland's Main Street Parade.

Michael Whitfield, Lighting Designer

Canadian Michael Whitfield made his company debut in 2006 designing *The Barber of Seville*, returned in 2008 for *Cavalleria rusticana/Pagliacci* and last season for *La bohème* and *Nabucco*. He has designed for many prestigious opera companies including L'Opera de Montréal, San Francisco Opera, Houston Grand Opera, The Dallas Opera and Los Angeles Opera. He has designed lighting for over 70 productions at the Canadian Opera Company since 1979, including *The Cunning Little Vixen*, *The Queen of Spades* and *Death in Venice*. During his over 25 years as Resident Lighting Director for the Stratford Shakespeare Festival of Canada he has lit over 100 productions including *The Trojan Women*, *Fuente Ovejuna*, *King Lear*, *Othello* and *The Mikado* (including the 1984 engagement of London's The Old Vic). Whitfield has also designed for numerous theatres, ballet companies and for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

About the Production Sponsors

These performances of *Turandot* are dedicated to **Title Co-Sponsors Iris and Matthew Strauss** and **Producers' Circle Members Jeanne Jones and Don Breitenberg** and the **Kathryn Fischback Foundation, Mary Keough Lyman, Cynthia and Bill Ruddy** and **The Staver Family – in loving memory of Marian and Ralph.**

Performance Schedule

Saturday, January 29, 2011 at 7 PM
Tuesday, February 1, 2011 at 7 PM
Friday, February 4, 2011 at 8 PM
Sunday, February 6, 2011 at 2 PM

Get Connected For *Turandot*

Stars in the Salon (formerly the Artists' Roundtable)

Meet the singers, conductor and director of *Turandot* in this free and informal panel discussion on **Thursday, January 20, 2011 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.

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 *Turandot*. 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/Company/Education/OperaTalk>

San Diego Opera Spotlight

Produced by San Diego Opera and UCSD-TV, the award-winning *San Diego Opera Spotlight* program gives viewers a unique and entertaining look behind-the-scenes of each of San Diego Opera's four 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* repeats daily throughout the run of the production. For a complete listing of schedules and where to view it visit: <http://www.sdopera.com/Company/Education/Spotlight>

San Diego Opera Podcast Series

In order to help audiences better appreciate the operas in our 2011 International Season, the Education and Outreach Department has developed a series of introductory podcasts hosted by Dr. Nicolas Reveles. These 15 to 20 minute 'conversations' can be enjoyed by opera fans as well as those who are new to the art form. Informal yet informative, this is a great way to prepare for our season. <http://www.sdopera.com/Company/Education/Podcasts>

San Diego Opera on Twitter

Get real-time frequent updates about San Diego Opera by following us on Twitter as well as our #operahistory project. Follow tweets from backstage during a performance and learn about special offers and contests before anyone else by following us @_SanDiegoOpera.

San Diego Opera Blog: Aria Serious

Aria Serious is San Diego Opera's official blog. It focuses on the serious and not-so-serious world of opera with behind-the-scenes looks at our productions, artist interviews and industry as well as pop-culture news. Come and join in the conversation at: <http://ariaserious.blogspot.com/>

San Diego Opera on Facebook

San Diego Opera's Facebook page offers a place for fellow opera fans to discuss performances, connect with other fans and get up-to-date information on upcoming events. Look for "San Diego Opera" at <http://www.facebook.com/>

San Diego Opera on YouTube

Now viewers can watch a large portion of San Diego Opera's programming at their convenience on YouTube. *OperaTalk!*, The Artist Roundtables and much more can be found on the San Diego Opera channel at: <http://www.youtube.com/SanDiegoOpera>

Purchasing Tickets

Single tickets for all operas are now on sale. Single ticket prices, through December 31, are \$35, \$75, \$90, \$115, \$155, \$195 (\$220 for select seats on opening night) and can be purchased by calling (619) 533-7000 or online at www.sdopera.com.

Three or four-opera subscriptions for the 2011 International Season are still available. Subscriptions range from \$108 - \$880 and can be purchased by calling (619) 533-7000 or online at www.sdopera.com

Tuesday Night Senior Discounts are also available for a full series four-opera subscription. Proof of age is required. Call (619) 533-7000 or online at www.sdopera.com for more information.

The 2011 International Season

<i>Turandot</i>	Giacomo Puccini	January 29, February 1, 4 and 6 (mat), 2011
<i>Der Rosenkavalier</i>	Richard Strauss	April 3 (mat), 6, 9 and 12, 2011
<i>Faust</i>	Charles Gounod	April 23, 26, 29 and May 1 (mat), 2011
<i>Carmen</i>	Georges Bizet	May 14, 17, 20 and 22 (mat), 2011

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 27 years by General Director and Artistic Director Ian D. Campbell, San Diego Opera produces performances of the highest artistic quality while remaining financially stable.

www.sdopera.com

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