

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

Operatic Superstar Renée Fleming Returns for Special Concert Saturday, March 24, 2012

*Performance to feature arias and art songs and will be performed with the
San Diego Symphony Orchestra on stage*

San Diego, CA – San Diego Opera is proud to offer a special concert as part off its 47th International Season when operatic superstar, **Renée Fleming**, returns to San Diego Opera for one night only on Saturday, March 24, 2012. Joined by the San Diego Symphony Orchestra onstage, and led by conductor Sebastian Lang-Lessing, Renée Fleming will perform a selection of arias and art songs. This performance will mark the first time Ms. Fleming has returned to San Diego Opera since very early in her career when she appeared as Tatiana in *Eugene Onegin* in 1994 and again in 1995 in the title role of *Rusalka*. This concert will launch the Bravissimo Campaign for Artistic Excellence, a \$15 million campaign dedicated to preserving the highest artistic quality as well as stability of San Diego Opera as it approaches its 50th Anniversary in 2015.

Six tiers of tickets are available for this concert.

Premier Package - \$1,000 per person. Packages include best available seating in the Orchestra section, a post-concert dinner with Ms. Fleming, complimentary valet parking and an exclusive intermission reception. Fair market value for this package is \$330 and includes a \$670 donation to the Bravissimo Campaign.

Preferred Package - \$500 per person. Packages include second best available seating in the Orchestra section, a pre-concert champagne toast in the Golden Hall Lobby and free and convenient parking. Fair market value for this package is \$200 and includes a \$300 donation to the Bravissimo Campaign.

Patron Seating - \$300 per person. Seats include third best available seating in the Orchestra section, Lower Loge and first rows of the Dress Circle and Mezzanine. The fair market value for this section is \$180 and includes a \$120 donation to the Bravissimo Campaign.

Friend Seating - \$200 per person. Seats include fourth best available seating in the Dress Circle, Mezzanine and Upper Loge. The fair market value for this section is \$120 and includes an \$80 donation to the Bravissimo Campaign.

Center Balcony - \$150 per person. Seats are located in the central balcony of the Civic Theatre. The fair market value for this section is \$90 and includes a \$60 donation to the Bravissimo Campaign.

Balcony - \$100 per person. Seats are located in the side balcony of the Civic Theatre. The fair market value for this section is \$60 and includes a \$40 donation to the Bravissimo Campaign.

All donations from the Renée Fleming Benefit Concert will go towards the Bravissimo Campaign and will help ensure the Opera's ability to hire the world's top opera singers and produce world-class productions for the enrichment of our community.

San Diego Opera is extremely proud to honor **Conrad Prebys and Debbie Turner** who have come forward with an extraordinary \$1 million gift to make this concert possible.

About Renée Fleming

American soprano Renée Fleming made her San Diego Opera debut in 1994 as Tatiana in *Eugene Onegin* and returned the following year to sing the title role of *Rusalka*. One of the most beloved and celebrated musical ambassadors of our time, Renée Fleming captivates audiences with her sumptuous voice, consummate artistry, and compelling stage presence. Known as "the people's diva," she continues to grace the world's greatest opera stages and concert halls, now extending her reach to include other musical forms and media. Over the past few seasons, Ms. Fleming has been hosting a wide variety of television and radio broadcasts, including the *Metropolitan Opera's Live in HD* series for movie theaters and television, and *Live From Lincoln Center* on PBS.

As a musical statesman, Renée Fleming has been sought after on numerous distinguished occasions, from the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize ceremony to performances in Beijing during the 2008 Olympic Games. On January 18, 2009, she was featured on the televised *We Are One: The Obama Inaugural Celebration* at the Lincoln Memorial concert for President Obama. She has performed for the United States Supreme Court, HRH The Prince of Wales at Buckingham Palace, and, in November 2009, celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Czech Republic's "Velvet Revolution" at the invitation of Václav Havel. An additional distinction was bestowed in 2008, when breaking a precedent, Ms. Fleming became the first woman in the 125-year history of the Metropolitan Opera to solo headline an opening night gala.

A three-time Grammy winner, Ms. Fleming won the 2010 Grammy Award for Best Classical Vocal Performance for *Verismo* (Decca/September 2009), a CD featuring a collection of rarely heard Italian arias. In June 2010, Decca and Mercury records released the CD *Dark Hope*, which features Ms. Fleming performing songs by artists such as Leonard Cohen, Peter Gabriel, Arcade Fire and Death Cab for Cutie, among others. Ms. Fleming's most recent DVD *Renée Fleming & Dmitri Hvorostovsky: A Musical Odyssey in St. Petersburg* follows Ms. Fleming and baritone Dmitri Hvorostovsky to Russia, where they explore and perform in some of St. Petersburg's most spectacular locations. These releases follow the critically acclaimed 2008 CD of Strauss: *Four Last Songs* and a DVD of the complete *Thaïs* by Massenet. In recent years, this twelve-time Grammy nominated artist has recorded everything from Strauss's complete *Daphne* to the jazz album *Haunted Heart*, to the movie soundtrack of *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King*.

Her recording honors range from the 2009 Echo Award for Strauss's *Four Last Songs* to the Prix Maria Callas Orphée d'Or by the Académie du Disque Lyric for TDK's DVD production of *Capriccio*.

Renée Fleming's artistry has been an inspiration to many other prominent artists, such as Chuck Close and Robert Wilson, whose portraits of her were included in the Metropolitan Opera's 2007 fund-raising auction. Two portraits of Ms. Fleming were also created by Francesco Clemente, who revealed one work in Salzburg in spring 2007, with the Metropolitan Opera displaying the other in 2008. Among her numerous awards are Sweden's Polar Prize (2008); the Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur from the French government (2005); Honorary Membership in the Royal Academy of Music (2003); and a 2003 Honorary Doctorate from The Juilliard School, where she was also commencement speaker. An advocate for literacy, Renée Fleming has been featured in promotional campaigns for the Association of American Publishers (Get Caught Reading), and the Magazine Publishers of America's READ poster campaign for the American Library Association. She was honored by The New York Public Library as a "Library Lion." Her book, "The Inner Voice," was published by Viking Penguin in 2004, and released in paperback by Penguin the following year. An intimate account of her career and creative process, the book is also published in France by Fayard Editions, in the United Kingdom by Virgin Books, by Henschel Verlag in Germany, Shunjusha in Japan, and by Fantom Press in Russia.

In addition to her work on stage and in recordings, Renée Fleming has represented Rolex time pieces in print advertising since 2001. In 2008, she launched La Voce by Renée Fleming, a fragrance designed for her, with the proceeds benefiting the Metropolitan Opera. Master Chef Daniel Boulud created the dessert "La Diva Renée" (1999) in her honor, and she inspired the "Renée Fleming Iris" (2004), which has been replicated in porcelain by Boehm. Having been added to Mr. Blackwell's best dressed list, her concert gowns have been designed by Bill Blass, Gianfranco Ferré, John Galliano, Christian Lacroix, Karl Lagerfeld, Issey Miyake, Oscar de la Renta, Angel Sanchez and Vivienne Westwood. In addition to serving as the face of opera for two public transit campaigns in New York and London, Ms. Fleming has appeared on The Martha Stewart Show, Spectacle: Elvis Costello with..., The View and Prairie Home Companion as "Renata Flambé," among numerous other media outlets.

Ms. Fleming is currently a member of the Board of Trustees of the Carnegie Hall Corporation, the Board of Sing for Hope, and the Advisory Board of the White Nights Foundation of America. She recently joined the Lyric Opera of Chicago as their Creative Consultant for a term of five years.

About Sebastian Lang-Lessing

San Diego Opera debut. German conductor Sebastian Lang-Lessing was recently appointed music director of the San Antonio Symphony. He also serves as chief conductor of the Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, a post he has held since 2004. He regularly appears on the podiums of Opéra Bastille de Paris, San Francisco Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Opera Colorado, Opéra de Bordeaux, Washington National Opera, Hamburg State Opera, and at the houses of Oslo, Stockholm and Capetown. Recent engagements include Wagner's *Rienzi* with Deutsche Opera Berlin, *Falstaff* at Washington National Opera, *The Pearl Fishers* and *La bohème* with Opera Colorado and *Porgy and Bess* at Norwegian National Opera. For his concert work he has worked with the Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra, Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, Hamburg Symphony Orchestra, Orchestre de Paris, among many others. He has extensive recording credits to his name with the Tasmanian Symphony including complete symphonies of Mendelssohn and Schumann as well as recordings by Saint-Saëns, d'Indy, Franck, Ravel and others.

About the Production Sponsors

This performance is dedicated to sponsors **Conrad Prebys and Debbie Turner.**

Performance Schedule

Saturday, March 24, 2012 at 7 PM

Purchasing Tickets

Single ticket prices to San Diego Opera's four mainstage productions are currently \$50, \$100, \$120, \$130, \$160, \$200 and \$210 (with some seats on select nights slightly higher) and can be purchased by calling (619) 533-7000 or online at www.sdopera.com.

Tickets to Renée Fleming in concert start at \$100 and can be purchased by calling (619) 533-7000 or online at www.sdopera.com.

Three or four-opera subscriptions for the 2012 International Season are still available. Subscriptions range from \$120 - \$1,100 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 2012 International Season

<i>Salome</i>	Richard Strauss	January 28, 31, February 3 and 5 (mat), 2012
<i>Moby-Dick</i>	Jake Heggie	February 18, 21, 24 and 26 (mat), 2012
<i>Don Pasquale</i>	Gaetano Donizetti	March 10, 13, 16 and 18 (mat), 2012
Renée Fleming in Concert		March 24, 2012
<i>The Barber of Seville</i>	Gioachino Rossini	April 21, 24, 27 and 29 (mat), 2012

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

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