

**For Immediate Release
February 19, 2012**

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Cast Change Advisory:

**Due to illness, Ben Heppner Withdraws from Tuesday,
February 21, 2012 Performance of *Moby-Dick*.**

The Role of Captain Ahab will be sung by Jay Hunter Morris.

San Diego, CA - Due to illness, tenor Ben Heppner has withdrawn from the next performance of San Diego Opera's *Moby-Dick* on Tuesday, February 21, 2012 at 7 PM. For this performance, the role of Captain Ahab will be sung by Jay Hunter Morris. Morris sang Captain Ahab for the Australian premiere of *Moby-Dick* in August of 2011.

About Jay Hunter Morris

American tenor, Jay Hunter Morris first appeared with San Diego Opera in 2004 as Tichon in *Katya Kabanova* followed in 2007 as both the Drum Major in *Wozzeck* and Dimitri in *Boris Godunov*.

In August 2011 he sang Ahab in the Australian premiere of *Moby-Dick*.

Most recently Jay Hunter Morris sang a successful run at the Metropolitan Opera as Siegfried in Wagner's *Ring Cycle* appearing in the worldwide HD broadcast of the production.

Upcoming engagements include a return to the Metropolitan Opera for Siegfried in *Götterdämmerung*, followed by Tristan in Spain, Captain Ahab in San Francisco and the *Ring Cycle* in Florence.

Morris has appeared in many new works including *Doctor Atomic* at San Francisco Opera, *The Fly* at Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris, the world premiere of Jake Heggie's *Dead Man Walking*, and André Previn's *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

He created the role of Tony in Terrence McNally's play *Master Class* at the Philadelphia Theatre Company, continuing in the role at the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles, the Kennedy Center in Washington, and finally on Broadway, where he was nominated for an Outer Critics Circle Award for Outstanding Debut of an Actor.

Other roles include the title role in *Samson and Delilah*, Canio in *I Pagliacci*, Cavaradossi in *Tosca*, Steva in *Jenufa*, Florestan in *Fidelio*, Erik in *The Flying Dutchman* and Bacchus in *Ariadne auf Naxos*.

Among the many opera companies with which he has sung are the Metropolitan Opera, Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris, Opera Australia, Staatsoper Frankfurt, Opera National du Rhin in Strasbourg, San Francisco Opera, Tokyo Opera, Seattle Opera, Dallas opera and Houston Grand Opera.

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

Purchasing Tickets

Single tickets for all operas are on sale. Single ticket prices are \$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.

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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