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**Donizetti's comedy *The Daughter of the Regiment*
Opens San Diego Opera's 2013 Season
Saturday, January 26, 2013**

Performances mark the return of tenor Stephen Costello who sings the "Mount Everest" of opera, the aria "Ah! mes amis" with its nine high Cs.

Soprano L'úbica Vargicová returns to sing the role of Marie

Contralto Ewa Podleś returns as the commanding Marquise of Birkenfeld and soprano Carol Vaness returns as the Duchess of Krakenthorp

Acclaimed conductor Yves Abel makes his Company debut

A bold and updated production relocates the action of the opera to the waning days of WWII.

San Diego, CA – San Diego Opera's 48th International Season opens Saturday, January 26, 2013 with Gaetano Donizetti's hilarious comedy *The Daughter of the Regiment*. These performances will mark the return of American tenor **Stephen Costello** in the role of Tonio who will sing the "Mount Everest" of opera, the famed aria "Ah! mes amis, quel jour de fête!" which includes nine high Cs. Mr. Costello was last seen at San Diego Opera in the title role of 2011's *Faust*. He is joined by Slovakian soprano **L'úbica Vargicová**, who was last seen as Gilda in 2009's *Rigoletto*, as the orphaned Marie who is adopted by a regiment of soldiers. Making a Company debut as the kind-hearted Sergeant Sulpice is Italian bass **Donato Di Stefano**. Polish contralto, **Ewa Podleś**, last heard here in the title role of *Julius Caesar* in 2006, returns to sing the role of Marquise of Birkenfeld. American soprano, **Carol Vaness**, last seen in the title role of *Vanessa* in 2005, returns for the spoken role of the Duchess of Krakenthorp. Rounding out the cast is American baritone **Malcolm MacKenzie** as Hortensio and American bass-baritone **Scott Sikon** as a Corporal. Franco-Canadian conductor **Yves Abel** makes his long-awaited Company debut leading the opera from the podium and Spanish stage director **Emilio Sagi** brings his imaginative update of the opera to stage in this production he created for Teatro Comunale di Bologna.

Performed in French with English translations above the stage, *The Daughter of the Regiment* was last performed by San Diego Opera in 1990 and tells the story of Tonio, a peasant turned soldier in love with the orphan Marie who was found abandoned and adopted by the soldiers of the 21st Regiment. While the regiment escorts the Marquise de Birkenfeld home, it is revealed that she has mysterious ties to Marie that go much deeper than they originally seem. This production sees the action moved to the waning days of WWII while still retaining its light and graceful comic elements.

The sets and costumes of *The Daughter of the Regiment* are owned by **Teatro Comunale di Bologna**. Both the sets and costumes were designed by **Julio Galán**. The lighting designer is **Marie Barrett**.

The Daughter of the Regiment was composed by Gaetano Donizetti with libretto by J.H. Vernoy de Saint-Georges and Jean-François Bayard. *The Daughter of the Regiment* had its world premiere at Paris Opéra Comique on February 11, 1840. These performances will mark the fourth time this opera has been performed with the Company, with other performances in 1973, 1974 (Phoenix, AZ only) and 1990.

The Daughter of the Regiment will have a live radio broadcast on Saturday, January 26, 2013 at 7PM on KPBS radio, 89.5 FM (97.7 FM Calexico) and online at www.kpbs.org

The Cast

Stephen Costello, Tonio

American tenor Stephen Costello made his San Diego Opera debut in 2010 as Romeo in *Romeo and Juliet* and returned in 2011 as the Singer in *Der Rosenkavalier* and Faust in *Faust*. He made his Metropolitan Opera debut in 2007 as Arturo in *Lucia di Lammermoor* and was then invited to sing Edgardo that same season and opened the 2011-12 Metropolitan Opera season as Lord Percy in *Anna Bolena*. Recent notable performances include Alfredo in *La traviata* at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden and Rodolfo in *La bohème* at Los Angeles Opera. He made his Vienna Staatsoper debut as Rodolfo and recently returned to sing Nemorino in *The Elixir of Love*. He created the role of Greenhorn for the world premiere of *Moby-Dick* for The Dallas Opera, sang Cassio in *Otello* with the Salzburg Festival, Edgardo at Fort Worth Opera, Camille in *The Merry Widow*, Lord Percy, Leicester in *Mary, Queen of Scots (Maria Stuarda)* and the title role of *Roberto Devereux* with The Dallas Opera singing all three of the leading tenor roles of Donizetti's Tudor trilogy, Christian in *Cyrano* and Rinuccio in *Gianni Schicchi* with the Opera Company of Philadelphia and at Italy's Spoleto Festival, Romeo with Baltimore Opera and The Duke of Mantua in *Rigoletto* at Deutsche Oper Berlin. He made his professional debut as Rodolfo with Fort Worth Opera and his European debut as Nemorino with Opéra National de Bordeaux. He was awarded a 2007 Career Grant for the Richard Tucker Music Foundation, as well as a 2006 Sara Tucker Study Grant. He won first prize in the 2006 George London Foundation for Singers Competition, First Prize and Audience Prize in the Giargiari Competition, and First Prize in the Licia Albanese Puccini Foundation Competition.

L'úbica Vargicová, Marie

Slovakian soprano L'úbica Vargicová made her San Diego Opera debut as Gilda in *Rigoletto* in 2009. She has a long history with the Slovak National Theatre where she has performed The Queen of the Night in *The Magic Flute*, Violetta in *La traviata*, Olympia in *The Tales of Hoffmann*, and more recently Gilda, Amina in *La Sonnambula*, Norina in *Don Pasquale*, Konstanze in *The Abduction from the Seraglio*, Lucia in *Lucia di Lammermoor* and Ophélie in

Hamlet. She made her Metropolitan Opera debut as The Queen of the Night in 2005 and debuted with the Salzburg Festival as Olympia in 2003. She made her highly acclaimed debut at the Wiener Staatsoper as Gilda and returned in 2002 and 2003 as Amina. Recent engagements include The Queen of the Night at The Dallas Opera, Marie in Bratislava and Lima as well as Violetta and Marie with Staatsoper Hamburg.

Donato Di Stefano, Sergeant Sulpice

San Diego Opera debut. Italian bass Donato DiStefano's recent engagements include Dr. Bartolo in *The Barber of Seville* for Bayerische Staatsoper, a role also heard in Zurich, Berlin, Frankfurt, Leipzig and Hamburg, Simone in *Gianni Schicchi* for the Metropolitan Opera, Canadian Opera Company, Opéra National de Paris and in Tokyo, Don Magnifico in *Cinderella* for the Canadian Opera Company, the Minnesota Opera, La Monnaie in Brussels, L'Opéra National de Lorraine in Nancy, The Dallas Opera, Michigan Opera Theatre as well as in Madrid, Tel Aviv and Tokyo, the title role of *Gianni Schicchi* in Frankfurt and Tel Aviv, Geronte in *Manon Lescaut* with Florida Grand Opera, Fra Melitone in *The Force of Destiny* at Frankfurt Opera, and Dulcamara in *The Elixir of Love* with New Israeli Opera. Other roles in his extensive repertoire include Oroveso in *Norma*, Sarastro in *The Magic Flute*, Colline in *La bohème*, Mustafa in *The Italian Girl in Algiers* and Tuteur in *Le Comte Ory*, among others. He made his professional debut in Rome as Zaccaria in *Nabucco*.

Ewa Podleś, Marquise of Birkenfeld

Polish contralto Ewa Podleś made her mainstage debut in the title role of *Julius Caesar in Egypt* in 2006 after giving a recital for the Company in 2003 at Sherwood Auditorium. Recent engagements include Mme. de la Haltière in Massenet's *Cinderella* for the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden and Opéra-Comique in Paris, Clytemnestra in *Elektra* for Opéra de Nice, the Canadian Opera Company, and Teatr Wielki Opera Narodowa in Warsaw, Azucena in *Il trovatore* for Teatr Wielki in Poznań and the Atlanta Opera, the Countess in *The Queen of Spades* at the Gran Teatre de Liceu in Barcelona and L'Opera de Monte-Carlo, Mistress Quickly in *Falstaff* in Bilbao, the title role of *Tancredi* at Opera Boston and the Canadian Opera Company, The Princess in *Suor Angelica* at San Francisco Opera and La Cie in *La Gioconda* at The Metropolitan Opera. Other notable roles include Julius Caesar, Adalgisa in *Norma* and Erda in *The Ring Cycle* for Seattle Opera, Julius Caesar and Jocasta in *Oedipus Rex* for the Canadian Opera Company, Ulrica in *A Masked Ball* for Houston Grand Opera, and Bertarido in *Rodelinda* and Erda at The Dallas Opera. Among the orchestras with which she has appeared in concert are the Dresden Philharmonic, the San Francisco Symphony, the Moscow Chamber Orchestra, Detroit Symphony, Toronto Symphony, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Ottawa's National Arts Centre Orchestra, Seattle Symphony and the New World Symphony Orchestra in Miami. Her recital programs have been heard in Paris, Amsterdam, London, Toronto, Moscow, Warsaw, Montreal, San Juan, Québec and New York. Among her many recordings are several recital CDs of Polish songs, Handel, Russian and Rossini arias, and complete operas including *Ariodante*, *Tancredi*, *Armide* and *Orfeo ed Euridice*.

Malcolm MacKenzie, Hortensio

American baritone Malcolm MacKenzie first performed with San Diego Opera as Marullo in *Rigoletto* in 2002, returned in 2005 as Escamillo in *Carmen*, in 2008 as Zurga in *The Pearl Fishers*, in 2009 as Marullo in *Rigoletto* and Sharpless in *Madama Butterfly*, in 2010 as Schaubard in *La bohème* and Gregorio in *Romeo and Juliet*, and was heard last season as Captain Gardiner in *Moby-Dick*. Recent engagements include his Metropolitan Opera debut as Dancaïre in *Carmen*, returning as Marullo, Germont in *La traviata* for Opera Santa Barbara and Glimmerglass Opera and Count di Luna in *Il trovatore* for Fort Worth Opera and Arizona Opera. He was a finalist in Plácido Domingo's Operalia competition, and a winner of the Metropolitan

Opera Western Regional Auditions. MacKenzie began his professional career in 1994 as Harlequin in *Ariadne auf Naxos* at Glimmerglass Opera and has since performed with Washington National Opera, Madison Opera, l'Opéra National de Paris, Los Angeles Opera, Michigan Opera Theatre, Sacramento Opera and Opera Pacific. His roles include Donald in *Billy Budd*, Masetto and the title role of *Don Giovanni*, Figaro in *The Barber of Seville*, Marcello and Schaunard in *La bohème*, Albert in *Werther* and Sharpless in *Madama Butterfly*. He has also appeared with the San Diego Symphony, Los Angeles Master Chorale, Los Angeles Mozart Orchestra, Pacific Chorale and Savannah Symphony.

Scott Sikon, Corporal

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*, Dikoi in *Katya Kabanova*, Steve Hubble in *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Montano in *Otello*, 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*, The Bonze in *Madama Butterfly*, a Mandarin in *Turandot*, Wagner in *Faust* and Morales in *Carmen*. He was seen last season as a Nazarene in *Salome* and Fiorello in *The Barber of Seville*. 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.

Carol Vaness, Duchess of Krakenthorp

San Diego born soprano Carol Vaness made her Company debut in a recital at the Sherwood Auditorium in 1987 before making her mainstage debut as Fiordiligi in *Così fan tutte* in 1991, followed by appearances as Elettra in *Idomeneo: King of Crete* in 2001 and the title role of *Vanessa* in 2005. Notable roles in her extensive repertoire include Donna Anna and Donna Elvira in *Don Giovanni*, Vitellia in *La Clemenza di Tito*, and the title role of *Tosca* which she performed at The Metropolitan Opera in 2004 opposite Luciano Pavarotti in the legendary tenor's final operatic performance. Vaness made her professional debut as Vitellia for the San Francisco Spring Opera and has been acknowledged as the world's leading interpreter of this role. She has appeared as Vitellia at The Metropolitan Opera, Paris Opera, The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, Lyric Opera of Chicago and Gran Teatro del Liceo and at the Salzburg Festival and other leading theatres. Among her many celebrated television appearances, she has been featured on the Pavarotti Plus and Pavarotti and Friends telecasts from Lincoln Center, as well as the Richard Tucker Gala and In Performance at the White House with members of the New York City Opera. She is a professor of music at the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University.

Yves Abel, Conductor

San Diego Opera debut. Franco-Canadian conductor Yves Abel has been principal guest conductor at Deutsche Oper Berlin since 2005 where he has conducted performances of *Don Pasquale*, *Simon Boccanegra*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *La traviata*, *Dialogues of the Carmélites*, *Tiefland*, *Carmen* and *Carmina Burana*. He is a regular guest at the Vienna Staatsoper where he has led performances of *The Elixir of Love*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Simon Boccanegra*, *A Masked Ball*, *The Daughter of the Regiment* and *Carmen*. A frequent guest with the world's great opera companies he has conducted performances at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, Milan's La Scala, The Metropolitan Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, San Francisco Opera, Seattle Opera, Glyndebourne Festival, Bayerische Staatsoper, Opéra National de Paris, Netherlands Opera, Grand Théâtre de Genève, Teatro San Carlo in Naples, Teatro Comunale di Bologna, New

National Theatre in Tokyo, Welsh National Opera and Opera North. In 2009 he was awarded the title of Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the French Government. Prior to rehearsals here in San Diego he conducts *The Barber of Seville* at the Metropolitan Opera.

Emilio Sagi, Director

San Diego Opera debut. Spanish stage director Emilio Sagi is the former General Director of the Zarzuela Theatre in Madrid and former Artistic Director of the Teatro Real in Madrid. Since 2008 he has been the Artistic Director of the Teatro Arriaga in Bilbao. Recent engagements include *La finta giardiniera* at the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, *Luisa Miller* at Florida Grand Opera, *Luisa Fernanda* at the Los Angeles Opera and Theater an der Wein, *The Italian Girl in Algiers* in Oviedo, Bilbao, and Lausanne, *The Marriage of Figaro* for Lithuanian National Opera and Teatro Real Madrid, *Rigoletto* for Palicio de la Opera de la Coruna, *Il viaggio a Reims* for Teatro Argentino de la Plata and Teatro Real Madrid, *Lucia di Lammermoor* in Bilbao and Murcia, Spain, *Iphigénie en Tauride* for Washington National Opera, *The Daughter of the Regiment* at Washington National Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Teatro Municipal de Santiago del Chile, Duisberg and Tel Aviv, *Carmen* in Liège and at Los Angeles Opera, *L'incoronazione di Poppea* in Bilbao and Oviedo and *The Force of Destiny* at the New National Theatre in Tokyo. Since 2001 his acclaimed *Il viaggio a Reims* is regularly presented at the Rossini Festival in Pesaro every year. In 2006 he was awarded "Premio Lírico Teatro Campoamor" for his production of *The Barber of Seville* at the Teatro Real Madrid.

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 many engagements here include: *La traviata* in 2010 *Don Quixote* in 2009, *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.

Julio Galán, Set and Costume Design

San Diego Opera debut. Late Spanish designer's Julio Galán's work includes *La traviata*, *Pagliacci*, *The Pearl Fishers*, *Macbeth* and *The Elixir of Love* in Oviedo, *Don Pasquale*, *Rigoletto*, *The Girl of the West* and *Idomeneo: King of Crete* at Madrid's Teatro de la Zarzuela. His theatre credits include Lope's *La Dorotea* at the Centro Dramatico Nacional, *Richard III* with Teatro Español and *No puede ser guardar a una mujer* with Campaña Nacional de Teatro Clásico.

About the Production Sponsors

The Daughter of the Regiment is made possible in part by Diamond Producers' Circle Members **Valerie and Harry Cooper** and Producers' Circle Members **Teresa and Merle Fischlowitz**.

Performance Schedule

Saturday, January 26, 2013 at 7 PM
Tuesday, January 29, 2013 at 7 PM
Friday, February 1, 2013 at 7 PM*
Sunday, February 3, 2013 at 2 PM

*New Friday start time: all operas on Friday night now start at 7 PM.

Get Connected For *The Daughter of the Regiment*

Stars in the Salon

Meet the singers, conductor and director of *The Daughter of the Regiment* in this informal panel discussion on **Thursday, January 17, 2013 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 insights into the production audience members are about to see. These lectures are free to all ticket holders.

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 mainstage productions. Viewers will see how the singers, directors, conductor and crew work together to create each opera, get a sneak peek 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 OperaTalk with Nicolas Reveles

Back for 2013! Join Dr. Nicolas Reveles, San Diego Opera's Geisel Director of Education, for these fascinating, half-hour overviews of our four productions. He'll take you on an intriguing journey through the story, music and history of each opera. You'll pick up rich insight into the structure and composition of the music, along with recommendations of the best recordings. It's a wonderful prelude to your opera experience and a great way to pick up some tidbits to impress your friends at intermission! For a complete listing of schedules and where to view it, visit:

<http://www.sdopera.com/Company/Education/OperaTalk>

San Diego Opera Video Podcast Series

In order to help audiences better appreciate the operas in our 2013 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>. These videos are also available on our YouTube Channel: <http://www.youtube.com/SanDiegoOpera>

San Diego Opera on Twitter

Get frequent updates about San Diego Opera and opera in general by following us on Twitter. Follow tweets from backstage during a performance and learn about special offers and contests before anyone else by following us [@_SanDiegoOpera](#).

San Diego Opera on Facebook

San Diego Opera's Facebook page offers a place for fellow opera fans to discuss performances, opera news, 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 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 YouTube

Now viewers can watch a large portion of San Diego Opera's programming at their convenience on YouTube. *OperaTalk!*, *Stars in the Salon*, *OperaSpotlight*, our video podcast series 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 on sale Monday, November 12, 2012. Single ticket prices, through December 1, start at \$45 and can be purchased by calling (619) 533-7000 or online at www.sdopera.com.

Subscriptions range from \$105 - \$1,100 and can be purchased by calling (619) 533-7000 or online at www.sdopera.com. Over 50% of all seats have been reduced in price and no seats have increased in price from 2012.

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 2013 International Season

<i>The Daughter of the Regiment</i>	Gaetano Donizetti	January 26, 29, February 1 and 3 (mat), 2013
<i>Samson and Delilah</i>	Camille Saint-Saëns	February 16, 19, 22 and 24 (mat), 2013
<i>Cruzar la Cara de la Luna</i>	José "Pepe" Martinez	March 16, 2013
<i>Murder in the Cathedral</i>	Ildebrando Pizzetti	March 30, April 2, 5 and 7 (mat), 2013
<i>Aida</i>	Giuseppe Verdi	April 20, 23, 26 and 28 (mat), 2013

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 29 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