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**San Diego Opera presents Donizetti's Comedy
Don Pasquale in Acclaimed Wild West Production**

*Performances mark the Company and role debut of opera superstar,
soprano Danielle de Niese as Norina*

Tenor Charles Castronovo returns to sing Ernesto

*Bass-baritone John Del Carlo returns to sing his Metropolitan Opera
signature role*

Italian Conductor Marco Guidarini to make Company debut

San Diego, CA – San Diego Opera's 47th International Season continues with Gaetano Donizetti's hilarious *Don Pasquale* which opens **Saturday, March 10, 2012**. In this masterpiece of comic opera, the doddering old fool Pasquale is tricked into thinking he has married the sweet, demure and innocent convent-raised Sofronia. But she's really Norina, in love with Pasquale's nephew whom he is trying to disinherit. Once "married", she becomes a gun-toting shrew who shows Pasquale that he was definitely better off without a wife. In relocating the action to the Wild West, this production is complete with a hero who enjoys a bubble bath surrounded by beautiful bar girls, an onstage Mariachi band and an old fool who desperately wants to marry a much younger woman. These performances mark the Company and role debut of Australian born soprano **Danielle de Niese** who will sing the role of Norina for the first time in her career. American bass-baritone **John Del Carlo** will return to sing the title role of Don Pasquale, a role he has recently sung to popular and critical acclaim at the Metropolitan Opera. American tenor **Charles Castronovo** returns to sing Ernesto and American baritone **Jeff Mattsey** returns to sing the role of Dr. Malatesta. Rounding out the cast is **Robert Dahey** in the role of Hop Sing and **David Marsham** as the Notary. Italian conductor **Marco Guidarini** will make his Company debut and lead the orchestra for these performances while stage director **David Gately** will remount the production.

Sung in Italian with English translations above the stage. These performances mark the fourth time *Don Pasquale* has been performed by San Diego Opera with performances in 1980, 1989 and 2002. This production is owned by San Diego Opera. The sets were designed by **Tony**

Fanning. The costumes were designed by **Helen E. Rodgers.** The lighting designer is **Harry Frehner.**

Don Pasquale was composed by Gaetano Donizetti with libretto by Giovanni Ruffini. It received its world premiere on January 3, 1842 at the Théâtre-Italien in Paris on January 3, 1843.

Electronic Press Kits for this opera, including photos, videos and podcasts can be found online at: <http://www.sdopera.com/Company/News/PressKits/2012>

Don Pasquale will have a live radio broadcast on Saturday, March 10, 2012 at 7PM on KPBS radio, 89.5 FM (97.7 FM Calexico) and online at www.kpbs.org

The Cast

Danielle de Niese, Norina

San Diego Opera debut. Australian-born American Danielle de Niese was the youngest singer to ever enter the Metropolitan Opera's Lindemann Young Artists Development program at the age of 18. She made her Metropolitan Opera debut the following year as Barbarina in *The Marriage of Figaro*. Other notable performances with the Metropolitan Opera include Euridice in *Orfeo ed Euridice*, Susanna in *The Marriage of Figaro*, Cleopatra in *Julius Caesar in Egypt* and Despina in *Così fan tutte*. Other notable performances include Cleopatra for the Glyndebourne Festival which earned her international acclaim, Adina in *The Elixir of Love* for Glyndebourne, the title role of *Rodelinda* and Ginerva in *Ariodante* for Theatre an der Wien, Susanna for San Francisco Opera and Lyric Opera of Chicago, the title role of *Semele* at Barbican Hall in London, Poppea in *L'incoronazione di Poppea* for Madrid's Teatro Real, Salle Pleyel in Paris, The London Poms, Glyndebourne, and De Nederlandse Opera, and Galatea in *Acis e Galatea* for the Royal Opera, Covent Garden. An active concert soloist, she has performed with the New York Philharmonic, Cleveland Orchestra, National Symphony and San Francisco Symphony, among others. She has three critically acclaimed albums, "The Beauty of Baroque", "Handel Arias" and "The Mozart Album", available on Decca Records.

John Del Carlo, Don Pasquale

American bass-baritone John Del Carlo made his San Diego Opera debut as Pantalone in *The Love for Three Oranges* in 1978 and returned for the Commissioner in *Madama Butterfly* in 1978, Silvio in *Pagliacci* in 1979, Dulcamara in *The Elixir of Love* in 1987, Sulpice in *The Daughter of the Regiment* in 1990, Baron Zeta in *The Merry Widow* in 1992, Mustafa in *The Italian Girl in Algiers* in 1997, Bartolo in *The Barber of Seville* in 1998, Frank in *Die Fledermaus* in 2005 and Swallow in *Peter Grimes* in 2009. He has enjoyed an important relationship with the Metropolitan Opera since his debut in 1993 as Kothner in *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*, returning twice for the title role of *Don Pasquale*, twice as Swallow, Quince in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Mathieu in *Andrea Chenier*, Bartolo in *The Marriage of Figaro* and *The Barber of Seville*, and Alfieri in *A View from the Bridge*, among others. With San Francisco Opera his numerous appearances include the title role of *Falstaff*, Alidoro in *Cinderella* and General Boom in *La Grande-Duchesse de Gérolstein*, among others. Recent engagements include Fritz Kother in *Die Meistersinger von Nurnberg* with Cincinnati Opera, Don Alfonso in *Così fan tutte* at the Ravinia Festival, Bartolo for San Francisco Opera, Alfieri in *A View from the Bridge* at Teatro dell'Opera di Roma, and Bartolo in *The Marriage of Figaro* for Théâtre des Champs-Élysées. Other houses with which he has appeared include Lyric Opera of Chicago, Seattle Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Los Angeles Opera, Washington National Opera, the Royal Opera, Covent Garden and Opernhaus Zurich.

Charles Castronovo, Ernesto

American tenor Charles Castronovo made his Company debut in 2008 as Nadir in *The Pearl Fishers*. He began his career at Los Angeles Opera as a Resident Artist and made his debut at the Metropolitan Opera in 1999 as Beppe in *Pagliacci*. Recent appearances include developing the role of Mario Ruoppolo in the world premiere of *Il Postino* at Los Angeles Opera, Belmonte in *The Abduction from the Seraglio* at Teatro dell'Opera di Roma, Gennaro in *Lucrezia Borgia*, Don Ottavio in *Don Giovanni* and Belmonte for Bayerische Staatsoper, Don Ottavio at San Francisco Opera and Los Angeles Opera, Nemorino in *The Elixir of Love* for Opéra de Nice, Romeo in *Romeo and Juliet* for The Dallas Opera, Tamino in *The Magic Flute* for Santa Fe Opera, San Francisco Opera and Vienna Staatsoper, Alfredo in *La traviata* for the Opera Company of Philadelphia and the Royal Opera, Covent Garden, Elvino in *La Sonnambula* at Michigan Opera Theatre, the title role of *Faust* and Rodolfo in *La bohème* for Staatsoper Unter den Linden in Berlin, Ferrando in *Così fan tutte* for Royal Opera, Covent Garden, the Duke in *Rigoletto* in Bordeaux and Tom Rakewell in Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress* for Théâtre de la Monnaie, Brussels and Royal Opera, Covent Garden.

Jeff Mattsey, Dr. Malatesta

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 Dancaïre in *Carmen*, in 2010 as Marcello in *La bohème* and last season as Ping in *Turandot* and again as Dancaïre in *Carmen*. His Metropolitan Opera appearances include Ned Keene in *Peter Grimes*, Mercutio in *Romeo and Juliet*, Silvano in *A Masked Ball*, Schaunard in *La bohème*, Marco in *Gianni Schicchi*, Hermann/Schlémil in *The Tales of Hoffmann*, Paris in *Romeo and Juliet* and Joe Castro in *The Girl of the Golden West*. Other appearances include the title role in *Don Giovanni* with Central City Opera and Manitoba Opera, the Count in *The Marriage of Figaro* at Madison Opera, Sharpless in *Madama Butterfly* and Renato in *A Masked Ball* with Vancouver 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.

David Marsham, Notary

American baritone David Marsham made his San Diego Opera debut in 1998 as Friar John in *Romeo and Juliet*, returning as one of the nobles of Brabant in *Lohengrin*, the Second Trojan in *Idomeneo: King of Crete*, the Notary in *Don Pasquale*, the Herald in *Otello*, a Guard in *Rigoletto* and the Customs Guard in 2010's *La bohème*. An active chorister in the San Diego Opera and Los Angeles Opera choruses, he also sings locally with the Bach Collegium and Sacra Profana. He has been a guest soloist with the La Jolla Symphony and Chorus. He served as the Interim Director of Traditional Music at the Village Presbyterian Church in Rancho Santa Fe where he continues as a soloist and section leader.

Marco Guidarini, conductor

San Diego Opera debut. Italian Conductor Marco Guidarini studied conducting with Franco Ferrara and became assistant to Sir John-Elliot Gardiner in Lyon making his operatic debut there with *Falstaff*. From 2001-2009 Guidarini was Chief Conductor of the Opera and Orchestre Philharmonique de Nice where he conducted many productions including *Salome*, *Pelleas et Melisande* and *Wozzek*, as well as a full annual concert series. In October 2009, he made his debut at the Teatro alla Scala conducting a new production of *Le convenienze e inconvenienze teatrali*. In 2010 he conducted concerts with the orchestra of the Accademia della Scala at the Teatro alla

Scala and on tour to Moscow, St. Petersburg, at the festivals of Ravello and Pompeii and made his debut at the Teatro Colon, Buenos Aires with a new production of *Falstaff*. Among other engagements have been *Carmen* at the Stade de France, Paris, Leoncavallo's *La Bohème* for Klangbogen Wien. He also toured Japan with the Orchestre Philharmonique de Nice and conducted *Don Carlos* at the new Opera House in Oslo and *Simon Boccanegra* for the Canadian Opera Company. He has also appeared with the Metropolitan Opera and companies in Los Angeles, Dallas, Minneapolis, Sydney, Nice, Montpellier, Marseille, Barcelona, Seville, Bologna, Naples, Deutsche Oper Berlin, Bayerische Staatsoper, Leipzig, Welsh National Opera, Scottish Opera and English National Opera, among others. Symphonic work has been with the Orchestra Regionale Toscana, Orchestra Comunale di Bologna, Orchestra del Teatro Carlo Felice Genova, the Orchestre National de France, Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, Stockholm Chamber Orchestra, Hong Kong Philharmonic, Leipzig Gewandhaus and many others. Future plans include *La traviata* in Dallas and *Il trovatore* in Toronto.

David Gately, Stage Director

American Stage Director David Gately made his San Diego Opera debut in 2002 directing *Don Pasquale* and returned last season to direct *Faust*. He's mounted this production of *Don Pasquale* at Kentucky Opera, Opera Colorado, Calgary Opera, Chautauqua Opera, Virginia Opera, Dayton Opera, Canadian Opera Company, Opera Omaha, Edmonton Opera and Fort Worth Opera. Recent productions of note include *Little Women*, *Rigoletto*, and *Hansel and Gretel* at Utah Opera, *Arabella* at the Academy of Vocal Arts, *La bohème* for Atlanta Opera, *The Elixir of Love* with The Dallas Opera and Atlanta Opera, *Madama Butterfly* with Seattle Opera, *La bohème* with Florida Grand Opera, *Carmen* in New Orleans, *The Tales of Hoffmann* with Edmonton Opera, *The Magic Flute* with Cincinnati Opera and Vancouver Opera, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with Florentine Opera and Glimmerglass Opera and *Falstaff* with Opera Omaha. Other productions include *The Barber of Seville* with Washington National Opera, Opera Colorado and Manitoba Opera, *Simon Boccanegra* for L'Opéra de Montréal and *Before Night Falls* with Fort Worth Opera where he also directed an acclaimed production of *Dead Man Walking* and *Cinderella*, among others.

Tony Fanning, Set Designer

American Set Designer Tony Fanning's work was first seen here in 2002 with this production of *Don Pasquale*. For theatre, Fanning designed the sets for *Art* and *All My Sons*, Peter Hedges' *Good as New*, *An Ideal Husband* and *Three Viewings*. He designed the sets for August Wilson's *Two Trains Running* on Broadway and for the national tour of *The Who's Tommy*. Additional theatre work includes *Vita and Virginia* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Old Globe Theatre, as well as designs for the Geffen Playhouse, Goodman Theatre, Yale Repertory Theatre, Great Lakes Theatre Festival, Virginia Opera, Chautauqua Opera, Canadian Opera Company and Piedmont Opera. His film work includes *Youth in Revolt*, *Harold and Kumar 2*, *Ocean's Twelve*, *Ocean's Thirteen*, *War of the Worlds*, *Lemony Snicket*, *Polar Express*, *Spider-Man*, *What Women Want*, *October Sky*, *What Lies Beneath*, *Amistad*, *Jingle All the Way*, *The Indian in the Cupboard*, *Nell*, *Forrest Gump*, *Quiz Show* and *The Hudsucker Proxy*. His work for television includes *The West Wing* (for which he won an Emmy Award for Art Direction), *Melrose Place*, *Tales from the Crypt* and *Keep the Change*. He has also developed commercials for British Airways, Nike, Intel and HBO.

Helen E. Rodgers, Costume Design

American Costume Designer Helen E. Rodgers made her design debut with San Diego Opera with this production of *Don Pasquale* in 2002. Formerly the Resident Costume Designer for Sarasota Opera for nine seasons, her design work there included American premieres of *La jolie fille de Perth*, *Maskarade*, *La Wally*, and *Hubicka*. Her work at Chautauqua Opera has included

over 30 designs including the world premiere of Wargo's *A Chekhov Trilogy* as well as productions of *Hansel and Gretel* and *Falstaff*. Other notable projects include the world premiere of Stephen Paulus' *Summer* for the Berkshire Opera, *Faust* for Hawaii Opera Theatre, *Così fan tutte* and *Falstaff* for Mannes Opera, *Turandot* for Opera Festival of New Jersey, *Christmas Spectacular* for Radio City Music Hall, and Associate Costume Designer for *Carousel* at the Paper Mill Playhouse. Among her other credits are Florida Studio Theatre, New York City Opera, Canadian Opera Company, Utah Festival Opera, Opera Delaware, Dayton Opera, Virginia Opera, Opera Memphis, Wolf Trap Opera Company, Opera Musical Theater International, Miami City Ballet, and Coconut Grove Playhouse.

Harry Frehner, Lighting Designer

San Diego Opera debut. Canadian Lighting Designer Harry Frehner has designed more than 250 productions, including works for theatre, dance and opera companies throughout Canada and the United States.. In 2003, Harry received the CITT/ICTS (Canadian Institute of Theatre Technology) Professional Achievement Award for his contributions to the field of stage lighting design.

About the Production Sponsors

These performances of *Don Pasquale* are dedicated to Producers' Circle Sponsors **Merle and Teresa Fischlowitz**.

Performance Schedule

Saturday, March 10, 2012 at 7 PM

Tuesday, March 13, 2012 at 7 PM

Friday, March 16, 2012 at 8 PM

Sunday, March 18, 2012 at 2 PM

Get Connected For Don Pasquale

Stars in the Salon

Meet the singers, conductor and director of *Don Pasquale* in this free and informal panel discussion on **Thursday, March 1, 2012 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 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.sdogera.com/Company/Education/Spotlight>

San Diego Opera Podcast Series

In order to help audiences better appreciate the operas in our 2012 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. 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, 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* 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. Single ticket prices 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.

The 2012 International Season

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| <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.

www.sdopera.com