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## **San Diego Opera Announces 2016-2017 “Community Conversations”**

*Free series explores San Diego Opera’s season through informal conversations with entertaining speakers*

**San Diego, CA** – San Diego Opera is proud to announce the continuation of its “Community Conversations”, a free lecture series that explores the various aspects of San Diego Opera’s 2016 - 2017 season – *La Cenerentola (Cinderella)*, *Soldier Songs*, *Falstaff*, and *La traviata*.

These popular events pair San Diego Opera’s Director of Education and Community Engagement, Dr. Nicolas Reveles, with exciting speakers who are experts in their respective fields. Topics include: “**Meet the Composer: David T. Little’s *Soldier Songs*,**” “**Operatic Fairy Tales: *Cinderella* and *La Cenerentola*,**” “**Verdi, Young and Old: *La traviata* and *Falstaff*”,** and “**Points of View: *Falstaff* in Shakespeare and Verdi.**”

“Community Conversations is an ongoing opportunity for us as a company to connect with areas of relevance to our audience in ways that are incredibly exciting, and sometimes unexpected,” shares Dr. Nicolas Reveles. “*Soldier Songs* is a new opera that explores the cost of war on the human psyche, and who better to explain it to us than the composer himself, David T. Little. *La Cenerentola*, Rossini’s take on the timeless Cinderella allows us to explore how other composers used fairy tales as their inspiration. Verdi’s *Falstaff* and *La traviata* enables us to look at two operas of the composer’s long and storied career. I’ll be joined by community leaders and scholars to help put our season’s operas into a modern context.

All events are free and open to the public but an RSVP is required as these venues have a capacity limit.

Visit <http://www.sdopera.org/engage/community-conversations> for more information and to reserve a seat.

Community Conversations for the 2016-2017 season are as follows:

**Sunday, September 18, 6:00PM**

**Meet the Composer, David T. Little**

**San Diego Central Library, Neil Morgan Auditorium**

San Diego Opera is producing the opera *Soldier Songs* by composer **David T. Little**, a gripping drama with a libretto made up of reflections on war by veterans who were involved in five major foreign conflicts. *Soldier Songs* explores the idea versus the realities of the soldier, loss and the exploitation of innocence, and the impossibility of expressing the truth of war. Join Nicolas Reveles in an intimate discussion with the creator of the work, how it was developed, and about the unique style of Little's music.

**Sunday, October 16, 2:30PM**

**Operatic Fairy Tales: Cinderella & La cenerentola**

**San Diego Central Library, Neil Morgan Auditorium**

Join Nicolas Reveles, Director of Community Engagement for San Diego Opera, in a free-wheeling discussion of Cinderella, the fairy tale and the opera (Rossini), with **Joseph T. Thomas**, professor of English and Comparative Literature at SDSU, where he serves as Director of the National Center for the Study of Children's Literature. Explore with us the history of the tale, a bit about the many operas that use fairy tales as their sources, and the heartfelt meaning the story and the opera.

**Tuesday, December 6, 7:00PM**

**Verdi, Young and Old: La traviata & Falstaff**

**San Diego Central Library, Neil Morgan Auditorium**

Come join us for a special edition of *OperaTalk Live!* in a fun and informative discussion of Giuseppe Verdi's two operatic masterpieces, *La traviata* and *Falstaff*. This is a great opportunity to distinguish between Verdi's operas in mid-career and the operas of his old age. Presented by Nicolas Reveles and taped live by UCSD-TV, expect some delightful stories, a refreshing look at the art of opera and some wonderful music!

**Wednesday, January 4, 7:00PM**

**Points of View: Falstaff in Shakespeare and Verdi**

**Old Globe Theatre, Hattox Hall**

In a lively discussion with **Barry Edelstein**, Artistic Director of The Old Globe Theatre and a Shakespeare expert, the character Falstaff will be looked at from various points of view: that of the stage director, the actor and the singer (not to mention the viewer or the listener!) Considered the best operatic version of Shakespeare, Verdi's *Falstaff* still inspires with its humorous, adventurous and ultimately touching portrayal of this classic character. Was Verdi true to Shakespeare? We'll find out!

**The 2016-2017 International Season**

*Piotr Beczala in Recital*

*La Cenerentola (Cinderella)*

*Soldier Songs*

*Falstaff*

Gioachino Rossini

David T. Little

Giuseppe Verdi

September 17, 2016

October 22, 25, 28 and 30 (mat), 2016

November 11, 12 and 13 (mat), 2016

February 18, 21, 25 and 26 (mat), 2017

*La Tragédie de Carmen*  
*La traviata*

Georges Bizet/Peter Brook  
Giuseppe Verdi

March 10, 11 and 12 (mat) 2017  
April 22, 25, 28 and 30 (mat), 2017

**San Diego Opera Mission Statement**

The mission of San Diego Opera is to deliver exceptional vocal performances and exciting, accessible programs to diverse audiences, focusing on community engagement and the transformative power of live performance.

**San Diego Opera Vision Statement**

The San Diego Opera will be recognized internationally as a leading example of adaptability, innovation and sustainability in the operatic arts, promoting diversified programming and unique performance venues with world-class and emerging talent.

**San Diego Opera Core Values Statement**

Through excellence in innovative programming and education, SDO provides a lasting cultural service to the community.

- Our tradition of excellence in fully staged opera is augmented with new models of opera and venues. Our unique and deep commitment to the community propels us to explore ways of increasing affordability and accessibility.
- Through fiscal responsibility and nimble adaptation to the changing marketplace, we protect the future of San Diego Opera.
- Our educational and community involvement coupled with relevant programming will build the audience of the future.

[www.sdopera.org](http://www.sdopera.org)

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