

SD OPERA Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Contact: Edward Wilensky (619) 232-7636

Edward.Wilensky@sdopera.com

San Diego Opera Presents West Coast Premiere of David T. Little's *Soldier Songs*

Inaugural Detour Series production

Opera explores experience of war on the human psyche

Starring baritone David Adam Moore as the Soldier

Conducted by Steven Schick

**All performances will be followed by a moderated panel discussion
about the opera**

San Diego, CA – San Diego Opera's 2016-2017 season continues on **November 11, 2016 at 7 PM** with the West Coast Premiere of David T. Little's opera *Soldier Songs*. *Soldier Songs* also marks the Company's first opera in the newly created Detour Series which explores lesser known operas and works that fall outside of the Company's ongoing tradition of presenting grand operas at the San Diego Civic Theatre. *Soldier Songs* will be performed at the Balboa Theatre with additional performances on November 12 at 7 PM and November 13 at 2 PM.

Opening on Veterans Day, *Soldier Songs* is an important and relevant multimedia work that explores the shift in perception of war from the age of 6 to 66 as sung from the perspective of an abstract character as he moves through three phases of his life: youth (playing war games) warrior (time served in the military) and an elder (aged, wise, reflective). With a libretto developed by the composer from interviews with veterans from five different wars, *Soldier Songs* explores the loss and exploitation of innocence, and the true cost of war on the individual soldier.

The opera begins with the sentiment "I never speak about this" and ends with the plea to "talk". To facilitate conversation about this opera, and to address the audience's emotional experience, each performance of *Soldier Songs* will be immediately followed by Act II; a curated panel discussion with a

member of the *Soldier Songs* creative team and U.S. Armed Forces Veterans who will be reacting to the piece. Audience members will also have a chance to contribute their experiences to the discussion. Act II will be moderated by psychiatrist Dr. Kathleen Emery, who has experience working with PTSD patients in the local community. Act II is free to all ticket holders of *Soldier Songs* and will run approximately 30 minutes.

Soldier Songs stars baritone **David Adam Moore** who made his Company debut in 2009 as Mercutio in *Romeo and Juliet* and was last seen as Silvio in *Pagliacci* in 2014. *Soldier Songs* is conducted by **Steven Schick**, in his Company debut. It is directed by **Tomer Zvulun**, also in his Company debut. This production is designed by GLMMR (Giving Light Motion + Memory + Relevance) a NYC-based multimedia art collective that combines traditional stage craft with cutting edge projection mapping technology. This production was designed by **Vita Tzykun** and **David Adam Moore**. **Maxwell Bowman** is the Lighting Designer. The opera will be performed in English with English text above the stage. These are the first San Diego Opera performances of *Soldier Songs* and the opera's West Coast Premiere. Single tickets for *Soldier Songs* start at \$20.

Soldier Songs contains strong language, simulated gunshots, explosions and other combat-like sounds and visual effects.

Pre-production photos can be found online at: <https://sandiegoopera.smugmug.com/2016-2017-Preproduction>

The Cast

David Adam Moore, Everyman Soldier/Designer

American baritone David Adam Moore made his Company debut as Mercutio in 2010's *Romeo and Juliet* and returned as Silvio in *Pagliacci* in 2014. Recent notable work includes co-founding two NYC-based arts collectives - GLMMR and Choreo Teatro - with whom he has created music, video, and performance works in venues including the 92nd St. Y, NO Gallery, Anchorage Opera, American Sawdust, and The Cell. His multimedia production of Schubert's *Winterreise*, with visuals by GLMMR, has been enthusiastically received at venues in NYC and throughout the U.S. He recently performed Stanley Kowalski in *A Streetcar Named Desire* with Virginia Opera, Mercutio with Arizona Opera, and Silvio with New Orleans Opera. Other notable performances include Figaro in *The Barber of Seville*, Zurga in *The Pearl Fishers*, Scythian and the Minister in *Iphigénie en Tauride* and Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte* with Seattle Opera, Maximilian in *Candide*, Demetrius in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Cascada in *The Merry Widow* for Teatro alla Scala, Marcello in *La bohème* for Pittsburgh Opera, Prior Walter in *Angels in America* with Fort Worth Opera, Antonio in *Il viaggio a Reims* with New Israeli Opera, the Count in *The Marriage of Figaro* with Opera Grand Rapids and joined the Honolulu Symphony for *Carmina Burana*. Other notable performances include the title role of *Billy Budd*, Mercutio, Littore in *L'incoronazione di Poppea* and Ned Keene in *Peter Grimes* for New Israeli Opera, Figaro in *The Barber of Seville* for Staatsoper Hannover as well as the title role of *Don Giovanni*, a role he also performed for the Kiel Oper. He has also performed Belcore in *The Elixir of Love* for Opera Pacific, Pilot in *The Little Prince* for Tulsa Opera, Laurent in *Thérèse Raquin* for DiCapo Opera, Jake Wallace in *La fanciulla del West* for Seattle Opera, Papageno in *The Magic Flute* with New York City Opera and Tarquinius in *The Rape of Lucretia* with Opera Festival of New Jersey, among many others.

Steven Schick, Conductor

San Diego Opera debut. American conductor Steven Schick is a percussionist, professor and author. For forty years he has championed contemporary music by commissioning or premiering more than one hundred-fifty new works. He was the founding percussionist of the Bang on a Can All-Stars and served as Artistic Director of the Centre International de Percussion de Genève. Schick is founder and Artistic Director of the percussion group, "red fish blue fish". Currently he is Music Director of the La Jolla

Symphony and Chorus in addition to serving as Artistic Director of San Francisco Contemporary Music Players. He is a Distinguished Professor of Music and holds the Reed Family Presidential Chair at the University of California, San Diego. In 2012 he became the first Artist-in-Residence with the International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE). Schick founded and is currently Artistic Director of “Roots and Rhizomes,” a summer course on contemporary percussion music held at the Banff Centre for the Arts. He maintains a lively schedule of guest conducting including appearances with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, the Nova Chamber Ensemble and the Asko/Schönberg Ensemble. Schick was music director of the 2015 Ojai Festival. Among his acclaimed publications are a book, “The Percussionist’s Art: Same Bed, Different Dreams,” and numerous recordings of contemporary percussion music including a 3 CD set of the complete percussion music of Iannis Xenakis (Mode). Mode released a companion recording on DVD of the early percussion music of Karlheinz Stockhausen in September of 2014.

Tomer Zvulun, Stage Director

San Diego Opera debut. Israeli stage director Tomer Zvulun has been the General and Artistic Director of Atlanta Opera since 2013. His work has been seen at the Metropolitan Opera, the opera companies of Seattle, Atlanta, Boston, Cleveland, Dallas, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, Buenos Aires, Wexford, New Orleans and Wolf Trap, as well as at leading educational institutes and universities such as The Juilliard School, Indiana University, Boston University, and IVAI in Tel Aviv. His debut in New York was in a new production *L'heure Espagnole* and *Gianni Schicchi*. Notable recent work includes *Semele* at Seattle Opera, *Lucia di Lammermoor* for Seattle, Atlanta, and Cleveland, *La bohème* for Seattle, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, and Atlanta, *Lucrezia Borgia* for Buenos Aires, *Gianni Schicchi* for Tel Aviv, *The Magic Flute* for Cincinnati, Atlanta, and Indiana University, *Don Giovanni* for Wolf Trap and Cincinnati, *Die Fledermaus* for Dallas and Kansas City, *Falstaff* for Wolf Trap, *Rigoletto* for Boston, Atlanta, and Omaha, *Madama Butterfly* for Atlanta and the Castleton Festival, and *Tosca* for the National Theatre Panama and Atlanta. His passion for producing new works by living composers was realized in the acclaimed European premiere of Kevin Puts’s *Silent Night* in the Wexford Festival Opera in the fall of 2014. The production won two Irish Times Awards and will be remounted in Atlanta and The Glimmerglass Festival in 2017. This season he directed a new production of *Soldier Songs* as a part of The Atlanta Opera Discovery Series and is preparing the world premiere of *Dinner at Eight* in Minnesota and the Wexford Festival. He created a new production of Jake Heggie’s *3 Decembers* in Boston University, as well as the New Orleans premiere of *Dead Man Walking*.

Vita Tzykun, Designer

San Diego Opera debut. Israeli-American designer Vita Tzykin has designed sets, costumes, and projections for companies such as Norwegian Opera, Los Angeles Opera, Seattle Opera, the Dallas Opera, Opera Philadelphia, The Kennedy Center, Wexford Opera Festival in Ireland, Boston Lyric Opera, Atlanta Opera, Norway’s Kristiansund Opera, Bard Summerscape, Lyric Opera of Kansas City, Utah Opera, Gotham Chamber Opera, Juilliard Opera, Wolf Trap Opera, NYC’s Prototype Festival, National Sawdust, Teatro Imeras in Athens, 3LD Art & Media Center, NY Classical Theatre, Cherry Lane Theatre, and 92nd Street Y. Her numerous film and tv credits include art direction for Lady Gaga’s ABC Thanksgiving Special, production design for several award winning feature films and shorts, and commercials for leading companies such as PBS, DirectTV, Axe, Bulova, Qualcomm, and the U.S. Army. She is a founding member of GLMMR - an NYC-based interdisciplinary art collective that fuses the worlds of fine art, audiovisual technology, and live performance. GLMMR’s recent projects include critically-acclaimed productions of *The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat* at Indianapolis Opera, *Soldier Songs* at Atlanta Opera, and *Winterreise* at Atlanta Opera, Anchorage Opera, and NYC’s National Sawdust. Her work was recently showcased in a solo exhibition at the National Opera America Center in New York, and has been featured in exhibitions at the Entertainment Industry Expo in NYC, Habima National Theater in Tel-Aviv, the World Stage Design Exhibition in Toronto, and in Entertainment Design magazine. In 2016, she was nominated for Best Design by the International Opera Awards.

Maxwell Bowman, Lighting Designer

San Diego Opera debut. Maxwell Bowman is a lighting and multimedia designer with projects in interactive art and design. He has worked with award-winning artists all over the country including Elaine McCarthy, Austin Switser, and Ken Posner. Maxwell has worked nationally with such opera and theater groups as the Santa Fe Opera, The Dallas Opera, Indianapolis Opera, and Goldfish Memory Productions, to name a select few. He was the co-lighting designer for thenational tour of WNYC's *Radiolab: Apocalyptic*, and is a contributing member of the GLMMR collective in lighting and technology integration.

David T. Little, Composer

San Diego Opera debut. Recent and upcoming works for Composer David T. Little include *Agency* (Kronos Quartet), *Charm* (Baltimore Symphony/Marin Alsop), *Hellhound* (Maya Beiser), *Haunt of Last Nightfall* (Third Coast Percussion), the opera *JFK* with Royce Vavrek (Fort Worth Opera), a new opera commissioned by the MET Opera/Lincoln Center Theater new works program, and the music-theater work *Artaud* in the Black Lodge with Outrider legend Anne Waldman (Beth Morrison Projects). His music has been heard at Carnegie Hall, Los Angeles Opera, the Park Avenue Armory, the Bang on a Can Marathon, and elsewhere. Educated at the University of Michigan and Princeton, Little is co-founder of the annual New Music Bake Sale, has served as executive director of MATA, serves on the composition faculty at Mannes-The New School and Shenandoah Conservatory, and is composer-in-residence with Opera Philadelphia and Music-Theatre Group. The founding artistic director of the ensemble Newspeak, his music can be heard on New Amsterdam and Innova labels. He is published by Boosey & Hawkes.

Performance Schedule

Friday	November 11, 2016	7 PM
Saturday	November 12, 2016	7 PM
Sunday	November 13, 2016	2 PM

Get Connected For *Soldier Songs*

Meet Composer David T. Little

Join Dr. Nicolas Reveles, San Diego Opera's Director of Community Engagement and Outreach, when he sits down with the composer of *Soldier Songs*, David T. Little, to talk about his opera and the importance of giving soldiers a voice and a medium where they can talk about their experiences. This free talk is open to public and takes place on Sunday, September 18, 2016 at 6:00 PM at the Neil Morgan Auditorium of the Downtown Central Library. For more information on this event visit:

<http://www.sdopera.org/engage/community-conversations>

Post-Opera Conversation / Act II

Audience members are encouraged to remain for a moderated panel conversation after each performance of *Soldier Songs*. The underlying theme of this opera is to start a dialogue about the burdens war places on our soldiers long after the fighting has ended. Veterans and active members of the military will join a member of the *Soldier Songs* creative team and moderator Dr. Kathleen Emery for their reaction to the opera. Audience members will have their chance to add their experiences to the conversation. Act II is free to all ticket holders and will run approximately 30 minutes.

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 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.org/Company/Education/Spotlight>

San Diego OperaTalk! with Nicolas Reveles

Join Dr. Nicolas Reveles, San Diego Opera's Director of Education and Community Engagement, for these fascinating, half-hour overviews of our operas. 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.org/Company/Education/OperaTalk>

San Diego Opera Video Podcast Series

In order to help audiences better appreciate the operas in our 2016-2017 Season, the Education and Community Engagement 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.org/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 @SDOpera.

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 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*, *Opera Spotlight*, our video podcast series and much more can be found on the San Diego Opera channel at: <http://www.youtube.com/SanDiegoOpera>

San Diego Opera on Instagram

A picture is worth a thousand words! Take a look at what happen backstage and in the office on San Diego Opera's Instagram page. <http://instagram.com/sandiegoopera>

Purchasing Tickets

Single tickets for the Detour Series starts at \$20. Subscriptions begin at \$40 for a two-opera series. Subscriptions and single tickets can be purchased by calling (619) 533-7000 or online at www.sdopera.org.

The 2016-2017 International Season

<i>Piotr Beczala in Recital</i>		September 17, 2016
<i>La Cenerentola (Cinderella)</i>	Gioachino Rossini	October 22, 25, 28 and 30 (mat), 2016
<i>Soldier Songs</i>	David T. Little	November 11, 12 and 13 (mat), 2016
<i>Falstaff</i>	Giuseppe Verdi	February 18, 21, 25 and 26 (mat), 2017
<i>La Tragédie de Carmen</i>	Georges Bizet/Peter Brook	March 10, 11 and 12 (mat) 2017
<i>La traviata</i>	Giuseppe Verdi	April 22, 25, 28 and 30 (mat), 2017

About the Detour Series

One definition of "detour" is a route that is different from the ordinary, which aptly describes the Company's new series of productions and works outside of traditional grand opera. Surprising, intense and powerful, the Detour Series combines the expressive nature of opera with the potency of intimate theater.

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

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