

OPERA SAN JOSE

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Calendar Release

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A Lesson in Humanity: *The Marriage of Figaro* *Mozart's brilliance was never brighter*

SAN JOSE, CA—Opera San José continues its 26th Anniversary Season with *The Marriage of Figaro* (*Le nozze di Figaro*), Mozart's 1786 masterpiece. Eight performances are scheduled from February 6 through 21 at the California Theatre, 345 South First Street in downtown San José.

At once humorous and touching, *The Marriage of Figaro* represents the apogee of W.A. Mozart's unparalleled brilliance. Often described as the finest comic opera ever written, it is based on the second installment in a trilogy (following *The Barber of Seville*) by 18th-century French dramatist Pierre Beaumarchais. While Lorenzo da Ponte's libretto for the opera might not deliver the full sting of Beaumarchais' social satire (Napoleon called it "the revolution already in action"), there are still laughs aplenty at the expense of the aristocracy. Figaro, valet to Count Almaviva in old Seville, aims to thwart his lecherous employer's ignoble intentions toward his clever fiancée, Susanna, who is the countess's maid. To do so, Figaro joins forces with Susanna and the amorous count's wife in a series of hilarious deceptions. Lust collides with love amid famous melodies and a score richly varied with arias, duets, trios, and sparkling finales. *The Marriage of Figaro* was the first opera to remain in the standard repertoire from its first performance to the present day. It has enthralled audiences for more than two centuries because Mozart and da Ponte make us care about the characters. Silly, noble, pompous, lecherous, sad, triumphant—these are real people, with real feelings. And we connect with them as human beings.

In Italian with English Supertitles

Conductors—David Rohrbaugh, Anthony Quartuccio. **Stage director**—Peter Kozma.

Set coordination—Larry Hancock. **Costume coordination**—Alyssa Oania.

Lighting design—David Lee Cuthbert. **Wig/makeup design**—Sara Beukers.

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 Casting:	<u>February 6, 11, 14, 16</u>	<u>February 7, 13, 19, 21</u>
Countess Almaviva	Rebecca Davis	Rebecca Schuessler•
Susanna	Khori Dastoor•	Jennie Litster
Cherubino	Betany Coffland•	Tori Grayum
Figaro	Brian Leerhuber	Isaiah Musik-Ayala•
Count Almaviva	Krassen Karagiozov•	Daniel Cilli•
Marcellina	Heather McFadden	Heather McFadden
Bartolo	Silas Elash•	Silas Elash•
Don Basilio	Bill Welch	Bill Welch
Don Curzio	Michael Mendelsohn	Michael Mendelsohn
Antonio	Stephen Boisvert	Stephen Boisvert
Barbarina	Giovanna Hutchison	Christine Suits*

• Resident Company *Company debut

The Marriage of Figaro

Dates: February 6, 7m, 11, 13, 14m, 16, 19, 21m
Time: “m” indicates matinee at 3pm; all other performances are at 8pm
Location: California Theatre, 345 South First Street between San Carlos and San Salvador streets, downtown San José
Tickets: \$51–\$91 (includes city facility usage fee) from Opera San José Box Office, 2149 Paragon Dr., San José, CA 95131; 408-437-4450; 408-437-4455 fax; www.operasj.org
Available 90 minutes prior to curtain at the California Theatre box office only: Seniors (65 and older) 10% discount; Students 25 and under (with student ID) \$11

The Marriage of Figaro is sponsored, in part, by a Cultural Affairs Grant from the City of San José.

To learn more about *The Marriage of Figaro*:

Please visit our website at www.operasj.org or consider the opportunities listed below:

Preview: A lecture by General Manager Larry Hancock with singing from cast members will be held at The Fairmont San Jose on Tuesday, January 26. Doors open at 6:30pm for wine and light hors d’oeuvres; program begins at 7, lasting one hour. For tickets (\$25), call 408-437-4450.

Introduction to Opera: Before each performance (except opening night), General Manager Larry Hancock will present a free 45-minute talk about the opera at the California Theatre, beginning at 6:30 prior to evening performances and at 1:30 prior to Sunday matinees. No reservations required.

Meet the Artists: Members of the cast reappear about 10 minutes after the conclusion of each opening Sunday matinee to give their thoughts, answer questions, and offer a chance to “talk back.” Free.