

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 23, 2015

Press contact
Bryan Ferraro, 408.423.2229 ferraro@operasj.org

Opera San José presents Mozart's Fantastical ***The Magic Flute***

SAN JOSE, CA – Opera San José continues its 31st season with Mozart's ***The Magic Flute***. A young prince's quest leads to love. Lost in a faraway land, the prince is enlisted by The Queen of the Night to rescue her daughter from the hands of a supposedly evil sorcerer. With the aid of a magic flute the prince sets out on a fantastic adventure filled with danger and surprising twists, culminating in one final test at a mystical temple. ***The Magic Flute*** will be sung in German with English supertitles; dialog will be spoken in English. George Cleve will conduct, with stage direction by Brad Dalton. Six performances are scheduled from April 18 through May 3 at the California Theatre, 345 South First Street in downtown San José. Tickets are now on sale at the Opera San José Box Office, online at operasj.org or by phone at (408) 437-4450. Performances are supported, in part, by a grant from the San José Office of Cultural Affairs.

George Cleve returns to Opera San José to conduct ***The Magic Flute***. Most recently, Mr. Cleve conducted last season's *Don Giovanni* and the company premiere of Mozart's *Idomeneo* in 2011, as well as Opera San José productions of *Carmen* and the doublebill *Cavalleria rusticana* and *Pagliacci*. He has also received an Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts from the University of Santa Clara, the Gold Medal of Honor of the Republic of Austria, and the Silver Medal of the City of Vienna for his part in founding the Midsummer Mozart Festival. Mr. Cleve has conducted a wide range of other operas, including Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*, Verdi's *Don Carlo*, *La traviata*, and *Rigoletto*, Puccini's *La bohème* and *Madama Butterfly*, Mascagni's *Cavalleria rusticana*, Leoncavallo's *Pagliacci*, and Stravinsky's *Oedipus Rex*.

Brad Dalton returns to direct ***The Magic Flute***, having also directed *Rigoletto* in September 2014. Mr. Dalton is known for his critically acclaimed Opera San José productions of *Madama Butterfly*, *Il trovatore*, *Idomeneo*, *Faust*, and the 2010 West Coast premiere of David Carlson's *Anna Karenina*. He

has directed productions for opera companies throughout the United States and abroad, including San Francisco Opera, Metropolitan Opera, Washington Opera and the State Opera of South Australia.

Resident soprano **Isabella Ivy** sings the role of Queen of the Night. Ms. Ivy recently played Lilia Herriton in Opera San José's world premiere of *Where Angels Fear to Tread*. She made her debut for the company as Gilda (*Rigoletto*), followed by Elvira (*The Italian Girl in Algiers*). Ms. Ivy has repeatedly been a featured artist with the AIMS Festival Orchestra in Graz. She has also premiered several works at the University of Nevada for both established and emerging composers, most notably *Madame White Snake*, the 2011 Pulitzer prize-winning opera by Zhou Long.

Soprano **Hai Ji Chang** joins Opera San José for the first time as Pamina. Ms. Chang is a member of the Doningo-Colburn-Stein Young Artist Program and has sung both the First Lady in *The Magic Flute* with the LA Opera and Pamina in *The Magic Flute* with the Saint Louis Symphony. Last year marked Ms. Chang's debut appearance with the Metropolitan Opera as Liù in *Turandot*. She recently performed Susanna in *The Marriage of Figaro* with Aspen Opera Theater and Euridice in *Orfeo ed Euridice* with the New England Conservatory of Music. Additional engagements for Ms. Chang include Zerlina in LA Opera's production of *Don Giovanni* and Lucia in *The Rape of Lucretia* under the baton James Conlon.

Resident tenor **Kirk Dougherty** sings the role of Tamino. Mr. Dougherty, a member of the resident company, made his Opera San José debut as the Duke in *Rigoletto* and recently sang Philip Herriton in the world premiere of *Where Angels Fear to Tread* in February. Recent engagements for Mr. Dougherty include Manrico (*Il trovatore*) with Sarasota Opera and Baltimore Concert Opera, Pollione (*Norma*), at St. Petersburg Opera, Arturo (*Lucia di Lammermoor*) for Anchorage Opera, and Eremita (*Sakuntala*) for Teatro Grattacielo in New York City.

Baritone **Matthew Hanscom** sings the role of Papageno. Mr. Hanscom made his company debut recently as Rigoletto, followed with Taddeo (*The Italian Girl in Algiers*) and Gino Carella (*Where Angels Fear to Tread*). Mr. Hanscom performed six seasons at Sarasota Opera, appearing as Comte de Toulouse in Verdi's *Jérusalem* and Schaunard in Puccini's *La bohème*, Slim in Carlisle Floyd's *Of Mice and Men*, and Ping in Puccini's *Turandot*.

Resident bass **Silas Elash** sings the role of Sarastro. Mr. Elash recently sang the role of the Cabman in *Where Angels Fear to Tread* as well as Sparafucile in Opera San José's production of *Rigoletto*. He has sung more than 25 roles with Opera San José, including appearances last season as the Commissioner (*Madama Butterfly*) and the Commendatore (*Don Giovanni*). Mr. Elash was winner of the "Wagner Society Award" in the 2010 Irene Dalis Vocal Competition.

Soprano **Elizabeth Baldwin** also makes her Opera San José debut as First Lady. Ms. Baldwin's recent engagements include a debut with the Boston Youth Symphony Orchestra singing the title role in Puccini's *Tosca* and with the Toledo Opera in the "Ladies In Red" Opera Gala Concert. In the 2012-13 season, Ms. Baldwin debuted with the Kentucky Opera (in collaboration with the Owensboro Symphony) singing the title role in *Tosca* and debuted at Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center as Vicolinda in Verdi's *I Lombardi* with The Opera Orchestra of New York under Eve Queler.

Chloe Smart, who returned this season as an associate member of the resident company, will perform the role of Second Lady. Ms. Smart recently performed the roles of Padrona (*Where Angels Fear to Tread*) and Countess Ceprano (*Rigoletto*). Smart made her Opera San José debut in the 2013-14 season as the Sandman in *Hansel and Gretel*. She has previously been seen in the Opera San José chorus for *Don Giovanni*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Falstaff*, *La traviata* as well as *Il trovatore*.

Second year resident mezzo-soprano **Lisa Chavez** performs the role of Third Lady. Ms. Chavez made her company debut last season as Meg Page (*Falstaff*). Other roles performed by Chavez for the company include Harriet Harriton (*Where Angels Fear to Tread*), Hansel (*Hansel and Gretel*), Suzuki (*Madama Butterfly*), Donna Elvira (*Don Giovanni*), Maddalena (*Rigoletto*) and Isabella (*The Italian Girl in Algiers*). Awards received by Ms. Chavez include First Place and Audience Favorite in the Irma M. Cooper Competition (2013), and Third Prize Winner in the 2014 Irene Dalis Vocal Competition.

Tenor **David Margulis** makes his company debut, appearing as Monastatos. Recent performances for Mr. Margulis include the Young Servant (*Elektra*) at Des Moines Metro Opera, and Gastone (*La traviata*) and Ernesto (*Don Pasquale*) at the Marion Roose Pullin Opera Studio of Arizona Opera. In the summer of 2014, Mr. Margulis made his mainstage debut at The Santa Fe Opera in *The Impresario/ Le Rossignol* double-bill and will follow that with a return to the mainstage at Arizona Opera as Tamino (*The Magic Flute*) in 2015

Soprano **Jenny Litster**, who recently appeared as the Opera Singer in *Where Angels Fear to Tread*, sings Papagena. At the Utah Opera Ms. Litster took the stage as Giannetta in *L'elisir d'amore*, Countess Ceprano in *Rigoletto*, Erste Dame in Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*, and last April debuted the Queen of the Night (*Magic Flute*) with Opera San Luis Obispo.

Christopher Filipowicz appears as The Speaker. Mr. Filipowicz made his company debut during the 2014-15 season, appearing as Spiridone in *Where Angels Fear to Tread*. Mr. Filipowicz was seen in San Francisco as The Man with the Cornet Case in the San Francisco Conservatory of Music's production of Dominic Argento's *Postcard from Morocco*, a co-production with Portland Opera directed by Kevin Newbury.

Opera San José's production of ***The Magic Flute*** includes set designs by **Ryan McGettigan**, lighting design by **David Lee Cuthbert**, **Alyssa Oania** will serve as Costume Coordinator and wig and makeup designs are by **Vicky Martinez**.

About Opera San José

Opera San José, performing at the beautiful California Theatre in downtown San José, is a professional, regional opera company that is unique in the United States. Maintaining a resident company of principal artists, Opera San José specializes in showcasing the finest young professional singers in the nation. In addition to mainstage performances, Opera San José maintains extensive educational programs in schools and in the community at large, and offers preview lectures and Introduction to Opera talks for all mainstage productions.

The Magic Flute

Spoken in English, Sung in German with English Supertitles

Cast:

Queen of the Night
Pamina
Tamino
Papageno
Sarastro
First Lady
Second Lady
Third Lady
Monastatos
Papagena
The Speaker

April 18, 19, 23, 26 – May 1, 3

Isabella Ivy•
Hai Ji Chang
Kirk Dougherty•
Matthew Hanscom•
Silas Elash•
Elizabeth Baldwin
Chloe Smart•
Lisa Chavez•
David Margulis
Jennie Litster
Christopher Filipowicz

- Resident Company

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

- What:** Opera San José continues its 31st season with Mozart's ***The Magic Flute***. A young prince's quest leads to love. Lost in a faraway land, the prince is enlisted by The Queen of the Night to rescue her daughter from the hands of a supposedly evil sorcerer. With the aid of a magic flute the prince sets out on a fantastic adventure filled with danger and surprising twists, culminating in one final test at a mystical temple. ***The Magic Flute*** will be sung in German with English supertitles; dialog will be spoken in English. George Cleve will conduct, with stage direction by Brad Dalton. Six performances are scheduled from April 18 through May 3 at the California Theatre, 345 South First Street in downtown San José. Tickets are on sale at the Opera San José Box Office, online at operasj.org or by phone at (408) 437-4450. Performances are supported, in part, by a grant from the San José Office of Cultural Affairs.
- Who:** Composer: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
 Librettist: Emanuel Schikaneder
 Conductor: George Cleve
 Stage Director: Brad Dalton
 Set Designer: Ryan McGettigan
 Costume Coordinator: Alyssa Oania
 Lighting Designer: David Lee Cuthbert
 Wigs/Makeup: Vicky Martinez
 Assistant Conductor/Chorus Master: Andrew Whitfield
 Principal Coach: John Churchwell
- Dates:** April 18, 19m, 23, 26m, May 1, 3m
- Time:** "m" indicates matinee at 3pm; all other performances are at 8pm
- Location:** California Theatre, 345 South 1st Street (between San Carlos and San Salvador), San José, CA
- Tickets:** Available at Opera San José Box Office, 2149 Paragon Dr., San José, CA 95131; \$51–\$121 (includes city facility usage fee). Students 25 and younger (with current student ID) \$11; 408-437-4450; 408-437-4455 fax; operasj.org.
- Photos:** <http://www.operasj.org/news-events/press-room/press-photos/2014-2015-season/the-magic-flute/advance-photos/>
- Press Room:** www.operasj.org/news-events/press-room

To learn more about ***The Magic Flute***, go to operasj.org and consider these opportunities:

The Magic Flute Special Preview: April 7, 2015, at 12pm, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library, 150 East Fernando Street, Beethoven Center, 5th floor, downtown San José; Free vocal preview with members of the cast. For information, call 408-437-4450.

Introduction to Opera: General Director Larry Hancock will present a free 45-minute talk to ticket holders about the opera at the California Theatre before each performance of ***The Magic Flute***. The talk begins at 6:30pm prior to evening performances and at 1:30pm prior to Sunday matinees. No reservations required.

###

###