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### ***OPERA SAN JOSE 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season Announced***

#### ***Company to open 30th season with Verdi's operatic work***

**SAN JOSE, CA – General Director Irene Dalis** announced today the repertoire for the company's 30th season to begin Saturday, September 7, 2013 with Verdi's masterwork ***Falstaff***, conducted by Opera San José's founding music director and principal conductor, **David Rohrbaugh**. In November, Opera San José will present Humperdinck's ***Hansel and Gretel***, a family classic to welcome the holiday season. Acclaimed stage director **Brad Dalton** returns in 2014 to direct Puccini's bittersweet ***Madama Butterfly***. The season will culminate with Mozart's ***Don Giovanni*** conducted by **George Cleve**, founder and music director of the Midsummer Mozart Festival.

"For our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary we will celebrate Verdi's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday, present a wonderful holiday opera, bring back to the stage a most beloved Italian opera, and showcase one of the world's favorite seducers. The best of opera repertoire and a fairytale classic!" said **General Director Irene Dalis**. "As always, we select operas that are suited to the artists in our resident company, and these operas are a perfect fit."

The 2013-14 season features the principal artists from Opera San José's resident company: Melody King (soprano), Cecilia Violetta López (soprano), Nicole Birkland (mezzo-soprano), James Callon (tenor), Evan Brummel (baritone), and Matthew Anchel (bass). Former resident, Scott Beardan (baritone), returns as a guest artist to open the season as *Falstaff*.

All performances will be held at the **California Theatre**, 345 South First Street in downtown San José. Subscriptions for Opera San José's 2013-14 season go on sale February 11, 2013, starting at \$120.00 for all four productions.

Subscriptions are available at the Opera San José Box Office or by phone at (408) 437-4450. Single tickets will go on sale August 5, 2013, priced from \$50.00 to \$110.00.

*Performances are made possible, in part, by a Cultural Affairs grant from the City of San José.*

**Opera San José's 2013-14 season is as follows:**

***Falstaff***  
**September 7-22, 2013**

Sung in Italian with English supertitles

Performances: September 7, 8m, 12, 14, 15m, 17, 20, 22m (m=matinee)

Composer: Giuseppe Verdi

Librettist: Arrigo Boito, adapted from Shakespeare's plays *The Merry Wives of Windsor* and *Henry IV*.

Premiere: Milan, Italy - February 9, 1893

Conductor: David Rohrbaugh

Stage director: José Maria Condemi

Set designer: Steven C. Kemp

Costume designer: Suzanne Mess

A tale of greed. A travesty of stymied desires. A fat old knight's ridiculous hunger to recapture his youth and gain riches through sexual liaisons is challenged when he meets his match in the form of two wily married women. This is the setting for Giuseppe Verdi's operatic *commedia lirica*, ***Falstaff***. Based on Shakespeare's comedy *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, Verdi's last opera is an insightfully humorous celebration of love and life that can be enjoyed by all.

***Hansel and Gretel***  
**November 16 – December 1, 2013**

Sung in English with English supertitles

Performances: November 16, 17m, 21, 23, 24m, 26, 29, December 1m (m=matinee)

Composer: Engelbert Humperdinck

Librettist: Adelheid Wette, based on the Grimm brothers' fairy tale

Premiere: Weimar, Germany - December 23, 1893

Conductor: Andrew Whitfield

Stage director: Layna Chianakas

Set designer: TBD

Costume designer: TBD

A mystical forest. A tempting gingerbread house. Two imaginative siblings embark on a precarious adventure to find something to eat when their fortunes turn for the worst. They must rely on perseverance and resilience to escape an evil witch in Engelbert Humperdinck's, *Hansel and Gretel*. This nineteenth-century holiday opera is much admired for its folk-music-inspired themes, including the famous "Abendsegen" ("Evening Benediction"). Opera San José's Assistant Conductor and Chorus Master, Andrew Whitfield, will conduct. Former Opera San José resident artist, Layna Chianakas, will direct.

## ***Madama Butterfly*** **February 15 – March 2, 2014**

Sung in Italian with English supertitles

Performances: February 15, 16m, 20, 22, 23m, 25, 28, March 2m (m=matinee)

Composer: Giacomo Puccini

Librettists: Luigi Illica and Giuseppe Giacosa, based on the short story "*Madame Butterfly*"

Premiere: Milan, Italy - February 17, 1904

Conductor: David Rohrbaugh

Stage director: Brad Dalton

Set designer: Kent Dorsey

Costume coordinator: Alyssa Oania

A heartbreaking love story. A tragic betrayal. An American naval officer marries a young Japanese girl for convenience only to leave her while she faithfully awaits his return. Set in 1890s Japan, Giacomo Puccini's devastating saga of devotion, tradition and sacrifice is among the most beloved operas of all time.

## ***Don Giovanni*** **April 19-May 4, 2014**

Sung in Italian with English supertitles

Performances: April 19, 20m, 24, 26, 27m, 29, May 2, 4m (m=matinee)

Composer: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Librettist: Lorenzo Da Ponte, based on the legends of Don Juan

Premiere: Prague, Czech Republic - October 29, 1787

Conductor: George Cleve

Stage director: Daniel Witzke

Set designer: Annie Smart

Costume designer: Alyssa Oania

A dark comedy. A dangerous game of seduction. An arrogant nobleman seduces every woman he meets until he encounters something he cannot kill, beat up, dodge, or outwit. Mozart's dramatic genius pervades in ***Don Giovanni*** as he weaves humor, melodrama and supernatural elements into a powerful musical masterpiece.

### **About Opera San José**

**Opera San José**, performing at the historic **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.

#### **For Calendar Editors:**

**What:** Opera San José General Director **Irene Dalis** announced repertoire for the company's 30th season to begin Saturday, September 7 with a presentation in honor of Verdi's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday – his last operatic masterwork ***Falstaff***, conducted by founding music director and principal conductor, **David Rohrbaugh**; **José Maria Condemi**, Artistic Director of Opera Santa Barbara, will direct. In November, Opera San José will present Humperdinck's ***Hansel and Gretel*** as a holiday family presentation, conducted by **Andrew Whitfield** with former resident artist **Layna Chianakas** directing. **Brad Dalton** returns in 2014 to direct Puccini's bittersweet ***Madama Butterfly***. The season will culminate with Mozart's ***Don Giovanni*** conducted by **George Cleve**, founder and music director of the Midsummer Mozart Festival. **Daniel Witzke** returns from working internationally with major opera houses such as the Wiener Staatsoper, to direct. All performances will be held at the **California Theatre**, 345 South First Street in downtown San José.

**Dates:** September 7, 2013-May 4, 2014

<i>Falstaff</i>	September 7, 8, 12, 14, 15, 17, 20, 22
<i>Hansel and Gretel</i>	November 16, 17, 21, 23, 24, 26, 29, December 1
<i>Madama Butterfly</i>	February 15, 16, 20, 22, 23, 25, 28, March 2
<i>Don Giovanni</i>	April 19, 20, 24, 26, 27, 29, May 2, 4

**Time:** All performances at 8 pm, except Sundays at 3 pm

**Location:** California Theatre, 345 South First Street between San Carlos and San Salvador streets, downtown San José

**Tickets:** Season subscriptions (\$120-\$380) on sale February 10, 2013 from the Opera San José Box Office, 2149 Paragon Dr., San José, CA 95131; or call 408.437.4450 or visit [operasj.org](http://operasj.org).

Single tickets (\$50-\$110) on sale August 5, 2013; call 408-437-4450 or visit [operasj.org](http://operasj.org)

**Press Room:** <http://www.operasj.org/pressroom.html>

**Photos:** <http://operasj.org/news-events/press-room/press-photos/2012-2013-season/>  
(For 2013-14 season press photos, email [duong@operasj.org](mailto:duong@operasj.org))

To learn more about Opera San José, please visit [operasj.org](http://operasj.org)

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