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OPERA SAN JOSE 31st Season Announced

Company to open 31st season with Verdi's dramatic masterwork Rigoletto

SAN JOSE, CA – 31st season General Director Larry Hancock announced today the repertoire for the company's 31st season to begin Saturday, September 6, 2014 with Verdi's dramatic ***Rigoletto***, conducted by Opera San José's new music director and principal conductor, **Joseph Marcheso**. In November, Opera San José will present Rossini's comedy ***The Italian Girl in Algiers***. We begin the New Year with the world premiere of Mark Weiser's brilliant drama, ***Where Angels Fear To Tread***, based on the E.M. Forester novel. The season will culminate with the musical genius of Mozart's fantasy ***The Magic Flute***, conducted by **George Cleve**, founder and music director of the Midsummer Mozart Festival.

"Music Director Joseph Marcheso and I are very happy to announce three of the world's most famous operas: Mozart's bewitching ***The Magic Flute***, Rossini's hilarious ***The Italian Girl in Algiers*** (a first for Opera San José), and Verdi's dazzling ***Rigoletto***. In addition we are producing the world premiere of Mark Weiser's first opera, ***Where Angels Fear to Tread***, which is among the most powerful dramas I have witnessed," said **Hancock**. "Each of these operas is dramatically and musically strong, and as a package they range from gripping drama to wry comedy. It is a constellation of unforgettable, theatrical experiences."

"It has been too long since we have given these beloved operas to the public - the best of opera repertoire and a world premiere!" said OSJ founder **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 2014-15 season features the principal artists from Opera San José's resident company. All performances will be held at the **California Theatre**, 345 South First Street in downtown San José. Subscriptions for Opera San José's 2014-15 season went on sale January 2, 2014, starting at \$120.00 for a package of all four operas.

Subscriptions are available at the Opera San José Box Office or by phone at (408) 437-4450. Single tickets will go on sale August 4, 2014, priced from \$51.00 to \$111.00.

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

Opera San José's 2014-15 season is as follows:

Rigoletto
September 6-21, 2014

Sung in Italian with English supertitles

Performances: September 6, 7m, 11, 14m, 19, 21m (m=matinee)

Composer: Giuseppe Verdi

Librettist: Francesco Maria Piave, based on the play *Le roi s'amuse* by Victor Hugo.

Premiere: Venice, Italy – March 11, 1851

Conductor: Joseph Marcheso

Stage director: Brad Dalton

Set designer: Steven Kemp

Costume designer: Malabar Limited, Toronto

A tale of innocence lost. A vengeance gone tragically awry. A deformed court jester wants nothing more than to protect his virtuous daughter from a licentious duke who seduces her and then abandons her. Giuseppe Verdi's famous masterwork, *Rigoletto*, leads us on a chilling whirlwind of revenge that has entranced audiences since its first performance. Sung in Italian with English supertitles.

The Italian Girl in Algiers
November 15 – November 30, 2014

Sung in Italian with English supertitles

Performances: November 15, 16m, 20, 23m, 28, 30m (m=matinee)

Composer: Gioachino Rossini

Librettist: Angelo Anelli

Premiere: Weimar, Germany - December 23, 1893

Conductor: Ming Luke

Stage director: Michael Shell

Set designer: Steven Kemp

Costume designer: Malabar Limited, Toronto

A lost love. A twist of fate. A clever Italian girl is shipwrecked in a foreign land while searching for her lover, finding herself the focus of a powerful Sultan's unwanted affections. Rossini's sparkling and fast-paced opera weaves a madcap story full of twists and turns in this comedic adventure to a land of magnificent palaces, swashbuckling pirates and lavish harems.

Where Angels Fear to Tread
February 7 – February 22, 2014

Sung in English with English supertitles

Performances: February 7, 8m, 12, 15m, 20, 22m (m=matinee)

Composer: Mark Lanz Weiser

Librettists: Roger Brunyate, based on a novel by E. M. Forster

Premiere: World Premiere

Conductor: Joseph Marcheso

Stage director: Lillian Groag

Set designer: Michael Ganio

Costume coordinator: Elizabeth Poindexter

A collision of cultures. A misunderstanding of horrific consequences. A rich English widow marries a penniless but handsome young Italian against the wishes of her family. Based on the novel by E. M. Forster, this insightful, narrative follows the inevitable harm done by blind prejudice and selfish desire.

The Magic Flute **April 18 – May 3, 2015**

Sung in German with English supertitles

Performances: April 18, 19m, 23, 26m, May 1, 3m (m=matinee)

Composer: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Librettist: Emanuel Schikaneder

Premiere: Vienna, Germany - September 30, 1791

Conductor: George Cleve

A quest for enlightenment and honor. A mystical story about the power of love. A young prince discovers a flute with magic and a girl who will make him whole. Mozart's fantastical and comical tale draws you into a world of magic fantasy, complete with a giant serpent, a secret brotherhood, and a lovesick bird catcher. Sung in German with English supertitles.

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 **Larry Hancock** announced repertoire for the company's 31st season to begin Saturday, September 6 with ***Rigoletto***, conducted by new music director and principal conductor **Joseph Marcheso**; critically acclaimed director **Brad Dalton**, will direct. In November, Opera San José will present Rossini's ***The Italian Girl in Algiers***, conducted by **Ming Luke** with **Michael Shell** directing. Internationally acclaimed American playwright and theater director **Lillian Groag** will direct Opera San José's world premiere of Weiser's ***Where Angels Fear to Tread***, based on a novel by E. M. Forster. The season will culminate with Mozart's ***The Magic Flute*** conducted by **George Cleve**, founder and music director of the Midsummer Mozart Festival. All performances will be held at the **California Theatre**, 345 South First Street in downtown San José.

Dates: September 6, 2014-May 3, 2015

<i>Rigoletto</i>	September 6, 7, 11, 14, 19, 21
<i>The Italian Girl in Algiers</i>	November 15, 16, 20, 23, 28, 30
<i>Where Angels Fear to Tread</i>	February 7, 8, 12, 15, 20, 22
<i>The Magic Flute</i>	April 18, 19, 23, 26, May 1, 3

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 2, 2014 from the Opera San José Box Office, 2149 Paragon Dr., San José, CA 95131; or call 408.437.4450 or visit operasj.org.

Single tickets (\$51-\$111) on sale August 4, 2014; call 408-437-4450 or visit operasj.org

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

Photos: www.operasj.org/news-events/press-room/press-photos/
(For 2014-15 season press photos, email duong@operasj.org)

To learn more about Opera San José, please visit operasj.org

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