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Opera San José presents Mozart's Powerful Musical Masterpiece
Don Giovanni

SAN JOSE, CA – **Opera San José** (OSJ) concludes its 30th Anniversary Season with Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's ***Don Giovanni***. 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. ***Don Giovanni*** will be sung in Italian with English supertitles. Eight performances are scheduled from April 19 through May 4 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. The production of ***Don Giovanni*** is made possible, in part by a Cultural Affairs Grant from the City of San José and the Packard Humanities Institute.

Don Giovanni, with libretto by Lorenzo Da Ponte, is a story about a libertine who lives and loves according to his own desires until he pays the ultimate price. Based on the legends of Don Juan, ***Don Giovanni*** blends stark human tragedy and touching comedy, set to Mozart's limitless musical genius.

George Cleve, acclaimed music director of the Midsummer Mozart Festival, will conduct ***Don Giovanni***. Maestro **Cleve** has become almost synonymous with Mozart as one of the world's most devoted interpreters of the composer's music. In 1974 he founded the Midsummer Mozart Festival, the only music festival in North America dedicated exclusively to Mozart. **Cleve** recently conducted the company's production of ***Idomeneo***. As a guest conductor he has appeared with most of the major American and European orchestras, and has conducted many operas including ***Don Carlos***, ***Carmen***,

La bohème, La traviata, Rigoletto, Dido and Aeneas, Così fan tutte, Le nozze di Figaro, Abduction from the Seraglio, Bastien and Bastienne, Cavalleria rusticana, Pagliacci, Madama Butterfly and Oedipus Rex with the Opera Company of Philadelphia, San Francisco Spring Opera, Long Beach Opera, and **Opera San José**.

Anthony Quartuccio will conduct the April 26 and 27 performances. **Quartuccio** has conducted or assisted in more than 20 operas for OSJ including the premiere of Mozart's *Idomeneo* and the 2012-13 production of *Suor Angelica* and *Gianni Schicchi*. **Quartuccio** is the music director for the South Valley Symphony and the assistant conductor for the San José Chamber Orchestra.

German stage director **Daniel Witzke** makes his company debut with OSJ, serving as stage director for **Don Giovanni**. **Witzke** works extensively in both opera and musical theatre in Europe and the United States. He was originally trained as a professional singer and actor in Vienna, Berlin and Hamburg pursuing a career onstage. As Staff Director at the Wiener Staatsoper he was responsible for directing, reviving and assisting on more than twenty productions including *Nabucco, Tristan und Isolde, Tosca, Turandot, Aida* and *Die Fledermaus*.

Don Giovanni features current members of OSJ's resident ensemble in the principal roles as well as guest artists. Alternating in the role of Donna Anna are resident sopranos **Cecilia Violetta López** and **Jennifer Forni**. They previously shared the role of Cio-Cio-san (*Madama Butterfly*). **López** is in her second season in the resident ensemble and has appeared as Nannetta (*Falstaff*), *Suor Angelica*, Leonora (*Il trovatore*), Rosalinde (*Die Fledermaus*) and Léïla (*The Pearl Fishers*). **Forni** made her debut with OSJ in the role of Alice Ford (*Falstaff*). Recent engagements for **Forni** include her Metropolitan Opera debut as the First Esquire (*Parsifal*) and Micaëla (*Carmen*) for Santa Fe Opera.

Resident mezzo-sopranos **Nicole Birkland** and **Lisa Chavez** alternate in the role of Donna Elvira and recently shared the role of Suzuki (*Madama Butterfly*). **Birkland** made her company debut last season and has appeared as Gertrud (*Hansel and Gretel*), Dame Quickly (*Falstaff*), Prince Orlofsky (*Die Fledermaus*), Azucena (*Il trovatore*), Principessa (*Suor Angelica*) and Zita (*Gianni Schicchi*). **Chavez** made her debut as Meg Page in *Falstaff*, and performed the role of Hansel in the company's production of *Hansel and Gretel*. Other roles performed by **Chavez** include Dinah (*Trouble in Tahiti*), Geraldine (*A Hand of Bridge*), and Lorca (*Ainadamar*) with Opera Parallèle of San Francisco.

Resident baritones **Zachary Altman** and **Evan Brummel** share the role of Don Giovanni. **Altman** made his company debut as Zurga in OSJ's 2012 production of *The Pearl Fishers* and has appeared as Dr. Falke (*Die Fledermaus*), Count di Luna (*Il trovatore*), Gianni Schicchi (*Gianni Schicchi*) and Ford (*Falstaff*). **Brummel** returns for a third year as a member of the resident ensemble after appearing in the roles of Sharpless (*Madama Butterfly*), Peter (*Hansel and Gretel*), Ford (*Falstaff*), Gianni Schicchi (*Gianni Schicchi*), Count di Luna (*Il trovatore*), and Zurga (*The Pearl Fishers*).

The role of Don Ottavio will be shared by resident tenors **James Callon** and **Marc Schreiner**. **Callon** is in his second year in the resident ensemble. Previous credits with OSJ include the roles of B.F. Pinkerton (*Madama Butterfly*), the Witch (*Hansel and Gretel*), Fenton (*Falstaff*), Nadir (*The Pearl Fishers*), Eisenstein (*Die Fledermaus*), Manrico (*Il trovatore*), and Rinuccio (*Gianni Schicchi*). Roles performed for **Schreiner** for OSJ include the Witch (*Hansel and Gretel*) and Fenton (*Falstaff*).

Rounding out the cast are former resident baritone **Karassen Karagiozov** and guest artist **Eugene Brancoveanu** who share the role of Leporello. Mezzo-sopranos **Kindra Scharich** and **Tania Mandzy Inala** share the role of Zerlina. Alternating in the role of Masetto are baritones **Daniel Scofield** and **Brian James Myer**. Former resident bass **Silas Elash** sings the role of Commendatore.

Opera San José's production of *Don Giovanni* includes set designs by **Annie Smart**, lighting design by **Jennifer Tipton**, costume designs by **Howard Tsvi Kaplan**, choreography by **Lise la Cour**, and wig and makeup designs by **Jeanna Parham**.

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.

Don Giovanni

In Italian with English Supertitles

<u>Cast:</u>	<u>April 19, 24, 27, May 2</u>	<u>April 20, 26, 29, May 4</u>
Donna Anna	Cecilia Violetta López•	Jennifer Forni•
Donna Elvira	Nicole Birkland•	Lisa Chavez•
Don Giovanni	Zachary Altman•	Evan Brummel•
Leporello	Eugene Brancoveanu	Krassen Karagiozov
Masetto	Daniel Scofield	Brian James Myer
Zerlina	Kindra Scharich	Tania Mandzy Inala
Commendatore	Silas Elash	Silas Elash
Don Ottavio	James Callon•	Marc Schreiner•

• Resident Company

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

What: **Opera San José** continues its 30th Anniversary Season with Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's ***Don Giovanni***. 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. ***Don Giovanni*** will be sung in Italian with English supertitles. Eight performances are scheduled from April 19 through May 4 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. The production of ***Don Giovanni*** is made possible, in part by a Cultural Affairs Grant from the City of San José and the Packard Humanities Institute.

Who: Composer: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Librettist: Lorenzo Da Ponte, based on the legends of Don Juan
Conductor: George Cleve
Assistant Conductor: Anthony Quartuccio
Stage Director: Daniel Witzke
Choreographer: Lisa La Cour
Fight Master: Kit Wilder
Set Designer: Annie Smart
Costume Design: Malabar Limited
Lighting Designer: Pamila Gray
Wigs/Makeup: Jeanna Parham

Dates: April 19, 20m, 24, 26, 27m, 29, May 2, 4m; 2014

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, San José

Tickets: \$51–\$111 (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; operasj.org
Available 90 minutes prior to curtain at the California Theatre box office only: Seniors (65 and older) 10% discount; Students 25 and younger (with current student ID) \$11 (cash only)

Photos: www.operasj.org/news-events/press-room/press-photos/2013-2014-season/don-giovanni

Press Room: www.operasj.org/news-events/press-room

To learn more about *Don Giovanni*, please visit operasj.org and consider these opportunities:

Don Giovanni Special Preview: April 8, 2014 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 Manager Larry Hancock will present a free 45-minute talk to ticket holders about the opera at the California Theatre before each performance (except opening night). Talk begins at 6:30pm prior to evening performances and at 1:30pm prior to Sunday matinees. No reservations required.

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