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### ***Eight Annual Irene Dalis Vocal Competition Celebrates 'Classical Stars in Classical Voice'***

San José, CA — **Opera San José** will celebrate classical stars in classical voice at the **Eighth-Annual Irene Dalis Vocal Competition** on May 10 at 3pm at the **California Theatre**, 345 South First Street in downtown San José.

Ten winners selected from the 2014 West Coast Auditions for Singers will perform some of the most beloved opera arias as they vie for \$50,000 in cash prizes, including a \$5,000 prize for the Audience Favorite to be selected by popular vote during the final intermission. First prize is \$15,000; second prize, \$10,000; and third prize, \$5,000. The remaining seven finalists will each receive a \$2,000 award.

The distinguished panel of judges who will select the top three winners at the competition include **Elaina Lappalainen**, Artistic Administrator, Director of Vocal Division at Mid-America Productions; **Dan Montez**, General Director of Taconic Opera, New York; and **Douglas Nagel**, Assistant Professor of Voice and Choral Studies at Montana State University.

The preliminary panel of judges include **Robert Ashens**, Artistic Director and Conductor of West Coast Opera (Opera Oregon); Opera Director **David Cox**; and Conductor **Timm Rolek**. Accompanist for both the vocal competition finals and the auditions is pianist **Catherine Miller**.

**The Irene Dalis Vocal Competition** continues to recognize emerging opera singers from across the country. Most recently, Soprano **Christine Hageman**, second-prize winner in 2013, won first-prize in the Grand Junction Symphony Young Artist Competition earlier this year. Soprano **Rebecca Davis**,

first-prize winner in 2012, made her Carnegie Hall debut performing Mahler's *8th Symphony* with The American Symphony Orchestra for their 50th Birthday Celebration.

"Year after year, our competition attracts exciting talent to the Bay Area," says General Director **Irene Dalis**. "I can't imagine a more thrilling way to spend an evening than hearing such fine operatic artists sing the most spectacular arias in the repertoire as they compete for such handsome cash prizes. It is an event not to be missed."

Tickets are \$150 (\$75 is tax-deductible) for premium seating, which includes an opportunity to meet the judges and attend a post-event champagne reception in the lobby of the California Theatre, and \$50 (\$25 is tax-deductible) for reserved orchestra seating. Tickets are on sale at the Opera San José Box Office, by phone at (408) 437-4450 or online at [operasj.org](http://operasj.org).

### 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** will present the **Eighth Annual Irene Dalis Vocal Competition** on May 10 at 3pm at the **California Theatre**, 345 South First Street in downtown San José. Ten winners from the 2014 West Coast Auditions for singers will compete with two arias each for \$50,000 in cash prizes, including a \$5,000 prize for the audience favorite to be selected by popular vote during the final intermission. Premium seating at \$150 includes an opportunity to meet the judges and attend a post-event champagne reception in the lobby of the California Theatre. \$50 for reserved orchestra seating. Tickets are on sale at the Opera San José Box Office, by phone at (408) 437-4450 or online at [operasj.org](http://operasj.org).

**Date:** May 10, 2013

**Time:** 3pm

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

**Tickets:** \$150 (\$75 tax-deductible) for premium seating; \$50 (\$25 tax-deductible) for reserved orchestra seating from Opera San José Box Office, 2149 Paragon Dr., San José, CA 95131; (408) 437-4450; (408) 437-4455 fax; [operasj.org](http://operasj.org). Students 25 and younger (with student ID) \$11 - Available 90 minutes prior to curtain at the California Theatre box office only.

**Press Room:** <http://www.operasj.org/news-events/press-room/>

To learn more about the *Irene Dalis Vocal Competition*, please visit <http://operasj.org/tickets/irene-dalis-vocal-competition/>

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