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Opera San José presents Puccini's Searing Drama

Tosca

SAN JOSE, CA (August 10, 2015) – Opera San José begins its 32nd season with Puccini's *Tosca*. Floria Tosca is a superstar – brilliant, beautiful and spoiled. Yet despite her talent and privilege, she is forced to play a role she never imagined when she becomes trapped between an allegiance to her lover and a psychotic, treacherous chief of police. She is a beauty pursued by a beast determined to have her, and killing her stalker – Baron Scarpia – doesn't end her nightmare. *Tosca* will be sung in Italian with English supertitles. Six performances are scheduled from September 12th through the 29th 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 and by phone at (408) 437-4450. Performances are supported, in part, by a grant from the Applied Materials Foundation and the San José Office of Cultural Affairs.

Joseph Marcheso, Opera San José's music director and principal conductor, will conduct *Tosca*. Mr. Marcheso most recently conducted *The Magic Flute* and has conducted 14 productions for Opera San José to date. **Brad Dalton** returns to direct *Tosca*, having most recently directed the *The Magic Flute* last April and *Rigoletto* in September 2014. Mr. Dalton is known for his critically acclaimed Opera San José productions including *The Magic Flute*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Il trovatore*, and *Idomeneo*.

Soprano **Olga Chernisheva** makes her company debut in the title role of *Tosca* during the first four performances. A native of Russia, Ms. Chernisheva has appeared on the stages of the Bolshoi Opera (Maria in *Mazeppa*, Prilepa in *Pique Dame*, Brigittain in *Iolanta*, Anne Trulove in *The Rake's Progress*, and Musetta in *La bohème*.) For the Kazan Opera Theater she performed the roles of Mimì in *La bohème*; for the Stanislavsky Opera Theater she appeared as Micaela in *Carmen*, and performed the role of Musetta (*La bohème*) with the Mälmo Opera Theater in Sweden before emigrating to the United States.

Guest soprano **Elizabeth Baldwin** will appear in the title role of *Tosca* during the last two performances. Last season, Ms. Baldwin made her company debut as the First Lady in *The Magic Flute*. 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.

Resident tenor **Kirk Dougherty** will sing the role of Cavaradossi. Mr. Dougherty most recently sang the role of Tamino in *The Magic Flute* and Philip Herriton in the world premiere of *Where Angels Fear to Tread*. Baritone **Matthew Hanscom** sings the role of Scarpia. 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*) and Papageno (*The Magic Flute*).

Baritone **Carl King** returns to Opera San José in the role of Sacritsan. Mr. King is quickly gaining recognition for his stylish interpretations of the comic-bass repertoire. He has been a guest at Opera

San José during the 98', 99', and 00' seasons, winning critical acclaim for his portrayals of Don Geronio in *Il turco in Italia*, Dr. Bartolo in *Il barbiere di Siviglia*, Dulcamara in *L'elisir d'amore* and Leporello in *Don Giovanni*.

Tenor **Michael Boley** will appear as Spoletta in *Tosca*. Mr. Boley made his company debut as an associate member of the resident ensemble during the 2014-15 season performing the roles of Borsa (*Rigoletto*), and the Sacristan and Edgardo (*Where Angels Fear to Tread*). **Brian James Myer** will play the role of Angelotti. Last season, Mr. Myer performed the roles of Gino Carella and Alessandro/Enrico in the world premiere of *Where Angels Fear to Tread* and 2nd Armored Man in *The Magic Flute*.

Guest bass **Daniel Cilli** will appear as Sciarrone in *Tosca*. Engagements during 2014-15 for Mr. Cilli included a return to Opera San José where he appeared as Marullo in *Rigoletto*, and then reprised the role for Opera Santa Barbara's production of *Rigoletto* in November of 2014.

Opera San José's production of *Tosca* includes set designs by **Steven Kemp**, lighting designs by **Pamila Gray**, costume designs by **Elizabeth Poindexter**, and wig and makeup designs by **Vicky Martinez**.

Performances of *Tosca* are made possible, in part, by the Applied Materials Foundation and the San José Office of Cultural Affairs.

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.

Tosca

Cast:	<u>September 12, 13, 17, 20, 25, 27</u>
Tosca	Olga Chernisheva (12, 13, 17, 20)
Tosca	Elizabeth Baldwin (25, 27)
Cavaradossi	Kirk Dougherty•
Scarpia	Matthew Hanscom•
Angelotti	Brian James Myer
Sacristan	Carl King
Spoletta	Michael Boley
Sciarrone	Daniel Cilli

• Resident Company

Dates: September 12, 13m, 17, 20m, 25, 27m

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–\$151 (includes city facility usage fee). Students 25 and younger (with current student ID) \$10; 408-437-4450; 408-437-4455 fax; operasj.org.

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

To learn more about *Tosca*, please visit operasj.org

Tosca Special Preview: September 1, 2015, at 12 p.m., 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 about the opera to ticket holders at the California Theatre before each performance of *Tosca*. The talk begins at 6:30pm prior to evening performances and at 1:30pm prior to Sunday matinees. No reservations required.

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