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Opera San José Announces Sensational 33rd Season Line-Up

Company's 2016-17 Season to Include the West Coast Premiere of Silent Night

SAN JOSE, CA (March 7, 2016) – Opera San José today announced the company's 2016-17 season opening September 10, 2016 with Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor*, conducted by Ming Luke followed by Rossini's *The Barber of Seville* in November, conducted by Andrew Whitfield. The company will then begin the New Year in February 2017 with the West Coast premiere of Kevin Puts' and Mark Campbell's *Silent Night* and conclude the season in April with Puccini's *La bohème*, both conducted by Opera San José's music director Joseph Marcheso.

"We are extremely proud to be producing the West Coast premiere of Kevin Puts' and Mark Campbell's *Silent Night* during the 2016-17 season" said General Director Larry Hancock. "Even though this Pulitzer Prize-winning opera is set in muddy trenches, it is not a story of brutality, but rather an illustration of the goodness human beings are capable of, even under the most oppressive conditions."

The 2016-17 season will feature 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 and tickets are available by phone (408) 437-4450, online at www.operasj.org, and at the Opera San José Box Office, 2149 Paragon Dr., San José, CA 95131.

Single tickets will go on sale July 25, 2016, priced from \$55.00 to \$175.00. As always, students 25 and younger (with current student ID) can purchase tickets for \$11. Performances are supported, in part, by a grant from the San José Office of Cultural Affairs.

Opera San José's 2016-17 season is as follows:

Lucia di Lammermoor

September 10 – 25, 2016

Sung in Italian with English supertitles

Performances: September 10, 11m, 15, 18m, 23, 25m

Time: "m" indicates matinee at 3pm; all other performances are at 8pm

Composer: Gaetano Donizetti

Librettist: Salvatore Cammarano

Premiere: September 26, 1835; Teatro San Carlo, Naples

Conductor: Ming Luke

Stage director: Candace Evans

Set designer: Steven Kemp

Donizetti drew inspiration for his opera from Sir Walter Scott's *The Bride of Lammermoor*, which revolves around a feud between two families, the Ashtons and the Ravenswoods. Lucia Ashton falls in love with Edgar, master of Ravenswood, whose land her family has taken by force. When Lucia's brother, out of political necessity, forces her into an arranged marriage, there are dire consequences. Donizetti expertly combined the epic story of Lucia with some of the most wonderful melodies from his pen and the most affecting mad scene in theatre.

The Barber of Seville

November 12 – 27, 2016

Sung in Italian with English supertitles

Performances: November 12, 13m, 17, 20m, 22, 27m

Time: “m” indicates matinee at 3pm; all other performances are at 8pm

Composer: Gioachino Rossini

Librettist: Cesare Sterbini

Premiere: February 20, 1816; Teatro Argentina, Rome

Conductor: Andrew Whitfield

Stage director: Layna Chianakas

Rossini’s opera recounts the events of the first of the three plays by French playwright Pierre Beaumarchais that revolve around the clever and enterprising character named Figaro. Determined to win the heart of the beautiful Rosina with charm and wit, rather than money, Count Almaviva enlists the help of Figaro, the Barber of Seville, to steal her away from Dr. Bartolo. *The Barber of Seville* is fast and furious fun, full of sparkling music and never-ending wit.

Silent Night

February 11 – 26, 2017

Sung at various times in English, German, French, Italian and Latin with English Supertitles

Performances: February 11, 12m, 16, 19m, 24, 26m

Time: “m” indicates matinee at 3pm; all other performances are at 8pm

Composer: Kevin Puts; Librettist: Mark Campbell

Premiere: November 12, 2011; Ordway Theater, Saint Paul, Minnesota

Conductor: Joseph Marcheso

Stage director: Michael Schell

Set designer: Steven Kemp

Puts’ *Silent Night* recounts a miraculous moment of peace during WWI. On the western front, bloodied from battle and mourning their dead, weapons are laid down when three Scottish, French and German officers negotiate a Christmas Eve truce amid the trenches. As evening sets in, a carol begins, floating softly over no man’s land. One voice becomes many, and as enemies lay down their arms to celebrate a precious night of peace and hope, they come together to share Christmas and bury their dead.

La bohème

April 8 – 23, 2017

Sung in Italian with English supertitles

Performances: April 8, 9m, 13, 16m, 21, 23m

Time: “m” indicates matinee at 3pm; all other performances are at 8pm

Composer: Giacomo Puccini

Librettists: Giuseppe Giacosa and Luigi Illica

Premiere: February 1, 1896; Teatro Regio, Turin

Conductor: Joseph Marcheso

Stage Director: Brad Dalton

This is the story of Mimì who spends her days embroidering flowers and her nights longing for springtime. Literally in search of light, a match for her only candle, she instead finds happiness and friendship with a band of young Parisian bohemians—a handsome poet, a philosopher, a painter, a musician, and a good-time girl. Briefly, Mimì and Rodolfo make a place of love for themselves, until poverty prevails. Based on the lives of bohemians, including Puccini himself, *La bohème* rings true.

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.

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