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## *Opera San José Presents Previn's Stunning Drama* **A Streetcar Named Desire**

**SAN JOSE, CA (March 14, 2016)** – Faithfully following Tennessee Williams' Pulitzer Prize-winning play, André Previn's opera tells the story of Blanche DuBois, a fading though still attractive Southern belle whose poise is a persona she presents to shield others, but most of all herself, from her delusions of grandeur. Moving into her sister's cramped apartment, and creating all the wrong kinds of sparks with her crude and cruel brother-in-law, the dark truths about Blanche's past begin to emerge, and her world comes apart at the seams in a downward spiral.

*A Streetcar Named Desire* will be sung in English with English supertitles. Six performances are scheduled from April 16<sup>th</sup> through May 1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://operasj.org) and by phone at (408) 437-4450. Performances are supported, in part, by a grant from the San José Office of Cultural Affairs.

**Ming Luke** returns to conduct *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Last season, Mr. Luke served as conductor for the company premiere of *The Italian Girl in Algiers*, and shared conducting duties in Opera San José's recent productions of *Falstaff*, *La voix humaine*, *Pagliacci*, *The Barber of Seville*, and *Eugene Onegin*. **Brad Dalton** also returns to direct *A Streetcar Named Desire* after having directed the season opener, *Tosca*. Mr. Dalton has directed some of Opera San José's most critically acclaimed operas including *Rigoletto*, *The Magic Flute*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Il trovatore*, *Idomeneo*, *Faust*, and the 2010 West Coast premiere of David Carlson's *Anna Karenina*. Mr. Dalton also serves as set designer for *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

Soprano **Ariana Strahl** makes her company debut, appearing as Blanche in *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Ms. Strahl has been seen onstage in Berlin as Micaela in the Komische Oper's Revival of Sebastian Baumgarten's *Carmen*. Other recent roles performed include the First Lady (*The Magic Flute*), La Ciesca (*Gianni Schicchi*), Peep-Bo (*The Mikado*), Suor Genovieffa (*Suor Angelica*), Monica (*The Medium*), Mrs. McLean (*Susannah*), and the title role in Handel's *Semele*.

Resident baritone **Matthew Hanscom** will sing the role of Stanley Kowalski. Mr. Hanscom has appeared in every production this season, most recently as Escamillo in *Carmen* as well as Count Almaviva in *The Marriage of Figaro* and Scarpia in *Tosca*. Resident tenor **Kirk Dougherty** sings the role of Harold Mitchell. Mr. Dougherty most recently appeared as Don José in *Carmen* and performed the role of Cavaradossi in *Tosca* earlier this season.

Soprano **Stacey Tappan** makes her Opera San José debut in *A Streetcar Named Desire*, appearing as Stella Kowalski following her debut as Stella for the Los Angeles Opera. Other engagements for Ms. Tappan include *The Gospel of Mary Magdalene* with San Francisco Opera, Clorinda (*La Cenerentola*) with Los Angeles Opera, and the title role in *Lucia di Lammermoor* with Arizona Opera. Mezzo-soprano **Cabiria Jacobsen** makes her company debut as Eunice. Recent engagements for Ms. Jacobsen include Cousin Hebe (*HMS Pinafore*) with The Lamplighters, The Fox (*The Little Prince*) with Opera Fayetteville, and Cherubino (*The Marriage of Figaro*) with Salt Marsh Opera.

Resident bass **Silas Elash** will perform the role of the Doctor (a speaking role). Mr. Elash most recently performed the role of Dr. Bartolo in *The Marriage of Figaro* and appeared last season as Sparafucile and Monterone (*Rigoletto*), Haly (*The Italian Girl in Algiers*), the Cabman (*Where Angels Fear to Tread*), and Sarastro (*The Magic Flute*). Tenor **Michael Boley** will appear as Steve Hubbel in *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Mr. Boley most recently performed the role of Le Remendado in *Carmen* and sang the role of Spoletta in *Tosca* last September.

Opera San José's production of *A Streetcar Named Desire* includes scenic designs by **Brad Dalton**, costume design by **Johann Stegmeir**, lighting design by **David Lee Cuthbert**, and wig and makeup designs by **Vicky Martinez**.

### 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.

### Cast:

Blanche DuBois	Ariana Strahl
Stanley Kowalski	Matthew Hanscom •
Stella Kowalski	Stacey Tappan
Harold Mitchell	Kirk Dougherty •
Eunice Hubbell	Cabiria Jacobsen
Steve Hubbell	Michael Boley •
Young Collector	Xavier Prado
Doctor	Silas Elash •
Nurse	Teressa Foss

• Resident Company

**Dates:** April 16, 17m, 21, 24m, 29 and May 1m

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

To learn more about ***A Streetcar Named Desire***, please visit [operasj.org](http://operasj.org)

**Press Room:** [www.operasj.org/news-events/press-room](http://www.operasj.org/news-events/press-room)

***A Streetcar Named Desire* Special Preview:** April 5, 2016, 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 to ticket holders about the opera at the California Theatre before each performance of ***A Streetcar Named Desire***. The talk begins at 6:30pm prior to evening performances and at 1:30pm prior to Sunday matinees. No reservations required.

