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## Opera San José Announces New Resident Singers for the 2016-17 Season

### Company Adds Two New Sopranos, a Baritone and Bass-Baritone to Its Roster

**SAN JOSE, CA (May 16, 2016)** – Opera San José is pleased to announce it has added four new singers to its resident company, bringing the total number of members to six for the 2016-17 season. The new singers are soprano Sylvia Lee, soprano Ksenia Popova, baritone Brian James Myer, and bass-baritone Colin Ramsey.

Soprano **Sylvia Lee** possesses a range of more than three octaves and is an accomplished coloratura soprano. She will perform the title role in *Lucia di Lammermoor* and Mimì in *La bohème* with Opera San José this season. Ms. Lee recently performed Gilda in *Rigoletto* with the Virginia Opera and *Lucia di Lammermoor* with Musica Viva in Hong Kong.

Recent performances for Ms. Lee include Norina (*Don Pasquale*) with Connecticut Grand Opera; Rosina (The Barber of Seville) with the Opera Theater of Lakeland; the Queen of the Night (The Magic Flute) with the International Vocal Arts Institute; and Pamina (*The Magic Flute*), Despina (*Così fan tutte*), and Nanetta (*Falstaff*) with the Natchez Opera Festival.

Soprano **Ksenia Popova** also joins us as an associate member of the Opera San José resident company. She recently made her role debut as Juliette in *Roméo et Juliette* with Tacoma Opera, for which she was hailed as “a perfect blend of childish enthusiasm and regal composure, singing with a rich, glittery soprano and real conviction.” Her recent roles include Adele in Vashon Opera’s *Die Fledermaus*, Queen of the Night and First Lady in Portland Opera’s outreach tour of *The Magic Flute*, and Musetta in *La Bohème* with Vespertine Opera. Other roles in Ms. Popova’s repertoire include Fiorilla (*The Turk in Italy*), Clarine (*Platée*), Lily (*The Secret Garden*), and Hélène (*An Incomplete Education*).

Baritone **Brian James Myer** returns to us as a member of the resident company this season. Mr. Myer recently appeared as Angelotti in *Tosca* during the company’s 2015-16 season and performed the roles of Alessandro/Enrico in the world premiere of *Where Angels Fear to Tread* and Second Priest in *The Magic Flute* for Opera San José. Mr. Myer made his company debut during the 2013-14 season, performing the role of Masetto in *Don Giovanni* and has been labeled by San Jose Metblogs as “a name to look for.”

Most recently Mr. Myer made his Florida Grand Opera debut as Figaro (*The Barber of Seville*) during the 2015-2016 season at the Florida Grand Opera. Other engagements include Papageno (*The Magic Flute*) with Sin City Opera, Silvio (*Pagliacci*) with Sarasota Opera, Masetto (*Don Giovanni*) and Yamadori (*Madama Butterfly*) with Opera Las Vegas, Yakuside (*Madama Butterfly*) and Albert (*The Ballad of Baby Doe*) with Chautauqua Opera.

Bass-baritone, **Colin Ramsey**, joins the resident company for his company debut this season. He has been recognized by *Opera News* for his “sumptuous voice” and “touching, effective “ portrayal of Mr. Kofner in Menotti’s *The Consul* at Seattle Opera. He later reprised the role in the same production with Opera Santa Barbara. Mr. Ramsey also made his debut with the Austin Lyric Opera as Il Frate in Verdi’s *Don Carlo*, as well as his debut with Green Mountain Opera Festival reprising Alidoro in Rossini’s *La Cenerentola*. He has performed with many other companies including Austin Lyric Opera, Sarasota Opera, and Wolf Trap Opera.

Baritone **Matthew Hanscom** will remain in the resident company next season. Mr. Hanscom most recently performed the role of Stanley Kowalski in *A Streetcar Named Desire* and appeared in every production last season, as Escamillo in *Carmen* as well as Count Almaviva in *The Marriage of Figaro* and Scarpia in *Tosca*.

Tenor **Kirk Dougherty** will also remain in the resident company next season after having recently performed the role Harold Mitchell in *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Mr. Dougherty also performed the roles of Don José in *Carmen* and Cavaradossi in *Tosca* last season.

For more information, please visit [www.operasj.org](http://www.operasj.org).

### 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.