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Opera San José Presents Wagner's
The Flying Dutchman

SAN JOSE, CA (January 16, 2018) – In his youth, Wagner created his fastest moving and perhaps his most effective score with *The Flying Dutchman*. It's the easiest to listen to and it has real melodies that convey the ancient legend of the immortal Dutchman. As the legend goes, a ship's captain is cursed to live until he can find someone who will love him until death. On this unique day he meets Senta, who has been obsessed with his legend from childhood. However, in the legend, she must die to free him from eternal life on earth, which has become a living hell. It is a brilliant story with one of the most compelling roles in all of opera, and it's Wagner!

"*The Flying Dutchman* is Wagner's shortest and most accessible opera," said Director Brad Dalton. "On one hand, the opera is a supernatural thriller but it also asks us to remember the transformative power of our empathy and compassion. Our production incorporates towering visual imagery to transport you to the icy arctic oceans of Norway. It is sure to thrill audiences."

The Flying Dutchman will be sung in German with English supertitles. Runtime is approximately three hours. Opera San José presents six performances of this opera, opening in San José's California Theatre on February 10, 2018, closing February 25, 2018. The California Theatre is at 345 S. First Street in downtown San José.

Joseph Marcheso, Opera San José's Music Director and Principal Conductor, serves as conductor for *The Flying Dutchman*. Mr. Marcheso has conducted eighteen productions for Opera San José, including last season's West Coast premiere of Puccini's *La bohème*. Mr. Marcheso has also conducted the world premiere of Mark Weiser's *Where Angels Fear to Tread*, Puccini's *La bohème*, *Madama Butterfly* and *Tosca*, Verdi's *Rigoletto*, Bizet's *Carmen* and Mozart's *The Magic Flute* to name some.

Opera San José's resident conductor and chorus master **Andrew Whitfield**, who serves as assistant conductor and chorus master for *The Flying Dutchman*, will conduct the final two performances on February 23 and February 25. Mr. Whitfield conducted Rossini's *The Barber of Seville*, was assistant conductor of Puccini's *La bohème* and chorus master for all four 2016-17 season productions.

Brad Dalton returns to Opera San José to direct *The Flying Dutchman*. Mr. Dalton most recently directed the North American premiere of Alma Deutscher's *Cinderella* and Mozart's *Così fan tutte* in 2017. He also directed the company premiere of Previn's *A Streetcar Named Desire*, following his critically acclaimed Opera San José productions of Verdi's *Rigoletto*, Mozart's *The Magic Flute* and *Idomeneo*, Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*, Verdi's *Il trovatore*, and the 2010 West Coast premiere of David Carlson's *Anna Karenina*.

Baritone, **Noel Bouley**, makes his Opera San José debut appearing in the title role of Wagner's *The Flying Dutchman*. Roles performed recently by Mr. Bouley include Don Alfonso in Mozart's *Così fan tutte*, Sharpless in Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*, Monterone in Verdi's *Rigoletto*, and Donner in Wagner's *Das Rheingold*, as well as covering the title role in a new production of Wagner's *The Flying Dutchman*.

Upcoming performances include Amonasro in Verdi's *Aïda*, Enrico in Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor*, and Zuniga in Bizet's *Carmen* with the Deutsche Opera Berlin.

Kerriann Otaño, soprano, debuts with Opera San José as Senta in *The Flying Dutchman*. Roles performed recently include the Witch in Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel* and Mary Custis Lee in Phillip Glass's *Appomattox*, both with Washington National Opera. Other performances include a return to Fort Worth Opera Festival in her role debut as Micaëla in Bizet's *Carmen*, and company debuts with Opera Memphis and Amarillo Opera as the countess in Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*.

Norwegian-American singer **Gustav Andreassen**, bass, makes his company debut as Daland in *The Flying Dutchman*. Mr. Andreassen has performed with major opera companies and orchestras throughout North America and Europe, including the Bonze in Puccini's *Madama Butterfly* and Osmin in Mozart's *Abduction from the Seraglio*, both with Kentucky Opera. In the 2015-2016 season he debuted with Glyndebourne to cover Osmin in Mozart's *Abduction from the Seraglio* and returned to Boston Baroque as Sarastro in Mozart's *The Magic Flute*.

Tenor, **Derek Taylor**, makes his Opera San José debut as Erik in *The Flying Dutchman*. A natural fit for French grand opera, Mr. Taylor has sung the title roles in *Faust* and *Les Contes d'Hoffmann*, as well as Des Grieux in Massenet's *Manon*. He recently garnered success as Don José in Bizet's *Carmen*. Other highlights include Cavaradossi in Puccini's *Tosca*, Jacopo in Verdi's *I Due Foscari*, Enzo Grimaldi in Ponchielli's *La Gioconda*, Hagenbach in Catalani's *La Wally*, and the Duke in Verdi's *Rigoletto*.

Mason Gates, tenor and member of the resident company, will appear as the Steersman in *The Flying Dutchman*. Mr. Gates recently performed the role of Prunier in Puccini's *La rondine* and was praised by Jim Sohre of *Opera Today* who said, "The entertaining tenor Mason Gates was quite an irresistible Prunier, honeyed of voice, bewigged of presence, and assured of theatrical delivery." Last season Mr. Gates performed the role of Jonathan Dale in Puts and Campbell's *Silent Night* and made his company debut as Don Curzio in the 2015-16 production of Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*.

Nicole Birkland, a former member of the resident company and mezzo-soprano, returns to Opera San José as Mary in *The Flying Dutchman*. Recent engagements during 2017-18 included the role of Maid Servant 3 in Strauss's *Elektra* during the Fall 2017 and Schwertleite in Wagner's *Die Walküre*, both with San Francisco Opera. She will also cover the roles of Erda in San Francisco Opera's productions of *Das Rheingold* and *Siegfried* during Summer 2018.

Opera San José's production of *The Flying Dutchman* includes set designs by **Steven Kemp**, costumes designed by **Johann Stegmeir**, lighting design by **David Lee Cuthbert**, wig and makeup designs by **Christina Martin**, and projection design by **Ian Wallace**.

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.

Dates: Performances: February 10, 11m, 15, 18m, 23, 25m

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



Opera San José

Location: California Theatre, 345 South 1st Street (between San Carlos and San Salvador), San José, CA

The Flying Dutchman Preview: January 30, 2018 from 12 – 1 p.m., California Theatre, 345 S. First Street in downtown San José; Please use the Market Street entrance; 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 *The Flying Dutchman*. The talk begins at 6:30pm prior to evening performances and at 1:30pm prior to Sunday matinees. No reservations required.

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

To learn more about *The Flying Dutchman*, please visit operasj.org

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