

July 25, 2018

Opera San José Presents Mozart's

## ***The Abduction from the Seraglio***

**What:** On September 15th, Opera San José's 35th season opens with Mozart's comedy *The Abduction from the Seraglio*. The opera was commissioned by Emperor Joseph II, and as the myth goes when he first heard it, he complained to Mozart, "That is too fine for my ears – there are too many notes." Mozart replied, "There are just as many notes as there should be."

Mozart's rollicking comedy tells us the story of Konstanze and her feisty maid who have been captured by pirates and sold to the Pasha Selim. The Pasha has added the elegant Konstanze to his harem while Blonde has been passed on as a servant to the gardener. Spanish aristocrat Belmonte arrives to rescue Konstanze, who is his fiancée. His sidekick Pedrillo, already on the Pasha's staff, jumps in. Hijinks ensue and so does Mozart's unfailing sense of humor and humanity as this unexpected mix of high art and slapstick comedy unfolds in an 18<sup>th</sup>-century Turkish fantasy that was conceived to entertain.

This is a new production and an Opera San José company premiere funded in part by a City of San José Cultural Affairs grant and a grant from the Packard Humanities Institute.

*The Abduction from the Seraglio* 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 September 15, 2018, closing September 30, 2018. The California Theatre is at 345 S. First Street in downtown San José.

**Tickets:** Tickets are available by phone, online, and at the Opera San José Box Office at 2149 Paragon Drive in San José. Prices range from \$10 for students, ages 25 and younger with a current student ID, and \$56 to \$176 for adults. Box office phone: 408-437-4450 or go to [operasj.org](http://operasj.org).

**Who:** Composer: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
Librettist: Christoph Friedrich Bretzner  
Conductor: George Manahan  
Stage Director: Michael Shell  
Assistant Conductor: Ming Luke  
Set Designer: Steven Kemp  
Costume Designer: Ulises Alcala  
Costume Director: Alyssa Oania  
Lighting Designer: Pamila Z. Gray  
Wigs/Makeup: Christina Martin  
Chorus Master: Andrew Whitfield

**Cast:**

Konstanze	Rebecca Davis
Blonde	Katrina Galka
Belmonte	Matthew Grills
Osmin	Ashraf Sewailam
Pedrillo	Michael Dailey
Pasha Selim	Nathan Stark

**Dates:** Performances: September 15, 16m, 20, 23m, 28, 30m

**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

**The Abduction from the Seraglio Preview:** September 4, 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 Abduction from the Seraglio*. 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](http://www.operasj.org/news-events/press-room)

To learn more about *The Abduction from the Seraglio*, please visit [operasj.org](http://operasj.org)

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### **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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