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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

January 10, 2011

### ***Opera San José Announces 2011-12 Season – The Season of Legends***

#### ***Company to open the season with Mozart's first dramatic masterpiece***

SAN JOSÉ, CA— Opera San José General Director **Irene Dalis** has announced repertoire for the company's 28th season to begin Saturday, September 10 with the company premiere of Mozart's first dramatic masterwork ***Idomeneo***, the mythical tale of the king of Crete set at the end of the Trojan War. **George Cleve**, founder and music director of the Midsummer Mozart Festival, conducts, with stage direction by **Brad Dalton**. In November, Opera San José will present a double-bill of two intensely dramatic operas, Leoncavallo's ***Pagliacci*** paired with Poulenc's ***La voix humaine***. In partnership with Opera Santa Barbara, acclaimed stage director and artistic director of Opera Santa Barbara **José María Condemi** returns in 2012 to direct Verdi's romantic tragedy ***La traviata***. The season will culminate with Gounod's ***Faust*** conducted by Opera San José's founding music director and principal conductor, **David Rohrbaugh**, with **Brad Dalton** returning as stage director.

"Next season we will offer the public Mozart's favorite opera, Leoncavallo's best opera, a tour de force for a single voice by the French master, Poulenc, America's favorite Verdi opera, and Queen Victoria's favorite opera of all time. That's quite a line up!" says **General Director Irene Dalis**. "As always, we select operas that best suit the artists in our resident company, and these operas will fit like a glove."

The 2011-12 season features the principal artists from Opera San José's resident company: Jasmina Halimic (soprano), Jouvanka Jean-Baptiste (soprano), Betany Coffland (mezzo-soprano), Alexander Boyer (tenor), Michael Dailey (tenor), Evan Brummel (baritone), Krassen Karagiozov (baritone), Isaiah Musik-Ayala (bass-baritone), and Silas Elash (bass). Former residents, soprano Rebecca Davis and tenor Christopher Bengochea, return as guest artists during the 2011-12 season.

All performances will be held at the **California Theatre**, 345 South First Street in downtown San José.

Subscriptions for Opera San José's 2011-12 season are on sale February 7, 2011, starting as low as \$100 for all four operas. Subscriptions are available at the Opera San José Box Office or by phone at (408) 437-4450. Single tickets will go on sale July 11, 2011, priced from \$50.

*Performances are made possible, in part, by a Cultural Affairs grant from the City of San José.*

**Opera San José's 2011-12 season is as follows:**

***Idomeneo***  
**September 10-25, 2011**

Sung in Italian with English supertitles

Performances: September 10, 11m, 13, 17, 18m, 22, 23, 25m (m=matinee)

Composer: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Librettist: Giambattista Varesco, based on the drama *Idoménée* by Antoine Danchet

Premiere: Munich, January 29, 1781

Conductor: George Cleve

Stage director: Brad Dalton

Set designer: Steven C. Kemp

Costume designer: Johann Stegmeir

Lighting designer: Chris Ostrom

An epic work of music drama that changed the course of Mozart's operas, *Idomeneo* is the mythical tale of the king of Crete, returning home from the Trojan War. To gain a safe return to shore during a violent storm at sea, Idomeneo vows to sacrifice to Neptune the first person he sees on land.

Unfortunately, it's his son, Idamante, so Idomeneo flees instead of greeting him. Idamante, meanwhile, is in love with Ilia, the captured daughter of the king of Troy. Neptune, cheated out of his sacrifice, sends a sea monster to ravage Crete. Idamante slays the monster and presents himself for sacrifice, but Ilia comes between them declaring her love for Idamante. Will the gods be appeased? A divine voice declares that Idamante and Ilia shall reign as the new king and queen of Crete.

Mozart was just 25-years-old when his mythological music drama premiered in Munich on January 29, 1781. *Idomeneo* is considered to be his first dramatic masterpiece and was his personal favorite of all his operas.

## ***Pagliacci* and *La voix humaine*** **November 12-27, 2011**

Performances: November 12, 13m, 17, 19, 20m, 22, 25, 27m (m=matinee)

### ***Pagliacci***

Sung in Italian with English supertitles

Composer/Librettist: Ruggero Leoncavallo

Premiere: Milan, May 21, 1892

Conductor: Bryan Nies

Stage director: Cynthia Stokes

Set designer: John B. Wilson

Costume designer: Cathleen Edwards

Lighting designer: David Lee Cuthbert

### ***La voix humaine***

Sung in French with English supertitles

Composer: Francis Poulenc

Librettist: Jean Cocteau

Premiere: Paris, February 6, 1959

Conductor: Bryan Nies

Stage director: Layna Chianakas

Set designer: John B. Wilson

Costume designer: Alyssa Oania

Lighting designer:

A jealous husband and a jilted lover, both in the depths of an emotional crisis; this pairing of two intensely dramatic operas explores the human psyche in a perfect union of music and drama.

Leoncavallo's Italian opera *Pagliacci* is the tale of Canio, the leader of a traveling commedia dell'arte troupe. He is the clown who must laugh, and make others laugh, while masking his own grief after learning that his wife Nedda has betrayed him with another man. In the end, art meets tragedy in a rage of passion and jealousy.

*La voix humaine*, Poulenc's French monodrama, follows a young woman's emotional phone conversation with an unseen former lover. He is discarding her to marry another woman, and she is desperately trying to win back his love. Set in 1940's Paris, this one-act opera paints an emotional portrait of an abandoned woman teetering on the edge during an affecting and engaging monologue.

***La traviata***  
**February 11-26, 2012**

Co-production with Opera Santa Barbara

Sung in Italian with English supertitles

Performances: February 11, 12m, 16, 18, 19m, 21, 24, 26m (m=matinee)

Composer: Giuseppe Verdi

Librettist: Francesco Maria Piave, based on the play *La Dame aux Camélias* by Alexandre Dumas

Premiere: Venice, March 6, 1853

Conductor: David Rohrbaugh

Stage director: José Maria Condemi

Set designer: Erik Flatmo

Costume designer: Elizabeth Poindexter

Lighting designer: TBA

Violetta Valéry is a famed courtesan, glamorous, yet fragile. It is 1889 Paris and the celebrated beauty has thrown a lavish party where she meets the young admirer Alfredo Germont. He has long loved her, and she is so taken with his sincerity that she abandons her life of luxury and retreats to the country to be with him. But when met with the disapproving eye of Alfredo's father, Violetta regrettably agrees to end the affair and go back to Paris. A jealous Alfredo denounces her, but when he learns of her sacrifice he returns to beg her forgiveness, only to discover she has but moments to live.

Verdi's romantic tragedy *La traviata* is overflowing with some of the most unforgettable music in all of opera. His melodies, rich in passion and drama, made him the master of his time and this legendary tale of love and sacrifice has touched the hearts of both the opera novice and long-time opera lover for generations.

***Faust***  
**April 21-May 6, 2012**

Sung in French with English supertitles

Performances: April 21, 22m, 26, 28, 29m, May 1, 4, 6m (m=matinee)

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IRENE DALIS, GENERAL DIRECTOR  
DAVID ROHRBAUGH, MUSIC DIRECTOR  
LARRY HANCOCK, GENERAL MANAGER

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Composer: Charles Gounod

Librettist: Jules Barbier and Michel Carré, based on Carré's play *Faust et Marguerite*

Premiere: Paris, March 19, 1859

Conductor: David Rohrbaugh

Stage director: Brad Dalton

Set designer: Steven C. Kemp

Costume designer: Malabar (Earl Staley and Toni Businger)

Lighting designer: David Lee Cuthbert

Inspired by Goethe's legendary story, Gounod's opera is the timeless tale of the malevolent Méphistophélès, the devil in the flesh, who seduces the old scholar Faust, promising him the elixir of youth in exchange for his soul. Faust is transformed into a young, handsome man and sets out with his devious companion to experience the pleasures of the world. Faust seduces the beautiful and innocent Marguerite, only to abandon her before she gives birth to his child. Her reputation destroyed, but not beyond redemption, Marguerite calls upon the angels for salvation. Faust receives no such escape and is condemned to his devilish fate in this spiritual conflict between Heaven and Hell. *Faust* premiered in Paris in 1859 and is one of the most performed operas of all time.

### About Opera San José

**Opera San José**, performing at the historic **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.

### For Calendar Editors:

**What:** Opera San José General Director **Irene Dalis** has announced repertoire for the company's 28th season to begin Saturday, September 10 with the company premiere of Mozart's first dramatic masterwork *Idomeneo*, the mythical tale of the king of Crete set at the end of the Trojan War. **George Cleve**, founder and music director of the Midsummer Mozart Festival, conducts, with stage direction by **Brad Dalton**. In November, Opera San José will present a double bill of two intensely dramatic operas, Leoncavallo's *Pagliacci* paired with Poulenc's *La voix humaine* for a tender and tragic duo. In partnership with Opera Santa Barbara, acclaimed stage director and artistic director of Opera Santa Barbara **José Maria Condemi** returns in 2012 to direct Verdi's romantic tragedy *La traviata*. The season will culminate with Gounod's *Faust* conducted by Opera San José's founding music director and principal conductor, **David**

**Rohrbaugh**, with **Brad Dalton** returning as stage director. All performances will be held at the **California Theatre**, 345 South First Street in downtown San José.

**Dates:** September 10, 2011-May 6, 2012

<i>Idomeneo</i>	September 10, 11m, 13, 17, 18m, 22, 23, 25m
<i>Pagliacci/La voix humaine</i>	November 12, 13m, 17, 19, 20m, 22, 25, 27m
<i>La traviata</i>	February 11, 12m, 16, 18, 19m, 21, 24, 26m
<i>Faust</i>	April 21, 22m, 26, 28, 29m, May 1, 4, 6m

**Time:** All performances at 8 pm, except Sundays at 3 pm

**Location:** California Theatre, 345 South First Street between San Carlos and San Salvador streets, downtown San José

**Tickets:** Season subscriptions (\$100-\$340) on sale February 7, 2011 from the Opera San José Box Office, 2149 Paragon Dr., San José, CA 95131; or call 408-437-4450.

Single tickets (\$50-\$100) on sale July 11, 2011; call 408-437-4450 or at [www.operasj.org](http://www.operasj.org).

**Press Room:** <http://www.operasj.org/pressroom.html>

**Photos:** For 2011-2012 season press photos, email [santana@operasj.org](mailto:santana@operasj.org)

To learn more about Opera San José, please visit [www.operasj.org](http://www.operasj.org), or consider this opportunity:

'Choose Your Seats' at the California Theatre: Excited for the new season? Come 'Choose Your Seats' at Opera San José's open house on Saturday, February 19th, 2011, 2-4 pm, at the California Theatre in downtown San José. View the theatre and meet the artists. Enjoy refreshments and door prizes, and subscribe onsite to the 2011-2012 season without fees. The event is free and open to the public. For information, call 408-437-4450.

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