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Opera San José Celebrates National Opera Week

Company Launches Anti-Bullying Educational Program

SAN JOSE, CA— **Opera San José** joins opera organizations nationwide to celebrate **National Opera Week (October 26 – November 4)**, coordinated by OPERA America, the national service organization for opera, with support of the National Endowment for the Arts.

As part of the week-long celebration, **Opera San José** will launch the company's one-act touring opera, ***Bill Goats Gruff*** on Thursday, November 1st at 4 pm at the **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library** in downtown San José. John Davies' *Billy Goats Gruff* tells the classic fairytale of the three billy goats with a contemporary twist, as it tackles the issue of bullying and promotes the power of kindness and tolerance. The engaging performance is set to recognizable melodies from some of opera's most beloved composers, including Mozart, Rossini and Donizetti.

In 2011, an Advisory Council to eradicate bullying in county schools was formed by Santa Clara County Board of Education President, Joseph Di Salvo. "As a former elementary and middle school principal, this has been a subject that has touched me in many divergent ways," stated Di Salvo. "The threat of being bullied is one of the number one reasons for students staying at home."

In response to Di Salvo's initiative, Opera San José is presenting *Billy Goats Gruff* as part of the K-12 educational programming for the 2012-13 season. "*Billy Goats Gruff* not only provides children with a positive experience of an art form that may be new to them, but uses the power of artistic expression to address the on-going epidemic of bullying in schools and communities." says General Director, Irene Dalis. "We hope to do our part to educate young people about this serious matter and it is fitting that we would launch our program during a week that celebrates the influence of opera in America."

The free performance will be held on the 2nd floor of the library in room 225/229, located at 150 East San Fernando Street at 4th Street in downtown San José. No reservations are required.

Opera San José is currently booking *Billy Goats Gruff* performances for the 2012-13 Season. Schools and organizations can contact Outreach Coordinator Lettie Smith at 408-437-4464 for more information or fill out an online booking form at www.operasj.org.

For more information on Opera San José visit www.operasj.org. For more information on National Opera Week visit www.operaamerica.org/operaweek. Photos are available for download at: <http://operasj.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/bbgsshiresA.jpg>.

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. Opera San José has received a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, America's largest and most-utilized independent evaluator of charities.

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