

Press Contact:  
Virginia Perry, 408.437.4463 or 650.799.1341 [perry@operasj.org](mailto:perry@operasj.org)

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### ***Sixth Annual Irene Dalis Vocal Competition Celebrates 'Classical Stars in Classical Voice'***

San José, CA ---- **Opera San José** will celebrate classical stars in classical voice at the **Sixth-Annual Irene Dalis Vocal Competition** on May 19 at 3 pm at the **California Theatre**, 345 South First Street in downtown San José.

Ten finalists selected from the 2012 West Coast Auditions for Singers will perform some of the most beloved opera arias as they vie for nearly \$50,000 in cash prizes, including a \$5,000 prize for the Audience Favorite to be selected by popular vote during the final intermission. First prize is \$15,000; second prize, \$10,000; and third prize, \$5,000. The remaining seven finalists will each receive a \$2,000 award.

A distinguished panel of judges will select the top three winners at the competition including **Henry Akina**, General Director and Artistic Director of Hawaii Opera Theatre; **Ward Holmquist**, Artistic Director of the Lyric Opera of Kansas City; and **Brad Trexell**, Director of Artistic Operations of Opera Colorado. **Timm Rolek**, Artistic Director and Conductor of Lake Tahoe Music Festival; **Peter Jaffe**, Music Director and Conductor of Stockton Symphony; and **Richard Harrell**, Opera Program Director of San Francisco Conservatory of Music and visiting faculty for the Opera Studio of the Netherlands, will serve on the preliminary panel. Accompanist for both the vocal competition finals and the auditions is pianist **Catherine Miller**.

**The Irene Dalis Vocal Competition** continues to recognize emerging opera singers from across the country. Most recently, soprano **Audrey Luna**, third-prize winner in 2009, was featured in the April 2012 edition of *Opera News*. She made her debut at the Metropolitan Opera during the 2010-11 season as Queen of the Night in *Die Zauberflöte* and Najade in *Ariadne auf Naxos* and returns to the

Met in the 2012-13 season to sing Ariel in *The Tempest*. First-prize winner in 2010, soprano **Danielle Talamantes**, received a full cover contract with the Met for the 2010-11 season and first-prize winner in 2009, baritone **Jordan Shanahan**, also attracted the attention of the Met, where he was cast in five productions including the roles of Kallenbach in *Satyagraha* by Philip Glass and Oppenheimer in *Dr. Atomic* by John Adams, and was also featured in *Opera News*.

“Year after year, our competition attracts exciting talent to the Bay Area,” says General Director, **Irene Dalis**. “I can’t imagine a more enjoyable way to spend an afternoon than hearing such fine operatic artists sing the most spectacular arias in the repertoire as they compete for such handsome cash prizes. It is an event not to be missed.”

Tickets are \$100 (\$50 is tax-deductible) for premium seating, which includes an opportunity to meet the judges and attend a post-event champagne reception at the Hotel Sainte Claire, and \$50 (\$25 is tax-deductible) for reserved orchestra seating. Tickets are on sale at the Opera San José Box Office, by phone at (408) 437-4450 or online at [www.operasj.org](http://www.operasj.org).

### 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** will present the **Sixth Annual Irene Dalis Vocal Competition** on May 19 at 3pm at the **California Theatre**, 345 South First Street in downtown San José. Ten finalists selected from the 2012 West Coast Auditions for Singers will perform some of the most beloved opera arias as they vie for nearly \$50,000 in cash prizes, including a \$5,000 prize for the Audience Favorite to be selected by popular vote during the final intermission. Tickets are \$100 (\$50 is tax-deductible) for premium seating, which includes an opportunity to meet the judges and attend a post-event champagne reception at the Hotel Sainte Claire, and \$50 (\$25 is tax-deductible) for reserved orchestra seating. Tickets are on sale at the Opera San José Box Office, by phone at (408) 437-4450 or online at [www.operasj.org](http://www.operasj.org).

**Dates:** May 19, 2012

**Time:** 3 pm

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

**Tickets:** \$100 (\$50 tax-deductible) for premium seating; \$50 (\$25 tax-deductible) for reserved orchestra seating from Opera San José Box Office, 2149 Paragon Dr., San José, CA 95131; 408-437-4450; 408-437-4455 fax; [www.operasj.org](http://www.operasj.org). Students 25 and younger (with student ID) \$11 - Available 90 minutes prior to curtain at the California Theatre box office only.

**Photos:** <http://operasj.org/news-events/press-room/press-photos/irene-dalis-vocal-competition/>

**Press Room:** <http://operasj.org/news-events/press-room/>

To learn more about the *Irene Dalis Vocal Competition*, please visit <http://operasj.org/tickets/irene-dalis-vocal-competition/>.

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