

**Opera in the Park**

9/10/1978

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THE FRIENDS OF RECREATION AND PARKS

present

THE SAN FRANCISCO OPERA  
CONCERT IN THE PARK

with

KATIA RICCIARELLI  
*Soprano*

PLACIDO DOMINGO  
*Tenor*

and

KURT HERBERT ADLER

Conducting the San Francisco Opera Orchestra

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1978, at 2:00 p.m.  
Music Concourse, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco

PROGRAM

1. ZAMPA Overture . . . . . *Herold*
2. ANDREA CHENIER . . . . . *Giordano*  
Aria: Un di all'azzurro spazio  
Mr. Domingo
3. DIE MEISTERSINGER VON NÜRNBERG . . . . . *Wagner*  
Prelude to Act III, Dance of the Apprentices  
and Entrance of the Masters
4. LA FORZA DEL DESTINO . . . . . *Verdi*  
Aria: Pace, pace mio Dio  
Miss Ricciarelli

PRESENTATION . . . . . Honorable George R. Moscone  
*Mayor, City and County of San Francisco*

5. KHOVANTSCHINA . . . . . *Moussorgsky, orchestrated  
by Rimsky-Korsakov*  
Dance of the Persians
6. IL TROVATORE . . . . . *Verdi*  
Recitative and Aria:  
Timor di me . . D'amor sull'ali rosee  
Miss Ricciarelli
7. L'AFRICAINE . . . . . *Meyerbeer*  
Aria: O Paradis  
Mr. Domingo
8. DIE DREI PINTOS . . . . . *Von Weber/Mahler*  
Entr'acte, Act II
9. ANDREA CHENIER . . . . . *Giordano*  
Duet: Vicino a te  
Miss Ricciarelli, Mr. Domingo

This annual free Opera Concert in the Park is made possible by a generous grant from the *San Francisco Examiner Benefit Fund* and presented with the cooperation of the *San Francisco Opera* and *Local 6, American Federation of Musicians*. The Friends of Recreation and Parks gratefully acknowledge this assistance and the participation of Maestro Adler, Miss Ricciarelli and Mr. Domingo.

Friends of Recreation and Parks was conceived to develop and cultivate broad public involvement in San Francisco's recreation and park facilities. At the same time the Friends of Recreation and Parks generates financial support for leisure-time programs of a recreational, educational and cultural character. Your participation in this worthwhile effort is invited.

Friends of Recreation and Parks  
McLaren Lodge, Golden Gate Park 94117  
San Francisco, California, Phone: 558-4268



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## Key of Life

# Sunshine birthday

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by Gaye Mitcham

I awoke with a great deal of apprehension and glanced out of the window, wondering if the previous day's deluge of rain was going to mar the best laid plans of many people. To my relief, I found the immediate world outside inundated with sunshine.

The event that sparked this concern over the weather was the sixth annual San Francisco Opera Concert in Golden Gate Park. This year the concert coincided with my son Marty's thirteenth birthday and we had determined to combine a free opera production and a birthday celebration into one lovely day.

Arriving in the park with a picnic lunch, birthday cake and family friends Mary Pinchotto and her children Angela, Jason and Jim, we began spreading our blankets on a grassy slope and anticipated a rare musical treat. An audible hum of excitement emanated from the friendly crush of humanity.

As Maestro Kurt Herbert Adler led the San Francisco Opera Orchestra into the bouncy and proud strains of the "Zampa Overture" by Herold, the atmosphere was filled with a hushed expectancy.

With tuna-salad sandwiches in hand we listened to the dulcet toned tenor, Placido Domingo sing an aria from Giordano's "Andrea Chenier." We paused in our repast, as the melancholy oboe opening of Wagner's Prelude to Act 111 of "Die Meistersinger" elicited an emotional response from within us.

Making her entrance in a multi-colored gown and

wearing a purple orchid behind her left ear, soprano Katia Ricciarelli held the audience spellbound as she sang a dramatic aria from Verdi's "La Forza Del Destino."

During a 15 minute intermission we served an angel-food birthday cake and were joined by a few nearby music-lovers in singing a chorus of "Happy Birthday" to Marty. He blushingly accepted the tribute and we all, with gusto, turned to the cake and did it justice.

Ricciarelli's voice as it floated up, down and around the musical scales of a selection from Verdi's "Il Trovatore," showed marvelous control and sounded almost flute-like. As little children played a quiet game of frissbee, the tenor, dressed in a dapper white suit, gave a heart rendering performance of "O Paradis" from "L' Africaine" by Meyerbeer.

Domingo and Ricciarelli joined forces in a rousing duet of "Vicino a te" from "Chenier." The "Drinking Song" from Verdi's "La Traviata" was eagerly received as an encore. The duo broke out champagne glasses and asked the audience to sing along. In varying degrees of harmony the response by thousands of fans was enthusiastic.

Satiated with good food, music, fresh air and frolic and making our way back to the car, Marty commented, "Mom, I don't think I'll ever forget this birthday. It was one in a million. We had the best of everything all in one day. It seems that every year we get our wish for sunshine for Opera in the Park Day."





**Placido Domingo**



**Luciano Pavarotti**

# Outdoor opera scoring big success in America

*OAK TRIB. 9-1578*

**Review by Paul Hertelendy**  
Staff Writer

Opera may be a European invention, but in America it is attracting the mass public in a unique way—with considerable help from the European stars.

The San Francisco Opera's highly successful outdoor concerts of arias and excerpts are strictly an American phenomenon, confirming the grass-roots nature of operamania in our country.

Opera-in-the-park is unknown in Italy, Germany and France, according to overseas observers like tenor Placido Domingo. Yet here it is thriving and actually expanding, with dungareed street people braving alongside middle-class families.

America is making the white ties and diadems strictly optional, and turning a strict society ritual into a popular event.

The large and surprisingly astute crowd at the Domingo-Ricciarelli love-in Sunday in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park confirmed what Stern Grove and Brown Bag Opera had been experiencing for years. Furthermore on October 7 the Eastbay is also getting into the act, with the giant tenor Luciano Pavarotti singing and possibly triggering the Berkeley seismograph at the Greek Theater of U.C. Berkeley, accompanied by Kurt Adler and the orchestra.

It couldn't happen, of course, without the superstars, who were donating their services to the free concert Sunday. Domingo and Katia Ricciarelli between them could enkindle a pile of asbestos, whether with his bold "Amor to vieta" from "Fedora," or from her angelic "Pace, Pace" from "La Forza del Destino." His soaring "O Paradis" set old-timers off to contrast his dramatic tenor with the lyric Caruso versions. And her "Liu's Song" made subscribers long for another "Turandot."

When the cheer-engulfed pair finally encored the "Libiamo" chorus from "La Traviata" with champagne-glass in hand, they asked the crowd to sing along. A good many apparently knew the Italian words, much to my consternation, and pitched in enthusiastically.

The crowd estimates ranged from 3,500 (ours) to 15,000 (the sponsors). But numbers are secondary; it's the spirit that counts.

Opportunely, the same vocal pair just released an RCA disc called "Great Love Duets." Their 10-minute "Otello" segment, under Gavazzeni's baton, transcends even the live performances currently on the Opera House stage. At the extreme of high passion, they also include no less memorably the agitated scene from Zandonai's near-forgotten "Francesca da Rimini."



San Francisco

# RECREATION AND PARK Department Press Release

McLaren Lodge

Golden Gate Park 94117

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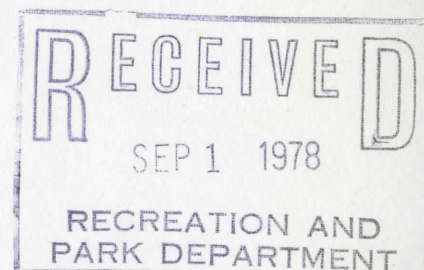
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Sixth Annual "San Francisco Opera Concert in the Park" is set for Sunday, September 10, 2:00 p.m., at the Music Concourse Area of Golden Gate Park.

Kurt Herbert Adler, General Director of the San Francisco Opera, will conduct the full San Francisco Opera Orchestra. The concert will present two internationally acclaimed opera singers, Italian soprano Katia Ricciarelli and Spanish tenor, Placido Domingo. Both stars will be featured in the opera season's opening night performance of Verdi's Otello.

Kurt Herbert Adler, general director of the San Francisco Opera, is celebrating his Golden and Silver jubilees this year. 1978 marks the 25th anniversary of his leadership of the San Francisco Opera and the 50th anniversary of his operatic career which began in Europe in 1928. Honors during the jubilee year include a citation dinner from the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce the National Opera Institute Repertoire Award (granted to the San Francisco Opera for having given the first stage productions in this country of many notable works) and the title of "Dean of American Opera Producers" bestowed on Maestro Adler by OPERA America, the professional organization of opera companies in the United States.

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After her triumphant reception as Amelia in Un Ballo in Maschera last season, Katia Ricciarelli returns this year to portray another Verdi heroine, Desdemona in Otello. It is a role she has recently performed in New York, Zurich and Hamburg. Since winning the coveted Giuseppe Verdi award in 1970, Miss Ricciarelli has skyrocketed to the top of the international opera scene. In the short space of two years, from 1972 to 1974, she debuted in Chicago in Verdi's I due Foscari, at La Scala as Suor Angelica, in Vienna as Liu in Turandot, in Hamburg, London and Paris as Mimi in La Boheme, and in the title role of Luisa Miller in San Francisco. Miss Ricciarelli made her San Francisco Symphony debut in 1977.

World famous as one of the foremost singing actors on the operatic stage today, tenor Placido Domingo appears for the first time this season in the United States in a role for which he has won highest acclaim in Europe -- Verdi's Otello. One of the most recorded artists in our time, Domingo has an extraordinarily wide repertoire of roles to his credit, including all of the major Verdi, Puccini and verismo heroes.

Domingo is also a conductor; in 1976 he conducted a student matinee performance of Il Barbiere di Siviglia with the San Francisco Opera. The Spanish-born tenor made his operatic debut in his adopted Mexico in 1961 and quickly rose to the rank of one of the world's finest tenors. Domingo's San Francisco Opera debut occurred in 1969 as Rodolfo in La Boheme. Since then he has appeared as Don José and Cavaradossi in Tosca (1970), Manrico in Il Trovatore (1971), Cavaradossi and Vasco da Gama in L'Africaine (1972), the



title role in Andrea Chenier (1975), and the Cavalleria/Pagliacci duo (1976).

Sponsored by the Friends of Recreation and Parks, the free program will start at 2:00 p.m. The public is cordially invited.

A special ceremony will take place during the concert intermission at which time the City will honor Mr. Adler on his 25th anniversary as General Director of the San Francisco Opera and 50 years in opera.

The Music Concourse is located in Golden Gate Park between the de Young Museum and the California Academy of Sciences near the Japanese Tea Garden.

Sunday's event will be the sixth opera concert sponsored by the Friends of Recreation and Parks. Sopranos Renata Scotto, Elena Obraztsova, and tenor Giacomo Aragoll performed at the last concert in 1977. Previous singers include Beverly Sills, Luciano Pavarotti, Ingvar Wixell and Licia Albanese.

Friends of Recreation and Parks is involved in the development and cultivation of San Francisco Recreation and Parks programs along with the generation of financial support.

The Opera Concert is made possible by a generous donation to the Friends of Recreation and Parks by the San Francisco Examiner Benefit Fund along with the cooperation of Local No. 6 of the American Federation of Musicians.

The Music Concourse can be reached by the No. 10, Monterey Muni bus line and is near the No. 5, McAllister; No. 71, Haight-Noriega; No. 72, Haight-Sunset lines and the No. 78, Golden Gate Park Shuttle. Additional information may be obtained by telephoning 558-4268 / area code 415.