

Opera in the Park

9/9/2007

SFO_PUB_01_OITP_2007_01

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SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE PRESENTS
 SAN FRANCISCO OPERA IN THE PARK

34th ANNIVERSARY

Sunday, September 9, 2007, 1:30pm

Sharon Meadow, Golden Gate Park

Sopranos: Rhoslyn Jones, Heidi Melton, Elza van den Heever, Ji Young Yang

Mezzo-soprano: Petra Lang; Tenor: Chad Shelton

Baritones: Dwayne Croft, Brian Leerhuber, James Rutherford, Andrew Shore

Basses: Oren Gradus, Eric Halfvarson

with Donald Runnicles, Music Director and Principal Conductor, conducting
 the San Francisco Opera Orchestra

Kay Stern, Concertmaster

Master of Ceremonies: David Gockley, General Director of San Francisco Opera

2'00 THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

7'00 THE MAGIC FLUTE Mozart
 Overture Orchestra

2'15 LA RONDINE Puccini
 Chi il bel sogno di Doretta Rhoslyn Jones

Magda sings a song to her guests about the "dream of Doretta," who found rapture in the kiss of a young student and learned that love is more important than riches. Magda herself dreams of rediscovering such a love.

4'37 MACBETH Verdi
 Come dal ciel precipita Eric Halfvarson

Macbeth has sent assassins to kill Banquo and his young son. Though unaware of this, Banquo voices his premonitions of disaster as "dark gloom falls from heaven," filling his thoughts with terror and dread.

3'20" ARIADNE AUF NAXOS R. Strauss
 The Composer's Aria ("Sein wir wieder gut") Petra Lang

Immediately before the performance of his opera begins, the enthusiastic young composer declares his fervent belief in the great power of music, calling it the holiest of the arts.

5'43 DON CARLO Verdi
 O Carlo, ascolta . . . Io morirò Dwayne Croft

Rodrigo has willingly sacrificed his life to save his friend Don Carlo, heir to the throne of Spain. As he lies dying, Rodrigo urges Carlo to fulfill their dream of bringing freedom to the oppressed people of Spanish-ruled Flanders.

2'28 THE RAKE'S PROGRESS Stravinsky
 Here I Stand Chad Shelton

Tom Rakewell, a good hearted but naïve lad, brashly declares his intention to forego the annoyance of hard work and instead blithely entrust his destiny to Lady Luck: "Come, wishes, be horses; this beggar shall ride!"

3'15 THE MAGIC FLUTE Mozart
 Bei Männern Ji Young Yang and Brian Leerhuber

The Princess Pamina, who is loved by Prince Tamino, has assured the kind-hearted bird catcher Papageno that he too will find a mate some day. Pamina and Papageno sing of the sublime bliss of loving couples, whose linked hearts "strive to join the gods above."

3'30: THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO Mozart
 Non più andrai James Rutherford

The young page Cherubino has been banished for flirting with the Countess and ordered to join the Count's army. Figaro teasingly admonishes the amorous dandy to forget about fine clothes and courtly romance, and prepare for the rough life of a soldier.

5:10 CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA Mascagni Heidi Melton
Voi lo sapete

After seducing Santuzza, Turiddu has returned to romancing his former love Lola, now a married woman. In her anguished aria, Santuzza tells Turiddu's mother all that has happened and confesses that she still loves him.

First Half: 37'30

INTERMISSION

4'15 TANNHÄUSER Wagner Orchestra
Entrance of the Guests

This stirring march accompanies the stately entrance of the nobles, knights, and their ladies into the Wartburg's Hall of Song to witness the courtly singing contest.

6'00 Dich, teure Halle Elza van den Heever

Hearing that her beloved Tannhäuser will return at last to the Hall of Song, the site of his many past triumphs in singing contests, Elisabeth enters the hall and greets it with exuberant joy.

5'40 O du mein holder Abendstern James Rutherford

Wolfram voices a prayer to the Evening Star, asking its blessing on the soul of Elisabeth, who is near death.

5'30 ALEKO Rachmaninoff Eric Halfvarson
Aleko's Aria

Aleko, bored with his upper-class life, has run off with a band of gypsies and fallen in love with Zemfira, but she has now tired of him. In his soulful aria, Aleko remembers Zemfira's tender passion and bitterly laments losing her love.

4'20 ERNANI Verdi Heidi Melton
Ernani, involami . . . Tutto sprezzo che d'Ernani

Elvira has been forcibly betrothed to Silva, but she is in love with Ernani. In her aria she calls upon Ernani to come and whisk her away, for she would gladly follow him wherever his path leads. Scorning gifts from Silva, she counts the minutes until Ernani comes to her.

3'10 FALSTAFF Verdi Andrew Shore
L'onore! Ladri!

Falstaff, the famous "fat knight," angrily berates his two shiftless sidekicks, who have refused to aid him in his shady schemes because of their supposed "honor." He scornfully asks, "Can honor fill your belly, heal a broken bone, or restore a hair on your head? No. What is it then? Only a word, a breath of air."

3'00 FAUST Gounod Oren Gradus
Vous qui faites l'endormie

Faust has seduced the innocent Marguerite, and she is carrying his child. The demon Mephistopheles sings a sardonic serenade outside her window, offering her the mocking advice not to open her door to a suitor until she has a ring on her finger.

8'15 THE MAGIC FLUTE Mozart Rhoslyn Jones and Brian Leerhuber
Duet of Papagena and Papageno

The comic bird catcher Papageno has at last found his soul-mate, Papagena. After some initial stammering, the two happy sweethearts giddily celebrate finding one another and begin planning a large family of little Papagenos and Papagenas.

[encore]
2'30" LA TRAVIATA Verdi Rhoslyn Jones, Chad Shelton, and Tutti
Libiamo ne'lieti calici

43.00 min second half

80'30" min total music