

Opera in the Park

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SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE PRESENTS
 SAN FRANCISCO OPERA IN THE PARK
 35th ANNIVERSARY

AS performed

Sunday, September 7, 2008, 1:30pm Sharon Meadow, Golden Gate Park

Sopranos: Emily Magee, Heidi Melton, Tamara Wapinsky
 Mezzo-soprano: Daniela Mack; Tenors: Marcus Haddock, Torsten Kerl, Alek Shrader
 Baritone: Lucas Meachem; Bass: Vitalij Kowaljow
 with Donald Runnicles, Music Director and Principal Conductor of San Francisco Opera, conducting
 the San Francisco Opera Orchestra
 Kay Stern, Concertmaster
 Master of Ceremonies: David Gockley, General Director of San Francisco Opera

Time

2:00 THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

3:00 CAPTAIN BLOOD Korngold
 Overture Orchestra

A child prodigy, Austrian composer Erich Wolfgang Korngold wrote successful operas beginning in his teens, and later became famed for Hollywood film scores, like the 1935 swashbuckler *Captain Blood*.

6:00 THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO Mozart
 Non so più Daniela Mack

A cheeky teenager who has just discovered girls, the love-struck page Cherubino describes his turbulent emotions: every woman he sees makes him tremble with inexplicable desires.

4:30 IDOMENEO Mozart
 D'Oreste, d'Ajace Tamara Wapinsky

The strong-willed Electra (Elettra) is fiercely in love with Idamante, but he loves Ilia. When Neptune decrees that Idamante and Ilia shall marry and take the throne, Electra rages that the legendary Furies now torment her.

3:50 DIE TOTE STADT Korngold
 Mein Schnen, mein Wähnen (Pierrot's *Tanzlied*) Lucas Meachem

Fritz, a member of Marietta's troupe of entertainers who portrays the *commedia dell'arte* character Pierrot, performs a nostalgic "dance-song:" "My yearnings, my longings—they take me back in dreams."

5:00 Glück, das mir verblieb Emily Magee and Torsten Kerl

Marietta so resembles Paul's deceased wife Marie that he is convinced she has come back to life. Paul joins her in singing this wistful song about past love: "Though dark sorrow draws near . . . Death will not separate us."

5:10 THE BARBER OF SEVILLE Rossini
 Dunque io son? Daniela Mack and Lucas Meachem

Figaro tells Rosina that Lindoro loves her and wants some sign that she returns his affection. Urged to write him a note, she hesitates, but in fact—to Figaro's amazement—she's already written it!

5:30 EUGENE ONEGIN Tchaikovsky
 Prince Gremin's Aria Vitalij Kowaljow

The elderly Prince Gremin contentedly explains to Onegin how his beautiful young wife Tatiana came into his life two years before and has now brought him unexpected love, happiness and salvation.

9:15 OBERON Weber
 Ozean! Du Ungeheuer! Heidi Melton

A huge storm has wrecked Reiza and Huon's ship and stranded them, prompting Reiza's dramatic outburst: "Ocean, you mighty monster!" But then she sights a sail on the horizon, and calls out that they are saved.

First Half: 44:30

INTERMISSION

- 4:50 TANNHÄUSER Wagner Emily Magee
Dich, teure Halle
- 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.
- 3:40 DIE WALKÜRE Wagner Torsten Kerl
Siegmond heiss ich
- Sieglinde and “Wehwalt” (Woeful) have fallen under love’s spell, although aware that they are in fact siblings. When she renames him “Siegmond” (Victorious), he responds with pride and claims her as his bride.
- 3:15 TOSCA Puccini Heidi Melton
Vissi d’arte
- Forced to choose between the lecherous advances of Baron Scarpia and seeing her beloved Mario executed, Tosca utters a remorseful prayer: “I lived for art and love. Why, O Lord, am I rewarded this way?”
- 4:30 LA BOHÈME: Puccini Tamara Wapinsky
Quando me’n vo’ (Musetta’s Waltz)
- Hoping to make her former boyfriend Marcello jealous, Musetta teases him, saying she loves all the admiring glances she gets from men. She knows they are mentally undressing her, and it makes her happy!
- 4:00 ROMÉO ET JULIETTE Gounod Marcus Haddock
Ah, lève-toi soleil!
- In Gounod’s opera, Romeo’s aria beneath Juliet’s balcony is closely modeled on the original Shakespeare: “But, soft! What light through yonder window breaks? It is the east, and Juliet is the sun. Arise, fair sun”
- 7:30 THE DAUGHTER OF THE REGIMENT Donizetti Alek Shrader
Ah! mes amis
- Marie is an orphan who has been raised by a French regiment. In order to marry her, Tonio has joined the regiment himself. In this aria famous for its nine high C’s), he rejoices in becoming both a soldier and a husband.
- 4:10 THE PEARL FISHERS Bizet Marcus Haddock and Lucas Meachem
Au fond du temple saint
- In this beloved duet two comrades recall the past, when they both fell in love with a beautiful priestess. Together reject old rivalries and vow that nothing will ever destroy their loyal friendship.
- 2’30” [encore]
LA TRAVIATA Verdi Tamara Wapinsky, Alek Shrader, and Tutti
Libiamo ne’lieti calici

second half : 37:00 (with encore repeated)
TOTAL MUSIC: 81 min