

**Opera in the Park**

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SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE PRESENTS  
SAN FRANCISCO OPERA IN THE PARK  
39<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

Sunday, September 9, 2012, 1:30pm Sharon Meadow, Golden Gate Park

Sopranos: Nicole Cabell, Marina Harris, Aleksandra Kurzak, Albina Shagimuratova, Nadine Sierra  
Mezzo-Sopranos: Kendall Gladen, Laura Krumm  
Tenors: Arturo Chacon-Cruz, Francesco Demuro, Brian Jagde, Saimir Pirgu  
Baritones: Joo Wan Kang, Željko Lučić; Basses: Eric Owens, Andrea Silvestrelli  
with Nicola Luisotti, Music Director of San Francisco Opera,  
conducting the San Francisco Opera Orchestra  
Chorus Director: Kay Stern, Concertmaster  
Master of Ceremonies: David Gockley, General Director of San Francisco Opera

- 2:00 STAR SPANGLED BANNER Orchestra
- 6:00 BELLINI: *Norma* Orchestra  
Overture
- 11:00 BELLINI: *I Puritani* Albina Shagimuratova  
Qui la voce

*Elvira believes that her fiancé Arturo has abandoned her, and she has succumbed to madness. In her delirium she recalls Arturo's voice proclaiming his love, and dreams of her wedding to him.*

- 2:40 VERDI: *I Lombardi* Saimir Pirgu  
La mia letizia infondere

*Oronte expresses the joy he feels in his love for Giselda, and compares the passionate beating of his heart to the harmony of the heavens.*

- 4:14 VERDI: *La Traviata* Joo Won Kang  
Di Provenza il mar, il suol

*Alfredo's illicit relationship with Violetta is ruining his family's reputation. His father leads with him to leave her and return to their home in southern France: "The sea and soil of Provence--who has erased them from your heart? If the voice of honor still speaks within you, then God has heard my prayer."*

- 13:00 GOUNOD: *Romeo et Juliette* Nicole Cabell, Arturo Chacon-Cruz  
Va! Je t'ai pardonné . . . Nuit d'hyménée!

*After marrying in secret, Romeo and Juliet spend a rapturous night together. When Romeo hears a lark, signaling the dawn and his need to flee, Juliet insists it is the nightingale, and begs him to stay. But the rising sun at last forces them to bid a passionate farewell.*

- 4:10 BIZET: *Carmen* Kendall Gladen  
Habanera

*The sultry Gypsy Carmen warns that "love is like an untamed bird," and anyone who loves her and wishes to be loved in return should be on his guard.*

- 4:10 HANDEL: *Rinaldo* Nadine Sierra  
Lascia ch'io pianga

*Almirena has been abducted by the sorceress Armida and imprisoned in her palace. In this well-known melody, Almirena sadly laments her unlucky fate.*

- 3:20 VERDI: *Rigoletto* Francesco Demuro  
La donna è mobile

*The handsome and rakish Duke of Mantua sings a cynical but irresistible tune about how all women are flighty and inconstant in love.*

- 5:20 VERDI: *Rigoletto* Aleksandra Kurzak, Kendall Gladen,  
Quartet Francesco Demuro, Željko Lučić

*The womanizing Duke woos the tavern girl Maddalena, who laughs at his flattery. Overhearing, Gilda is shocked at his betrayal, and her father Rigoletto vows revenge on the Duke for dishonoring his daughter.*

First Half Total: 54 min.

INTERMISSION

4:30 HANDEL: *Rinaldo* Eric Owens  
Sibilar gli angui d'Aletto

*Argante, the Saracen king of Jerusalem, is under siege by Crusaders and is forced to request a truce. He voices his rage and fear, imagining the hissing of vengeful serpents and the roaring of monsters.*

5:00 DONIZETTI: *L'Elisir d'Amore* Saimir Pirgu  
Una furtiva lagrima

*Emboldened by a supposed love potion, shy Nemorino pretends to ignore the fickle Adina. When a "furtive tear" in her eye betrays her disappointment, he expresses his quiet joy at this proof that she does indeed love him.*

4:45 ROSSINI: *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* Andrea Silvestrelli  
La calunnia

*The crafty Don Basilio explains how a slanderous rumor can destroy an enemy, starting as a tiny whisper but gradually growing into a roaring explosion, leaving the hapless opponent lying crushed in the dust.*

6:40 ROSSINI: *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* Aleksandra Kurzak  
Una voce poco fa

*After being serenaded by Lindoro (Count Almaviva disguised as a poor student), Rosina sings that his voice has completely captured her heart. She will use all her feminine wiles and tricks to be with him.*

4:45 VERDI: *Un ballo in maschera* Željko Lučić  
Eri tu

*Renato is enraged to learn that his wife Amelia has fallen in love with his best friend Riccardo, but he realizes that she is not the one to blame. He denounces Riccardo for betraying their friendship by defiling Amelia's honor, and laments his lost happiness.*

5:45 PUCCINI: *Manon Lescaut* Orchestra  
Intermezzo

3:40 PUCCINI: *Manon Lescaut* Marina Harris  
In quelle trine morbide

*Unable to resist the allure of wealth, Manon has abandoned her young lover Des Grieux and is being kept by the elderly aristocrat Geronte. But even amid the luxury of soft curtains and gilded furniture, she still longs for the passionate embrace of her true love.*

3:15 PUCCINI: *Tosca* Brian Jagde  
E lucevan le stelle

*Awaiting execution for treason, the painter Mario thinks of his love for the renowned singer Tosca, recalling that "the stars were shining" during one of their passionate moments together. He bitterly regrets that his life must end just when he cherishes it the most.*

3:45 DONIZETTI: *Lucia di Lammermoor* Albina Shagimuratova, Arturo Chacon-Cruz,  
Sextet: Chi mi frena in tal momento Laura Krumm, Brian Jagde, Joo Won Kang, Eric Owens

*Lucia, believing her fiancé Edgardo has forgotten her, is being coerced into marrying her brother's political ally. When Edgardo bursts in demanding to know what has happened, six characters—Lucia, her brother, her tutor, her friend, her beloved Edgardo, and her new husband—all voice their shock and consternation.*

ENCORE: Not in printed program:

2:15 DI CAPUA Arturo Chacon-Cruz, Francesco Demuro,  
O sole mio Brian Jagde, Saimir Pirgu

2:55 PUCCINI: *La Bohème* Nicole Cabell, Kendall Gladen, Marina Harris,  
Quando m'en vo Aleksandra Kurzak, Albina Shagimuratova, Nadine Sierra

3:10 VERDI: *La Traviata* Tutti  
Brindisi

Second half : 51 min (including encores)

TOTAL MUSIC: 105 min (plus speeches and applause)

8/30/2012 5:00pm kc Revised 8/31/2012kc 9/6/2012 3:00pm KC