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**CAL PERFORMANCES AND THE SAN FRANCISCO OPERA PRESENT  
THE SAN FRANCISCO OPERA ORCHESTRA LED BY NICOLA LUISOTTI  
SUNDAY, JUNE 3, AT 3:00 P.M. AT ZELLERBACH HALL IN BERKELEY**

**BERKELEY, May 1, 2012**—The **San Francisco Opera Orchestra** returns to **Zellerbach Hall** for their second engagement at Cal Performances this season **Sunday, June 3** at **3:00 p.m.** Lauded for their “thrillingly great playing” and “the brilliance of Luisotti’s orchestral conducting” (*San Francisco Chronicle*), the ensemble, under the baton of Music Director **Nicola Luisotti**, will perform a program that includes **Sergei Prokofiev**’s Symphony No. 1 in D major, Op. 25, **Joseph Haydn**’s Cello Concerto in C major, Op. Hob. VIIb/1, featuring Israeli cellist **Amit Peled** and **Luigi Cherubini**’s Symphony in D major. Cherubini’s only symphony is a rare programming choice; works from this prolific 18th– and 19th–century composer are rarely heard in the orchestral repertory. “It gives me great pleasure to welcome Nicola Luisotti and the San Francisco Opera Orchestra to Cal Performances,” said Cal Performances Director Matías Tarnopolsky. “I am delighted by this additional partnership between the San Francisco Opera and Cal Performances.”

San Francisco Opera Orchestra program spans three centuries. The afternoon starts with Prokofiev’s Symphony No. 1 in D major, Op. 25, often known by the title “Classical.” This lighthearted symphony, completed in 1917, was a product of a summer holiday and was heavily influenced by Haydn’s classicization of the symphony. Next, to highlight Haydn’s influences, the orchestra travels back to the late 1700s to perform his Cello Concerto in C major. Amit Peled, professor of cello at the Peabody Conservatory of Music at Johns Hopkins University and frequent soloist with orchestras worldwide, is a sought-after guest artist at music festivals and is admired for his “simply gorgeous sound” (*Baltimore Sun*). The concerto was rediscovered in 1961 in the National Museum in Prague and was originally written for Haydn’s long–time friend, principal cellist of the Esterhazy orchestra Joseph Weigl. Written for string orchestra and solo cello, it is now one of Haydn’s most popular works, and a staple of the solo cello repertoire. The final composition on the program is Cherubini’s Symphony in D major. Beethoven considered Cherubini his greatest contemporary, and he is best known for his operas and sacred works. Only

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producing one symphony in his prolific career, he writes expressively and captures the dramatic flair that fit so naturally to his operatic writing. Commissioned by the Philharmonic Society of London in 1815, the symphony is best known through a famous recording of it made by Arturo Toscanini for RCA Victor.

Tuscan conductor **Nicola Luisotti** arrived on the international stage in 2002, conducting an acclaimed new production of Verdi's *Il trovatore* at the Stuttgart State Theater. In the last nine years since, Luisotti has led performances with nearly every major opera company in the world, including La Scala, Paris Opera, Metropolitan Opera, Royal Opera Covent Garden and the Vienna State Opera. He has also conducted many of the world's great orchestras, including Berliner Philharmoniker, the London Philharmonia, NHK Symphony, the Russian National Orchestra and the San Francisco Symphony. He currently serves as principal guest conductor of the Tokyo Symphony. His third season at San Francisco Opera will include productions of *Turandot*, *Carmen*, *Don Giovanni* and *Attila*. Luisotti's schedule includes guest appearances at La Scala and Teatro di San Carlo in Naples. A complete bio can be found at <http://sfopera.com/About/People/Nicola-Luisotti>.

The **San Francisco Opera Orchestra** was founded in 1923. Today, the orchestra has nearly 70 professional musicians and plays a full season of ten operas and 75 performances and undertakes "feats of musical heroism night after night" (*San Francisco Chronicle*). In addition to their work with the opera, the orchestra's members play in numerous Bay Area ensembles including the San Francisco Ballet Orchestra, San Francisco Chamber Orchestra and San Francisco Contemporary Music Players. They teach at local institutions, including the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, UC Berkeley, San Francisco State University and St. Mary's College. Members also maintain active studio recording careers, are featured in music festivals and run private teaching studios. To learn more about the orchestra, visit their official page at <http://sfopera.com/About/People/Orchestra>.

### **TICKET INFORMATION**

Tickets for the **San Francisco Opera Orchestra** with **Nicola Luisotti**, conductor on **Sunday, June 3**, in Zellerbach Hall are range from **\$30.00 – \$85.00**, subject to change. Tickets

are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988; at calperformances.org; and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens, other students and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$5.00 discount (Special Events excluded). For select performances, Cal Performances offers UCB student, faculty and staff, senior, and community rush tickets. For a complete listing of discounts <http://calperformances.org/buy/discounts.php>.

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Cal Performances thanks Wells Fargo, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and Bank of America for their major support of the Season.

KDFC is media sponsor of the 2011/12 Season

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**CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

**Sunday, June 3, 2012 at 3:00 p.m.**

**Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus**  
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

*Orchestra*

**San Francisco Opera Orchestra**

**Nicola Luisotti**, conductor

**Amit Peled**, cello

**Program:**

Prokofiev/Symphony No. 1 in D major (Classical), Op. 25

Haydn/Cello Concerto in C major, Hob. VIIb/1

Cherubini/Symphony in D major

**Tickets:** range from \$30.00 – \$85.00, subject to change, subject to change, and are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988; at calperformances.org; and at the door

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