Cal Performances and San Francisco Opera Present

Saturday, September 6, 2008, 7:30pm
Zellerbach Hall

Angela Gheorghiu, soprano

with the

San Francisco Opera Orchestra
Kay Stern, concertmaster

Marco Armiliato, conductor

Stage direction by Sandra Bernhard

PROGRAM

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–1791) Overture to Le Nozze di Figaro
Giuseppe Giordani (1751–1798) Caro mio ben
Giacomo Puccini (1858–1924) “Ch’il bel sogno di Doretta” from La Rondine
Puccini Intermezzo from Act III of Manon Lescaut
Puccini “Un bel di” from Madama Butterfly
Giuseppe Verdi (1813–1901) “Pace, pace, mio Dio” from La Forza del Destino

INTERMISSION

San Francisco Opera

David Gockley, General Director
Donald Runnicles, Music Director and Principal Conductor
Nicola Luisotti, Music Director Designate

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San Francisco Opera Orchestra

Donald Runnicles, Music Director & Principal Conductor
Nicola Luisotti, Music Director Designate

**First Violin**
Kay Stern, Concertmaster
Laura Albers, Associate Concertmaster*
Heidi Wilcox, Assistant Concertmaster
Dawn Harms
Janice McIntosh
Lev Rankov
Barbara Riccardi
Robert Galbraith
Leonid Igudesman
Mariya Borozina
Julia Skiff
Joseph Edelberg†
Marianne Wagner†

**Second Violin**
Virginia Price, Principal
Martha Simonds, Associate Principal
Beni Shinohara, Assistant Principal*
Eva Karasik
Leslie Ludena
Gerard Svažišan
Linda Deutsch
Craig Reiss

**Viola**
Carla Maria Rodrigues, Principal
Sergei Rakitchenkov, Associate Principal*
Paul Nahhas, Assistant Principal
Patricia Heller
Jonna Hervig
Natalia Vershilova
Joy Fellows

**Cello**
David Kadarauch, Principal
Thalia Moore, Associate Principal*
David Budd, Assistant Principal**
Nora Pirquet, Acting Assistant Principal
Emil Miland
Victoria Ehrlich
Ruth Lane
Eric Sung†

**Double Bass**
Joseph Lescher, Principal
Jonathan Lancelle, Associate Principal*
Steven D’Amico, Assistant Principal
Shinji Eshima
Mark Drury

**Flute**
Julie McKenzie, Principal
Patricia Farrell
Stephanie McNab*

**Oboe**
Laura Griffiths, Acting Principal†
Deborah Henry, Assistant Principal*
Janet Popesco Archibald

**English Horn**
Janet Popesco Archibald

**Clarinet**
Carey Bell, Principal**
Jerome Simas, Acting Principal†
Joanne Burke Eisler, Assistant Principal*
Anthony Striplen

**Bass Clarinet**
Anthony Striplen

**Bassoon**
Rufus Olivier, Principal
Jerry Dagg
Robin Elliott

**Contrabassoon**
Robin Elliott

**Timpani**
John Burgardt

**Percussion**
Richard Kvistad, Principal/Associate Timpani
Patricia Niemi

**Harp**
Olga Ortenberg Rakitchenkov

**Librarian**
Lauré Campbell
Carrie Weick, Assistant

**Orchestra Manager**
Tracy Davis
Carrie Weick, Assistant

* Principal for one or more operas of the season
† Regular substitute
** Leave of absence
About the Artists

Soprano Angela Gheorghiu made her San Francisco Opera debut last season as Magda de Civry (La Rondine) and will return to the company to sing Mimi (La Bohème) later this fall. A native of Adjud, Romania, she graduated in 1990 from the Bucharest Music Academy and made her international debut in 1992 at Royal Opera, Covent Garden, as Mimi (La Bohème). Later that year, she made debuts at the Metropolitan Opera and Vienna State Opera. In 1994, she appeared at Covent Garden as Violetta (La Traviata) in a celebrated performance that was subsequently broadcast on BBC Radio. Ms. Gheorghiu’s recent appearances include Violetta (La Traviata), Amelia (Simón Boccanegra) and Mimi at the Met; Magda de Civry, Marguerite (Faust) and the title role of Tosca at Covent Garden; Mimi at Vienna State Opera; Nedda (Pagliacci) at Los Angeles Opera; and Magda de Civry at the Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris.

The soprano’s extensive discography includes complete recordings of La Traviata with the orchestra of Royal Opera, Covent Garden; L’Elixir d’Amore with the orchestra of Lyon Opera; La Bohème with the orchestra of La Scala; as well as solo discs Arias, Verdi Heroines, My World and Mysterium on the Decca label. In 1998, she signed an exclusive recording agreement with EMI records and has since released a large number of recordings with that label, including Duets and Arias, Verdi per due and Angela & Roberto Forever with Roberto Alagna; as well as complete recordings of Gounod’s Roméo et Juliette, Gianni Schicchi, Massenet’s Werther and Manon, Il Trovatore and Carmen. Her most recent release is the recital disc Live from La Scala, which features works by Bellini, Donizetti, Verdi and Frederick Loewe.

Ms. Gheorghiu’s film portrayal of Tosca, directed by Benoît Jacquot, was greeted with re-sounding acclaim upon its cinema and DVD release in 2000 (Kultur). She was honored with La Medaille Vermeille de la Ville de Paris and given the title Officier de l’Ordre des Arts et Lettres by the French government. Upcoming engagements include Suzel (L’Amico Fritz) at Deutsche Oper Berlin, Marguerite (Faust) at Vienna State Opera, Magda de Civry and Adina (L’Elixir d’Amore) at the Met, and Violetta and the title role of Tosca at Deutsche Oper Berlin.

Marco Armiliato has been a regular guest conductor at San Francisco Opera since his 1997 debut in La Bohème. He has led the Company in productions of Un Ballo in Maschera, Pagliacci, Cavalleria Rusticana, Il Trovatore, Tosca, Rigoletto, La Traviata, La Favorite, Turandot and Madame Butterfly. A frequent conductor at Vienna State Opera, Mr. Armiliato recently appeared there for productions of La Bohème, L’Elixir d’Amore, Tosca, Werther, Don Carlos, Manon Lescaut, Il Barbiere di Siviglia, Tosca and Andrea Chénier. Sought internationally for his interpretation of the Italian and French repertoire, he has led productions of Cavarozzi di Bergner at the Palau de les Arts in Valencia, Spain; La Traviata and La Bohème at Bavarian State Opera in Munich; Rigoletto at the Teatro Verdi in Trieste; a new production of Puccini’s Il Trittico at the Théâtre du Capitole in Toulouse; and La Rondine at the Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris. Mr. Armiliato conducts annually at the Metropolitan Opera, where his most recent productions include La Fille du Régiment, Cavalleria Rusticana, Pagliacci, La Traviata, Andrea Chénier, La Bohème, Turandot and Madame Butterfly. Future productions include La Rondine at the Metropolitan Opera; Le Nozze di Figaro in Toulouse; Il Trovatore in Barcelona; La Traviata, Lucia di Lammermoor, L’Elixir d’Amore, and Falstaff at Vienna State Opera; La Traviata at Deutsche Oper Berlin; and Les Contes d’Hoffmann at Paris Opéra. This September, he shares opening night conducting honors at the Met with James Levine, leading a gala concert featuring Renée Fleming. Next summer, he returns to the War Memorial Opera House to conduct Tosca at San Francisco Opera.

Renowned director Sandra Bernhard began her long association with San Francisco Opera in 1990 as the assistant stage director for Rigoletto, and she has been involved in more than 50 productions for the company. Her San Francisco Opera directing credits include Lucio Silla (1991), Erminione (1992), Daphne (1993), La Bohème (1993, 2004), Lucía di Lammermoor (1994, 1999), Madama Butterfly (1994, 1999), Carmen (1998, 2006), L’Elixir d’Amore (2000), Tosca (2001, 2004), Samson and Delilah (2001, 2007) and Der Rosenkavalier (2007). Ms. Bernhard has taught for the both Merola Opera Program and the Adler Fellowship Program and developed San Francisco Opera Center’s education department, of which she was the founding director. She has directed Samson and Delilah at Lyric Opera of Chicago, Florida Grand Opera, and Dayton Opera, as well as La Bohème at Washington National Opera, Cincinnati Opera and Opera Pacific; The Mother of Us All at Baltimore Opera; Don Giovanni, Le Nozze di Figaro, Aida and La Bohème at Portland Opera; La Bohème, Un Ballo in Maschera and Street Scene at Pittsburgh Opera; The Barber of Seville and La Traviata at Utah Opera; Der Rosenkavalier at Minnesota Opera; The Barber of Seville, Rigoletto, Don Pasquale and Un Ballo in Maschera at Florida Grand Opera; Aida with Opera Omaha and Austin Lyric Opera; La Bohème at Opera Pacific; Les Contes d’Hoffmann at Fort Worth Opera; and Little Women at Dayton Opera. Upcoming engagements include Aida at Portland Opera and Don Carlo at Cincinnati Opera. Ms. Bernhard held the J. Ralph Corbett Chair of Opera at College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati from 2003 to 2007; during her tenure, she won four awards from the National Opera Association for her productions there. She is currently the director of HGOco at Houston Grand Opera, a unique initiative that explores ways of making opera relevant to its changing audiences.