

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 dì” from *Madama Butterfly*
Giuseppe Verdi (1813–1901) “Pace, pace, mio Dio” from *La Forza del Destino*

INTERMISSION

Gioachino Rossini (1792–1868) Overture to *La Cenerentola*
Ernesto de Curtis (1875–1937) *Non ti scordar di me*
Léo Delibes (1836–1891) *Les Filles de Cadiz*
Pietro Mascagni (1863–1945) Intermezzo from *Cavalleria Rusticana*
Frederick Loewe (1901–1988) “I Could Have Danced All Night”
from *My Fair Lady*
George Grigoriu (1927–1999) *Muzica*

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San Francisco Opera

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

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 Svazlian

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 Kadarauich, *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*

Piccolo

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

Horn

William Klingelhoffer, *Co-Principal*

Kevin Rivard, *Co-Principal*

Keith Green

Brian McCarty

Lawrence Ragent

Trumpet

Adam Luftman, *Principal*

William Holmes

John Pearson*

Trombone

McDowell Kenley, *Principal*

Donald Kennelly

David Ridge

Bass Trombone

David Ridge

Tuba/Cimbasso

Zachariah Spellman

Timpani

John Burgardt

Percussion

Richard Kvistad, *Principall/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 Mimì (*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 Mimì (*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 (*Simon Boccanegra*) and Mimì at the Met; Magda de Civry, Marguerite (*Faust*) and the title role of *Tosca* at Covent Garden; Mimì 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'Elisir 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 resounding acclaim upon its cinema and DVD release in 2000 (Kultur). She was honored with La Médaille 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'Elisir 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 *Madama Butterfly*. A frequent conductor at Vienna State Opera, Mr. Armiliato recently appeared there for

productions of *La Bohème*, *L'Elisir 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 *Cyrano de Bergerac* 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 *Madama 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'Elisir 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), *Ermione* (1992), *Daphne* (1993), *La Bohème* (1993, 2004), *Lucia di Lammermoor* (1994, 1999), *Madama Butterfly* (1994, 1999), *Carmen* (1998, 2006), *L'Elisir 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.