

Sunday, November 15, 2009, 3pm
Hertz Hall

Nuccia Focile, *soprano*
David Lomelí, *tenor*

Berkeley Symphony Orchestra
Robert Cole, *conductor*

PROGRAM

- Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–1791) Overture to *Le nozze di Figaro*, K. 492
- Giacomo Puccini (1858–1924) “O mio babbino caro” from *Gianni Schicchi*†
- Giuseppe Verdi (1813–1901) “Questa o quella” from *Rigoletto*‡
- Puccini “Tu che di gel sei cinta” from *Turandot*†
- Puccini Selections from Act I of *La Bohème*
Che gelida manina‡
Si, mi chiamano Mimì†
O soave fanciulla*‡

INTERMISSION

- Jules Massenet (1842–1912) “Meditation” from *Thaïs*
- Puccini “Un bel dì vedremo” from *Madama Butterfly*†
- Verdi “Ella mi fu rapita” from *Rigoletto*‡
- Puccini “Donde lieta uscì al tuo grido” from *La Bohème*†
- Gaetano Donizetti (1797–1848) “Una furtiva lagrima” from *L'elisir d'amore*‡
- Verdi “Un dì felice” from *La Traviata*†‡
- Verdi “Brindisi” (“Libiamo”) from *La Traviata*†‡

† *Nuccia Focile*
‡ *David Lomelí*

This concert is presented with support by the ASK Foundation in celebration of Shu Kai Chan's 90th birthday.

Funded by the Koret Foundation, this performance is part of Cal Performances' 2009–2010 Koret Recital Series, which brings world-class artists to our community.

Cal Performances' 2009–2010 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo Bank.



Nuccia Focile (*soprano*) was born in Militello, Sicily, and studied with Elio Battaglia at the Turin Conservatory. In 1983, she won the A. Belli Competition of Spoleto, followed by the Teatro Regio di Torino Competition in 1984, which resulted in her debut playing Mimi in *La Bohème*.

Her roles have included Nannetta in *Falstaff*, Violetta in *Traviata*, Oscar in *Un ballo in maschera*, Giulietta in *I Capuleti e i Montecchi*, Servilia in *La clemenza di Tito*, Nedda in *Pagliacci*, Drusilla in *L'incoronazione di Poppea*, Norina in *Don Pasquale*, Ascanio in *Lo frate 'nnammorato*, Ilia in *Idomeneo*, Oscar in *Un ballo in maschera*, Despina in *Così fan tutte*, Musetta and Mimi in *La Bohème*, Giulia in *La scala di Seta*, Susanna in *Le nozze di Figaro*, Tatiana in *Eugene Onegin*, Juliette in *Romeo et Julietta*, Pamina in *Die Zauberflöte*, Micaela in *Carmen*, Liu in *Turandot*, Amelia in *Simon Boccanegra*, the title role in *Kát'a Kabanová*, Donna Elvira in *Don Giovanni*, Elisabetta in *Don Carlo* and Nedda in *Pagliacci*.

Ms. Focile has appeared with many of the world's leading opera houses, including Welsh National Opera, Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, Metropolitan Opera, Bayerische Staatsoper, La Scala, Paris Opera, Teatro Colón, Philadelphia Opera, Hamburg Staatsoper, Teatro Massimo Palermo, Houston Grand Opera, Théâtre du Châtelet, Opéra Comique, Opera de Nancy, New Israeli Opera, Dallas Opera, La Fenice, Seattle Opera, Opera de Monte Carlo, Deutsche Oper Berlin, Saito Kinen Orchestra, Teatro Comunale di Bologna and Accademia di Santa Cecilia.

Her operatic recordings include *Eugene Onegin* (with Semyon Bychkov); *Così fan tutte*, *Le nozze di Figaro* and *Don Giovanni*, all with Sir Charles Mackerras; and *L'Assedio di Calais* with David Parry. Other recordings include *Petite Messe Solennelle* (Rossini) with Sir Neville Marriner, *Frauenliebe und Leben* (Schumann), Tosti songs and a solo album of Donizetti, Verdi and Puccini

songs. She has also performed with such illustrious maestri as Sir Colin Davis, Seiji Ozawa, Michel Plasson, James Levine, Riccardo Muti and Antonio Pappano.

Engagements in the 2008–2009 season included the title role in *Jenůfa* for Welsh National Opera and Nedda in *Pagliacci* for the Metropolitan Opera.

Future engagements include Mimi in *La Bohème* at the Deutsche Oper Berlin; Despina in *Così fan tutte* at the Dallas Opera and Los Angeles Opera; Violetta in *La Traviata*; Elisabetta in *Don Carlo* and Vitellia in *Clemenza* at Seattle Opera; Elisabeth in the five-act French version of *Don Carlos* at the Mana Opera House; Musetta in *La Bohème* at Covent Garden; and concerts of Rachmaninoff's *The Bells* with the San Francisco Symphony conducted by Bychkov.



Born in Mexico City, **David Lomeli** (*tenor*) is quickly gaining prominence for the great beauty of his voice. A first prize-winner in Plácido Domingo's 2006 Operalia, Mr. Lomeli is the first Mexican tenor ever to have won first prize, and the first singer ever to win both the opera and zarzuela divisions in the world-renowned singing competition. In 2006, he was first prize-winner at the national tenor competition Nicolas Urcelay in Merida, Mexico, and winner of the Palm Beach Opera, Montserrat Caballé, Zachary Foundation and José Iturbi voice competitions.

Mr. Lomeli began the 2009–2010 season as Rinuccio in *Gianni Schicchi* for San Francisco Opera. In addition to today's opera aria concert with soprano Nuccia Focile, Mr. Lomeli makes his debut in Dijon, France, as The Duke in *Rigoletto*. He will also make his debut with the Berlin Philharmonic in Verdi's Requiem followed by a gala concert in Prague. He will complete the season as Don Ottavio in *Don Giovanni*, for his debut with Michigan Opera Theater.

Mr. Lomeli began the 2008–2009 season as Rodolfo in *La Bohème* at Theatre Basel in Basel,

Switzerland, and then joined San Francisco Opera as a member of their prestigious Adler Fellowship Program. In summer 2009, he made his San Francisco Opera debut as Alfredo Germont in *La Traviata*, conducted by Donald Runnicles. Also during 2008–2009, Mr. Lomeli sang a concert of arias and duets at Southern Mississippi University, followed by his company debut with Madison Opera singing the title role of Gounod's *Faust*. In summer 2009 he was heard in concert in Bad Kissingen as part of the Kissinger Sommer, a concert he repeated in Oslo, Norway.

Most recently, Mr. Lomeli stepped in at the last moment to replace world famous tenor Rolando Villazón at the Teatro de Bellas Artes in Mexico City in a Gala concert to celebrate the 10th anniversary of S.I.V.A.M., Mexico's most prestigious Young Artist Development Program. A graduate of the Los Angeles Opera's Domingo-Thornton Young Artist Program, Mr. Lomeli made his debut with the company as Count Lerma and the Royal Herald in *Don Carlos*. Further performances in Los Angeles include Saboyano and Javier in *Luisa Fernanda* and Rodolfo in *La Bohème*, which he also performed in Tel Aviv. In summer 2008 he appeared in concert with the Ventura Symphony and also with the Munich Radio Orchestra at the Bad Kissingen Festival, followed by performances of Don Ottavio in Mozart's *Don Giovanni* as part of San Francisco Opera's Merola Program. As a winner of Operalia, he joined the Puerto Rico Symphony orchestra in a Gala concert in 2007. Other highlights of the 2006–2007 season include a TV special for Television Española with Montserrat Caballé, a concert in Monterrey, Mexico, with Gustavo Dudamel, and the opening of the Forum of Cultures in Monterrey with Eugene Kohn.

Mr. Lomeli studied at the Accademia de Perfezionamento per Cantanti Lirici alla Scala and has worked with such distinguished musical authorities as Plácido Domingo, James Conlon, Bruno Rigacci, Gustavo Dudamel, Mignon Dunn, Denise Massé, Joan Dornemann and César Ulloa. He is a recipient of both the Plácido Domingo and Pepita Serrano scholarships. Mr. Lomeli's repertoire includes Alfredo in *La Traviata*, Rinuccio in

Gianni Schicchi, Rodolfo in *La Bohème*, Edgardo in *Lucia di Lammermoor*, the title role in *Faust*, Macduff in *Macbeth* and the Duke in *Rigoletto*.



Robert Cole (*conductor*) received his M.A. in music from the University of Southern California School of Music, where he studied conducting with Ingolf Dahl. He continued his studies with Richard Lert and Fritz Sweig in California, Leonard Bernstein and Leon Barzin at the Tanglewood Music Center, and Hans Swarowsky in Europe. He served as associate conductor of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra and has appeared as guest conductor with the Florida Philharmonic, the Sacramento Symphony, the Pasadena Symphony, the Hartford Ballet and the Chautauqua Symphony. Mr. Cole was the executive director and music director of the Ballet Society of Los Angeles, and has conducted and produced both opera and musical theater in California and New York.

In recent years, Mr. Cole has appeared as guest conductor with the State Ballet of Georgia and the Scottish Chamber Orchestra at the 2008 Edinburgh Festival and the Orchestra of the Mariinsky Theatre with the Perm Ballet at the White Nights Festival in St. Petersburg. Mr. Cole has conducted Mark Morris's *The Hard Nut* at Sadler's Wells in London, the Brooklyn Academy of Music in New York and at Cal Performances in Berkeley.

From 1986 to 2009, Robert Cole served as director of Cal Performances. He was also general director of the Berkeley Festival and Exhibition, an international festival of early music he founded in June 1990. In 1995, Mr. Cole was made a Chevalier of the Order of Arts and Letters by the Government of France. In 2008, he was honored by Early Music America with the Howard Mayer Brown Award for lifetime achievement in Early Music.

Berkeley Symphony Orchestra celebrates 40 years of music-making in 2009. Known for its innovative mix of traditional repertoire and

contemporary works, Berkeley Symphony this season welcomes 33-year-old Lisbon native Joana Carneiro as only the third Music Director in its history.

Berkeley Symphony presents a four-concert subscription series at UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall. Berkeley Akademie, a new program of Berkeley Symphony founded in 2007, explores repertoire for small orchestra under the direction of Conductor Laureate Kent Nagano at the First Congregational Church of Berkeley. Berkeley Symphony's Under Construction new music series presents works by four Emerging Composers-in-Residence at St. John's Presbyterian Church. Berkeley Symphony also serves every public elementary school in Berkeley with its year-long, award-winning Music in the Schools program, which provides every student with the experience of becoming a performer.

Berkeley Symphony was founded in 1969 as the Berkeley Promenade Orchestra by Thomas Rarick. Reflecting the spirit of the times, the Promenade replaced tuxedos with informal street dress and performed in unusual locations, including the University Art Museum.

When Kent Nagano was appointed Music Director in 1978, he charted a new course by offering innovative programming that included many rarely heard 20th-century scores. Notable events which gained the orchestra international attention included West Coast premieres at Davies Hall of works by Olivier Messiaen with the composer present, and an evening of works by Frank Zappa with augmented orchestra, life-size puppets and moving stage sets.

For more information on Berkeley Symphony's 2009–2010 inaugural season with Joana Carneiro, please visit www.berkeleysymphony.org or call (510) 841-2800.