

CONTACT:
Christina Kellogg 510.643.6714
ckellogg@calperfs.berkeley.edu
Joe Yang 510.642.9121
scyang@calperfs.berkeley.edu

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 14, 2006

**SORPRANO NUCCIA FOCILE MAKES HER CAL PERFORMANCES' RECITAL DEBUT
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 AT 3:00 P.M. IN HERTZ HALL**

**THE CONCERT OF OPERA ARIAS WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY MEMBERS OF THE
BERKELEY SYMPHONY CONDUCTED BY ROBERT COLE**

BERKELEY, August 14, 2006 – With a voice deemed “simply world-class, floating gloriously focused notes everywhere” (*The Echo*), Italian soprano **Nuccia Focile** makes her Cal Performances debut **Sunday, September 17 at 3:00 p.m.** in Hertz Hall. Her program of Italian and French works includes arias from two different *Manons*, Puccini’s “Sola perduta abbandonata” and Massenet’s “Adieu notre petite table.” The program also includes Cilea’s infrequently performed “Ecco l’umile ancella” from *Adriana Lecouvreur* and concludes with Verdi’s “Pace, Pace.” Focile will be accompanied by members of the Berkeley Symphony conducted by Cal Performances’ Director Robert Cole, making for an unusually intimate orchestral recital. Additional works performed by members of the Berkeley Symphony include “Les Nubiennes” and “Adagio” from Gounod’s *Faust* and “Intermezzo” from Mascagni’s *Cavalleria Rusticana*.

Nuccia Focile was born in Militello, Sicily. Her roles include Violetta in *La Traviata*, Giulietta in *I Capuleti e i Montecchi*, Nedda in *Pagliacci*, Drusilla in *L’incoronazione di Poppea*, Ascanio in *Lo Frate ’nnammorato*, Ilia in *Idomeneo*, Despina in *Così fan tutte*, Musetta and Mimi in *La Bohème*, Giulia in *La Scala di Seta*, Tatiana in *Eugene Onegin*, Juliette in *Romeo et Juliette*, Pamina in *Die Zauberflöte*, Micaela in *Carmen*, Liu in *Turandot*, Amelia in *Simon Boccanegra*, the title role in *Katya Kabanova*, Donna Elvira in *Don Giovanni* and Elisabetta in *Don Carlo*.

Focile has appeared with many of the world’s leading opera houses, including the Royal Opera House, Metropolitan Opera, Teatro alla Scala, Paris Opera, Bayrische Staatsoper, Paris Opera, Welsh National Opera, Teatro Colon, Hamburg Staatsoper, Houston Grand Opera, La Fenice, Seattle Opera and Deutsche Oper Berlin.

-MORE-

Focile's 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, Schumann's *Frauenliebe und Leben*, 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, James Levine, Riccardo Muti and Antonio Pappano.

Future engagements include *Pagliacci* at the Metropolitan Opera; *Così fan tutte* at the Lyric Opera of Chicago, Accademia di Santa Cecilia and Cincinnati Opera; Mimi in *La Bohème*, *Pagliacci*, *La Traviata* and *Iphigénie en Tauride* at the Seattle Opera; *Falstaff* at the Glyndebourne Festival; the Countess in *Le nozze di Figaro*; title role in *Maria Golivin*; Desdemona in *Otello*; Musetta in *La Bohème* with the Royal Opera House; Tatiana in *Eugene Onegin* with Welsh National Opera; and Mimi in *La Bohème* at the Teatro Comunale di Bologna.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Nuccia Focile** on **Sunday, September 17** at **3:00 p.m.** in Hertz Hall are priced at **\$48.00**. Performance tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu; and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens and other students receive a \$2 discount, and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$3 discount (Special Events excluded). For more information, call Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988, or visit the Cal Performances web site at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu.

###

Cal Performances 2006/07 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

Classical 102.1 KDFC and SFStation.com are 2006/07 season media sponsors.

This performance is presented with the generous support of Angela and Shu Kai Chan's ASK Foundation.

###

CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Sunday, September 17 at 3:00 p.m.

Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at College Ave., Berkeley

Recital

Nuccia Focile, soprano

Members of the Berkeley Symphony

Conducted by Robert Cole

Program:

Mozart/"Porgi amor" from *Le nozze di Figaro*

Gounod/Marguerite's Jewel Song from *Faust*

Puccini/"Si mi chiamano Mimi" from *La Bohème*

Leoncavallo/ "Stridono lassu" from *Pagliacci*

Cilea/"Ecco l'umile ancella" from *Adriana Lecouvreur*

Puccini/"Sola perduta abbandonata" from *Manon Lescaut*

Massenet/"Adieu notre petite table" from *Manon*

Verdi/"Pace, Pace" from *La Forza del Destino*

Gounod/"Les Nubiennes" and "Adagio" from *Faust*

Mascagni/"Intermezzo" from *Cavalleria Rusticana*.

Tickets: \$48.00, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu; and at the door.
