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**SOPRANO NUCCIA FOCILE RETURNS TO CAL PERFORMANCES  
ON SATURDAY, MAY 31 AT 8:00 PM AT HERTZ HALL**

**TENOR PAUL CHARLES CLARKE JOINS IN A PROGRAM FEATURING OPERA AND BROADWAY  
CLASSICS WITH THE BERKELEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CONDUCTED BY ROBERT COLE**

**BERKELEY, April 25, 2008**—With a voice and stage presence that have been described as “ravishing and dramatic” (*San Francisco Classical Voice*), Italian soprano **Nuccia Focile** returns to Cal Performances on **Saturday, May 31 at 8:00 p.m.** in Hertz Hall. Joining Focile onstage is her husband, English tenor **Paul Charles Clarke**, whose “lyrically expressive” (*The Stage*) performances have earned him praise on both the opera and recital stages. The husband-and-wife duo has collaborated frequently, performing as Pinkerton and Cio-Cio San in Puccini’s *Madama Butterfly* and as Lensky and Tatyana in Tchaikovsky’s *Eugene Onegin*. The program features duets and solo arias in a bill that ranges from Italian and French opera classics to the American musical. Additionally, symphonic interludes will be performed by the **Berkeley Symphony Orchestra** with **Robert Cole** at the podium.

**PROGRAM**

The concert will open with the overture from Verdi's *La forza del destino* followed by Clarke’s performance of “Pourquoi tu me réveiller” (*Werther*) by Jules Massenet. The first half then takes a decidedly Italian turn, exploring operatic compositions by **Giacomo Puccini**, **Gaetano Donizetti** and **Pietro Mascagni**, including an aria performed by each artist from *Tosca*. After intermission, the Berkeley Symphony Orchestra will again begin the program, this time with the overture from Bernstein's *Candide*. The concert then moves from operatic works to popular show tunes. Focile and Clarke will sing excerpts from *Carousel*, one of **Richard Rodgers** and **Oscar Hammerstein**’s award-winning productions, and **Leonard Bernstein**’s seminal *West Side Story*. The concert will conclude with an extended excerpt from **Georges Bizet**’s *Carmen*.

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## NUCCIA FOCILE

**Nuccia Focile** was born in Militello, Sicily and studied with Elio Battaglia at the Turin Conservatory. She made her professional operatic debut as Oscar in Verdi's *Un Ballo in Maschera* at the Turin Opera. 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*, Tatyana in *Eugene Onegin*, Juliette in *Romeo et Juliette*, Pamina in *Die Zauberflöte*, Micaela in *Carmen*, Liù 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 Colón, Hamburg Staatsoper, Houston Grand Opera, La Fenice, Seattle Opera and Deutsche Oper Berlin.

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.

Recently, Focile appeared as Violetta in *La Traviata*, Iphigénie in *Iphigénie en Tauride*, and Nedda in *Pagliacci* at the Seattle Opera. Future engagements include Desdemona in concert performances of *Otello* with the WDR Symphony Orchestra Cologne, conducted by Bychkov; Alice Ford in *Falstaff* and the Countess in *Le Nozze di Figaro* with Opera du Rhin; and Tatyana in *Eugene Onegin* and the title role in *Jenůfa* with Welsh National Opera.

## PAUL CHARLES CLARKE

English tenor **Paul Charles Clarke** was born in Liverpool and studied at the Royal College of Music, where he was a Peter Pears scholar. His operatic roles include Jeník in *The*

*Bartered Bride*, Tybalt in *Romeo et Juliette*, Cassio in *Otello*, the Duke in *Rigoletto*, Tamino in *Die Zauberflöte*, Lensky in *Eugene Onegin*, Alfredo in *La Traviata*, Don Jose in *Carmen*, Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly*, and the title roles in *Faust*, *Don Carlo* and *Werther*. Clarke has appeared in many of the world's major theatres, including the Metropolitan Opera, the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, Seattle Opera and Houston Grand Opera, opposite legendary soprano Renee Fleming in *La Traviata*, among many others. He and Focile are frequent artists at Welsh National Opera (WNO), where they met in 1990 during the production of *Falstaff*. This season at WNO, Focile and Clarke star in Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin*.

In addition to operatic works, Clarke's concert repertoire includes Beethoven's Ninth Symphony with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and with Sir Simon Rattle and the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Dvořák's *Stabat Mater* at the BBC Proms and with the Philadelphia Symphony Orchestra, Verdi's *Requiem* at the Teatro Royal in Madrid and Gran Teatre del Liceu, and Donizetti's *Maria Stuarda* as Leicester with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and conductor Sir Charles Mackerras.

Clarke has released many of his operatic roles in recordings, including Tybalt in *Romeo et Juliette* with conductor Leonard Slatkin for BMG, Arturo in *Lucia di Lammermoor* with Mackerras for Sony, and the title role in *Faust* with David Parry for Chandos. Clarke is set to record Jeník in *The Bartered Bride* for Chandos, with Mackerras.

Future engagements include Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly* and Lensky in *Eugene Onegin* for Welsh National Opera and Rodolfo in *La Bohème* with WNO in Hong Kong; Števa in *Jenůfa* for English National Opera and in a concert performance with the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra conducted by Daniel Harding; Cassio in *Otello* with WDR Orchestra Cologne conducted by Semyon Bychkov; Gabriele Adorno in *Simon Boccanegra* for Frankfurt Opera; Don José in *Carmen* with the Royal Danish Opera; and concerts of *The Dream of Gerontius* with the City of Bristol Choir and Mendelssohn's *Elijah* with the Southbank Sinfonia.

## **BERKELEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

The **Berkeley Symphony Orchestra** performs contemporary, traditional and rarely-heard symphonic literature, premiering works by emerging and established contemporary composers; showcasing Bay Area artists and soloists; working in collaboration with other artists and arts institutions; and promoting an understanding and appreciation of significant contemporary works. Maestro Kent Nagano will step down from his post as music director in 2009, wrapping up an unparalleled 31-year relationship with the Berkeley orchestra.

## **ROBERT COLE**

**Robert Cole**, Director of Cal Performances and the Berkeley Festival & Exhibition, served as Associate Conductor of the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra and appeared as a guest conductor with the Hartford Ballet, the Boston Civic Orchestra, the Florida Philharmonic, the Sacramento, Pasadena and Chautauqua symphony orchestras, and many other symphonic, dance and operatic organizations. He was Music and Executive Director of the Ballet Society of Los Angeles and has conducted and produced opera and musical comedy in California and New York. A graduate of the University of Southern California School of Music, he studied conducting with Leonard Bernstein and Leon Barzin at the Tanglewood Music Center, with Hans Swarowsky in Europe and with Richard Lert. He has conducted concerts for the Lake Tahoe Summer Music Festival in Lake Tahoe, California, and is Principal Guest Conductor of the Perm (Russia) Opera & Ballet Theater. Cole, additionally, has conducted Mark Morris's *The Hard Nut* at Sadler's Wells in London, the Brooklyn Academy of Music in New York and at Zellerbach Hall in Berkeley. He became Director of Cal Performances in 1986, and has announced that he will step down in August 2009.

## **TICKET INFORMATION**

Tickets for **Nuccia Focile**, soprano, in concert with **Paul Charles Clarke**, tenor, and the **Berkeley Symphony Orchestra** with **Robert Cole**, conductor, on **Saturday, May 31, 2008** at **8:00 p.m.** in Hertz Hall are priced at **\$48.00**. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at [www.calperformances.org](http://www.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 discount (Special Events excluded). For more information, call Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988 or visit the Cal Performances web site at [www.calperformances.org](http://www.calperformances.org).

For select performances, Cal Performances offers UCB student, faculty and staff, senior and community rush tickets. Rush tickets are announced two hours prior to a performance and are available in person only at the Ticket Office beginning one hour before the performance; quantities may be limited. Rush ticket sales are limited to one ticket per person; all sales are cash only. Rush ticket prices are \$10.00 for UCB students; \$15.00 for UCB faculty and staff (UCB ID required) and seniors age 65 or older; and \$20 for all other community members. Information is available at (510) 642-9988, press 2 for the rush hotline, two hours prior to a performance only.

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#### **CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:**

#### **CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

**Saturday, May 31 at 8:00 p.m.**

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

#### *Recital*

**Nuccia Focile**, soprano

**Paul Charles Clarke**, tenor

**Berkeley Symphony Orchestra**

**Robert Cole**, conductor

#### **Program:**

Verdi/Overture from *La forza del destino*

Massenet/"Pourquoi me réveiller" (tenor), from *Werther*

Puccini/"Recondita armonia" (tenor), "Vissi d'arte, vissi d'amore" (soprano), from *Tosca*; "Tu che di gel sei cinta" (soprano) from *Turandot*

Donizetti/"Caro elisir" (duet), from *L'Elisir d'Amore*

Mascagni/"Cherry Duet" (duet), from *L'Amico Fritz*

Bernstein/"Somethins Comin" (tenor), "Somewhere" (soprano), from *West Side Story*

De Curtis/"Torna a Surriento" (tenor)

Rodgers & Hammerstein/“You’ll Never Walk Alone” (soprano), from *Carousel*  
Bizet/“La fleur que tu m’avais j’été” (tenor), “Seguidilla” (soprano), Entr’acte I (orchestral),  
Entr’acte III (orchestral), excerpts from Act IV (duet), from *Carmen*  
Bernstein/Overture from *Candide*

**Tickets:** \$48.00, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at [www.calperformances.org](http://www.calperformances.org); and at the door.

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