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**SOPRANO NUCCIA FOCILE RETURNS TO CAL PERFORMANCES  
ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15 AT 3:00 PM AT HERTZ HALL**

**Tenor David Lomelí Joins in a Program Featuring Opera Classics with the Berkeley Symphony  
Orchestra Conducted by Robert Cole**

**BERKELEY, October 9, 2009**—Italian soprano **Nuccia Focile** returns to Cal Performances with her “world-class, gloriously focused” voice (*The Echo*) on **Sunday, November 15 at 3:00 p.m.** in **Hertz Hall**. The soprano has gained wide recognition for her portrayal of many of Mozart’s heroines, and Puccini, Verdi and Tchaikovsky roles. Joining Focile onstage is Adler Fellow tenor **David Lomelí**, who the *San Francisco Chronicle* called a “standout” in San Francisco Opera’s recent production of *Il Trittico*. Accompanying the duo will be the **Berkeley Symphony Orchestra** with **Robert Cole** at the podium. The program features duets and solo arias from *La Bohème*, *Rigoletto*, *Gianni Schicchi*, *Turandot*, *Faust*, *Madama Butterfly*, *L’Elisir D’Amore* and *La Traviata*.

**NUCCIA FOCILE**

**Nuccia Focile**, who will be singing Rachmaninoff’s *The Bells* with the San Francisco Symphony the week before her Cal Performances’ recital, 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

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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. In the 2007/08 season, she appeared in concert at Cal Performances with her husband, tenor Paul Charles Clarke. Future engagements include concerts of Despina in *Così fan tutte* for Dallas Opera and Los Angeles Opera; Mimì in concert performances of *La Bohème* for Deutschen Oper Berlin.

### DAVID LOMELÍ

**David Lomelí**, whose impressive range and radiant timber has quickly garnered him praise as “the Pavarotti of tomorrow” (*San Francisco Classical Voice*), was born in Mexico City and studied at the *Accademia de Perfezionamento per Cantanti Lirici alla Scala* in Italy. In 2006, Lomelí was the first Mexican tenor to ever win a first-prize Operalia award, and the first singer ever to win both the opera and zarzuela divisions in the Plácido Domingo World Opera Competition. That same year, the young tenor was the winner at the national tenor competition in Merida, Mexico; the Palm Beach Opera Competition and the Jose Iturbi Voice Competition. Recently, Lomelí stepped in at the last moment to replace world-renowned tenor Rolando Villazon in a gala concert at the Teatro de Bellas Artes in Mexico City. He is a graduate of the Los Angeles Opera's Domingo-Thornton Young Artist Program; and in 2009, joined the San Francisco Opera as a member of the prestigious Adler Fellowship Program. He made his debut with the San Francisco Opera in the summer of 2009 as Alfredo Germont in *La Traviata*, conducted by Donald Runnicles.

His repertoire includes Rudolfo in *La Bohème*, Alfredo Germont in *La Traviata*, Count Lerma and the Royal Herald in *Don Carlos*, Saboyano and Javier in *Luisa Fernanada*, Don Ottavio in Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, the title role in *Faust*, Macduff in *Macbeth*, and the Duke in *Rigoletto*. In addition to operatic works, Lomelí has appeared in a TV special for Television Española with Montserrat Caballé and a concert in Monterrey, Mexico with Gustavo Dudamel

### **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. Conductor Joana Carneiro is the new Music Director of Berkeley Symphony. Maestro Kent Nagano stepped down from the directorship in 2009, wrapping up an unparalleled 31-year relationship with the Berkeley orchestra.

### **ROBERT COLE**

**Robert Cole**, former 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.

## TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Nuccia Focile**, soprano, in concert with **David Lomelí**, tenor, and the **Berkeley Symphony Orchestra** with **Robert Cole**, conductor, on **Sunday, November 15, 2009** at **3:00 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 three 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, three hours prior to a performance only.

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## CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

### CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

**Sunday, November 15 at 3:00 p.m.**

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

*Recital*

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

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**Berkeley Symphony Orchestra**  
**Robert Cole**, conductor

**Program:** Excerpts from *La Bohème*, *Rigoletto*, *Gianni Schicchi*, *Turandot*, *Faust*, *Madama Butterfly*, *L'Elisir D'Amore*, and *La Traviata*.

**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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