



**MEROLA OPERA PROGRAM SUMMER FESTIVAL
PRESENTS ANDRE PREVIN'S
A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE JULY 10 AND 12**

SAN FRANCISCO, June 17, 2014 – The Merola Opera Program presents André Previn's opera, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 10, and 2 p.m. Saturday, July 12, at Everett Auditorium, 450 Church Street in San Francisco.

The cast features soprano **Julie Adams** as Blanche DuBois; tenor **Casey Candebat** as Harold "Mitch" Mitchell; soprano **Adelaide Boedecker** as Stella Kowalski; baritone **Thomas Gunther** as Stanley Kowalski; mezzo-soprano **Eliza Bonet** as Eunice Bubbell; tenor **Benjamin Werley** as Steve Hubbell; mezzo-soprano **Shirin Eskandani** as the Mexican Woman; and tenor **Mingie Lei** as a Young Collector. Celebrated stage director **Jose Maria Condemi** (a Merola alumnus from 1999 and 2000) and acclaimed conductor **Mark Morash** (a Merola alumnus from 1986) will lead the production.



André Previn's *A Streetcar Named Desire*, with a libretto by Philip Littell based on the play by Tennessee Williams, premiered at San Francisco Opera in 1998. The story follows Blanche DuBois, a fading Southern belle with a frail veneer, who retreats to her sister's home only to find herself unwanted and abused. Sexual tension simmers in this claustrophobic atmosphere. Harold "Mitch" Mitchell, Blanche's would-be suitor, and Stanley Kowalski, Blanche's brother-in-law, shatter Blanche's romanticized view of her life through a series of acts, driving her to madness. Previn's jazz-influenced score provides a fresh take on this classic story of a retreat into the past darkened with sexual abuse and family disloyalty.



This production of *A Streetcar Named Desire* premieres in San Francisco as one of three co-productions performed across the nation with subsequent runs at Opera Santa Barbara and Kentucky Opera with Jose Maria Condemi directing all three. Argentinean Jose Maria Condemi was a first-time Adler Fellow in Stage Direction at the San Francisco Opera and a Fulbright Fellow. He is currently the Artistic Director of Opera Santa Barbara where he oversees artistic planning and the Studio Artists Program. His directorial work, which has been presented by companies in North America and abroad, encompasses an eclectic range of styles and repertoire and he has been consistently praised for his creative theatrical and innovative approach.

Conductor Mark Morash currently serves as the Director of Musical Studies for San Francisco Opera Center. He received critical praise for conducting the Merola 2013 production of Britten's *The Rape of Lucretia*: San Francisco Classical Voice said, "He was faithful to the spirit and letter of the score, and yet imbued it at times with an unusual, and very welcome, intensity and romantic



abandonment.” In addition to Merola productions, he also conducted for the Adler Fellow Showcase and Western Opera Theater.

The Merola Opera Program is dedicated to the continuing education and training of the finest young operatic talent and the development of this talent into professional opera singers, coaches and stage directors of the highest artistic caliber. Merola operates in close artistic collaboration with San Francisco Opera but is an independent nonprofit organization. Governed by a separate board of directors, Merola is responsible for its own long-term financial stability and fundraising, and is grateful to the hundreds of loyal members, donors and foundations who support the program.

About A Streetcar Named Desire

After losing her home and her job, delusional southern belle Blanche DuBois arrives in New Orleans, taking a streetcar named “Desire” to live with her sister Stella and Stella’s brutish husband, Stanley. Sexual tension quickly develops between Blanche and her brother-in-law, until slowly her dark secrets and lies come to light.

To download artist pictures, visit www.box.net/merola.

Casting for the July 10 and 12 *A Streetcar Named Desire* is as follows:

Blanche DuBois	Julie Adams
Harold “Mitch” Mitchell	Casey Candebat
Stella Kowalski	Adelaide Boedecker
Stanley Kowalski	Thomas Gunther
Eunice Hubbell	Eliza Bonet
Steve Hubbell	Benjamin Werley
Mexican Woman	Shirin Eskandani
A Young Collector	Mingjie Lei

This production is graciously underwritten, in part, by the Jack H. Lund Charitable Trust, the Bernard Osher Foundation, and the Frances K. and Charles D. Field Foundation. Jose Maria Condemi is sponsored in part, by Mr. Gerald B. Rosenstein. Mark Morash is sponsored in part, by Barbara K. Jackson, Dorothy Jeffries, Miss Vivienne E. Miller and Hiroko Prather.

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE: 2014 Merola Summer Festival Calendar of Performances

Merola Opera Program Presents

A Streetcar Named Desire

André Previn

7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 10

2 p.m. Saturday, July 12

Tickets: \$60/\$40/\$25

Merola Opera Program Presents

Schwabacher Summer Concert

7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 17

Tickets: \$40/\$25

Merola Opera Program Presents

Schwabacher Summer Concert

2 p.m. Saturday, July 19

Yerba Buena Gardens, Mission St. between 3rd and 4th Streets

FREE

Merola Opera Program Presents

Don Giovanni

W.A. Mozart

7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 31

2 p.m. Saturday, August 2

Tickets: \$60/\$40/\$25

Merola Opera Program Presents

Merola Grand Finale and Reception

7:30 p.m. Saturday, August 16

Tickets: \$45 Grand Tier & Orchestra Prime/\$35 Orchestra/\$25 Dress Circle

Reception begins at 10 p.m. in the Opera House Café

*Reception tickets are an additional \$50 each

For information on how to become a Merola member, please call (415) 565-6427 or visit

www.merola.org.

A festival package discount of 20 percent applies through June 28, 2014 if tickets for all festival performances of *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Schwabacher Summer Concert, *Don Giovanni* and the Merola Grand Finale are purchased together.

Tickets for all performances may be purchased by calling San Francisco Opera Box Office at (415) 864-3330 open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday.

PHOTOGRAPHY CREDIT

Julie Adams and Thomas Gunther / Kristen Loken

Thomas Gunther as Stanley Kowalski / Kristen Loken

Julie Adams as Blanch DuBois / Kristen Loken

PRESS AND MEDIA RELATIONS CONTACT:

Karen Ames Communications

Karen Ames karen@karenames.com

Kristin Schellinger kristin@karenames.com

(415) 641-7474

Merola Marketing, PR and Events Associate

Kelly Sepich ksepich@sfoopera.com

(415) 551-6299

###

Led artistically by San Francisco Opera Center Director and internationally acclaimed soprano Sheri Greenawald, the Merola Opera Program is an independent nonprofit organization which operates in collaboration with the San Francisco Opera. Founded in 1957 and named for San Francisco Opera's founder, Gaetano Merola, the Program is recognized as one of the most prestigious operatic training programs in the world. The Merola Opera Program typically receives more than 800 applications for approximately 30 positions. Throughout the summer, Merola artists participate in master classes and private coachings with opera luminaries. Participants – who include singers, apprentice coaches and an apprentice stage director – also receive training in operatic repertory, foreign languages, diction, acting and stage movement.

This message was sent to KSepich@SFOpera.com from:

KarenAmes.com | 2212 19th Street | San Francisco , CA 94107

[Manage Your Subscription](#)

