



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Merola Opera Program 2016 Summer Festival presents Mozart's *Così fan tutte*
August 4 and 6 at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music in San Francisco**

(San Francisco, June 21, 2016) The [Merola Opera Program](#) presents Mozart's *Così fan tutte*, led by conductor Mark Morash and director Ted Huffman, in two performances Thursday, August 4 at 7:30 pm and Saturday, August 6 at 2 pm at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music at 50 Oak Street in San Francisco.

The cast of *Così fan tutte* features Merola 2016 artists tenor Amitai Pati as Ferrando, bass-baritone Cody Quattlebaum as Guglielmo, bass-baritone Josh Quinn as Don Alfonso, soprano Yelena Dyachek as Fiordiligi, mezzo-soprano Alexandra Schenck as Dorabella, and soprano Adelaide Boedecker, who returns for her second year in the Merola program, as Despina. Two distinguished Merola alumni lead the production: conductor Mark Morash (Merola 1987) and director Ted Huffman (Merola 2010).

Conductor Mark Morash is Director of Musical Studies for San Francisco Opera Center. He has led many productions and concerts with the Merola Opera Program and Western Opera Theater. His work with the San Francisco Opera Center has included such varied repertoire as *Die Fledermaus*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *The Barber of Seville*, Donizetti's *Rita*, Pasatieri's *The Seagull*, Britten's *The Rape of Lucretia*, Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi*, and Previn's *A Streetcar Named Desire*. He has appeared in recital with such renowned artists as Michael Schade, Leah Crocetto, Elza van den Heever and Quinn Kelsey.

Director Ted Huffman studied at Yale University and apprenticed at the Merola Opera Program. He has created original productions for the Royal Opera House Covent Garden, Dutch National Opera, Festival d'Aix-en-Provence, Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie, Glyndebourne, Theater an der Wien in der Kammeroper, Opéra national de Lorraine, and Aldeburgh Festival, among others. In the next year, he will make directing debuts at Opéra de Lille, Opernhaus Zürich, Les Théâtres de la ville de Luxembourg, and Oper Frankfurt. Huffman has worked as an acting teacher with young artists from the Royal Opera House's Jette Parker Young Artist Programme, San Francisco Opera's Adler Fellows, LA Opera's Domingo-Thornton Young Artist Program, Santa Fe Apprentice Program, and Canadian Opera Company Studio.

Tickets for Merola Opera Program's production of *Così fan tutte* are \$65, \$45, and \$15 for students with ID, and may be purchased by calling the San Francisco Opera Box Office at (415) 864-3330 or by visiting sfopera.com. The box office is open Monday from 10 am to 5 pm, and Tuesday through Friday from 10 am to 6 pm.

ABOUT THE MEROLA OPERA PROGRAM

Led artistically by San Francisco Opera Center Director and internationally acclaimed soprano Sheri Greenawald, the [Merola Opera Program](#) is an independent nonprofit organization that operates in collaboration with 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 29 positions. Throughout the summer, the Merola artists participate in master classes and private coachings with opera's most accomplished singers and performers. Participants, which include singers, apprentice coaches, and an apprentice stage director, also receive training in operatic repertory, foreign languages, diction, acting, and stage movement. The Merola program artists appear in public performances throughout the summer. The Merola Opera Program Summer Festival includes two staged operas, a scenes program, and a concert, accompanied by full orchestra.

Offered free of charge for all participants, the Merola Opera Program is unique in the industry in many ways. Merola is the only young artist program to provide financial support to developing artists for five years following participation. In the past year alone, more than \$150,000 was distributed to more than 100 artists, supporting their essential career development costs including coachings, language classes, and audition travel. In addition, only Merola graduates are considered for participation in San Francisco Opera's Adler Fellowship program. In 2016, the Merola Opera Program has two returning Merola artists, Adelaide Boedecker, soprano (2014), and Tara Curtis, mezzo-soprano (2015).

Many Merola events are available only to members. Merola members enjoy the opportunity to sit in on select master classes and attend other special events with the young artists for a behind-the-scenes look at the training process. For information on how to join, visit [merola.org/join](#). This season, Merola is proud to announce the return of the *Merola ConneXion* program, which provides up to 50 full memberships to Northern California junior high and high school students, plus college undergraduate and graduate students. Each membership includes passes to Merola's productions, master classes, and special events. Interested students can find the application online by visiting [merola.org](#).

A full season calendar follows below. To download *Così fan tutte* artist pictures, visit <https://merolaoperaprogram.box.com/s/m3vsca256q23k7bngzp52j2om5an250w> or <https://merolaoperaprogram.app.box.com/s/ex5i5cuwjytwmkmkpqawt7lumh6qcbc/1/6257867329>

For more information about the Merola Opera Program, please visit [merola.org](#) or call (415) 936-2324.

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:

2016 Merola Opera Summer Festival *Calendar of Performances*

Tickets for all performances are on sale now and may be purchased at [sfopera.com](#) or by calling the San Francisco Opera Box Office at (415) 864-3330. The box office is open Monday from 10 am to 5 pm and Tuesday through Friday from 10 am to 6 pm.

Thursday, July 7 at 7:30 pm and Saturday, July 9, 2:00 pm
San Francisco Conservatory of Music, 50 Oak St., San Francisco
Merola Opera Program presents the **Schwabacher Summer Concert**

A thrilling evening of scenes from beloved operas performed by the 2016 Merola young artists. Repertoire includes selections from Handel, Stravinsky, Wagner, Poulenc, Rossini, and R. Strauss.

Conductor - Eric Weimer

Director - Omer Ben Seadia

Handel – *Serse*, Act 1, Scenes 1 - 6

Serse – Aryeh Nussbaum Cohen
Arsamene – Taylor Raven
Elviro – Nicholas Boragno
Romilda – Jana McIntyre
Atalanta – Mary Evelyn Hangle

Stravinsky - *The Rake's Progress*, Act 2, Scenes 1 and 3

Tom Rakewell – Josh Lovell
Nick Shadow – Nicholas Boragno
Baba the Turk – Tara Curtis

Strauss - *Arabella*, Act 1

Waldner – Nicholas Boragno
Ein Zimmerkellner – Josh Lovell
Zdenka – Jana McIntyre
Matteo – Kyle van Schoonhoven
Arabella – Mary Evelyn Hangle

Wagner – *Lohengrin*, Act 3, Scene 2

Elsa – Sarah Cambidge
Lohengrin – Kyle van Schoonhoven

Poulenc - *Les Dialogues des Carmélites*, Act 1, Scene 4

La Prieure – Tara Curtis
Mère Marie – Taylor Raven
Blanche – Jana McIntyre
Le Médecin – Nicholas Boragno

Rossini - *Le Comte Ory*, Act 2, No. 11 and 12

Le Comte Ory – Josh Lovell
Isolier – Taylor Raven
La Comtesse Adèle – Jana McIntyre
Ragonde – Tara Curtis
Chorus – tutti

Tickets: \$40 | \$25 | \$15 students with ID. Tickets can be purchased by calling the San Francisco Opera Box Office at (415) 864-3330 or by visiting sfopera.com.

Thursday, July 21 at 7:30 pm and Saturday, July 23 at 2:00 pm

San Francisco Conservatory of Music, 50 Oak St., San Francisco
Merola Opera Program presents *Transformations* (Conrad Susa)
(performed in English with English supertitles)

Conductor - Neal Goren
Director - Roy Rallo
Scenic Design - Marsha Ginsberg
Costume Design - Christine Crook
Lighting Design - Jax Messenger
Hair/wig and Makeup Design - Marcelo Donari

#1, Princess/Gretel - Teresa Castillo
#2, Anne Sexton/Witch - Shannon Jennings
#3, Good Fairy/Witch - Chelsey Geeting

#4, Rumpelstiltskin/Truman Capote - Boris Van Druff
#5, Caged Man/Dog - Brian Michael Moore
#6, Prince/Fox/Hansel - Isaac Frishman
#7, Iron Hans/Wolf - Andrew G. Manea
#8, King/Hare - Matthew Anchel

What happens to your favorite Brothers Grimm fairy tale characters after they go into the woods? Composer Conrad Susa uses Anne Sexton's poetry to take an irreverent look at what happens after happily ever after.

Tickets: \$65 | \$45 | \$15 Students with ID. Tickets can be purchased by calling the San Francisco Opera Box Office at (415) 864-3330 or by visiting sfopera.com.

Thursday, August 4 at 7:30 pm and Saturday, August 6 at 2:00 pm

San Francisco Conservatory of Music, 50 Oak St., San Francisco
Merola Opera Program presents *Così fan tutte* (Mozart)
(performed in Italian with English supertitles)

Conductor – Mark Morash
Director – Ted Huffman
Scenic Design – Marsha Ginsberg
Costume Design – Christine Crook
Hair/wig and Makeup Design – Marcelo Donari

Ferrando – Amitai Pati
Guglielmo – Cody Quattlebaum
Don Alfonso – Josh Quinn
Fiordiligi – Yelena Dyachek
Dorabella – Alexandra Schenck
Despina – Adelaide Boedecker

Mozart's sharply observed take on romance and fidelity mixes sophisticated comedy and biting drama in a deliciously complex tale that asks the question - Is there such a thing as true love?

Tickets: \$65 | \$45 | \$15 Students with ID. Tickets can be purchased by calling the San Francisco Opera Box Office at (415) 864-3330 or by visiting sfopera.com.

Saturday, August 20 at 7:30 pm

War Memorial Opera House, 301 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco
Merola Opera Program presents the **Merola Grand Finale** and receptions
Celebrate with the 2016 Merola young artists one last time before they head out to dazzle audiences around the world. The Merola Grand Finale is an exciting evening at the War Memorial Opera House, featuring scenes from some of opera's most thrilling moments. Casting and program to be announced in July.

Tickets: \$45 Orchestra Premium & Grand Tier Premium | \$35 Orchestra and Grand Tier | \$25 Dress Circle. Tickets can be purchased by calling the San Francisco Opera Box Office at (415) 864-3330 or by visiting sfopera.com.

Merola welcomes a new addition this year – a Merola Grand Night Mix pre-performance reception in the Veterans Building's recently renovated Green Room from 6 pm-7 pm, featuring an open wine bar and light nibbles. Tickets are \$25. A post-performance reception (10 pm) with the artists takes place in the War Memorial Veterans Building's Green Room. A separate \$50 ticket is required for admission to the post-performance reception. For reception tickets, please call the San Francisco Opera Box Office at (415) 864-3330.

PRESS: For information, contact Jean Catino Shirk at jean@shirkmedia.com or (510) 332-4195, or Rachel Krasner, Marketing & Events Assistant, at rkrasner@merola.org or (415) 936-2320. To download pictures of the

2016 Merola artists, visit

<https://merolaoperaprogram.app.box.com/s/ex5i5cuwjytiwkmkpqawt7lumh6qcbc/1/6257867329>