



MEROLA OPERA PROGRAM SUMMER FESTIVAL PRESENTS SCHWABACHER SUMMER CONCERT

**Presented at Everett Auditorium on July 18 and a Free Community Performance on
July 20 at Yerba Buena Gardens**

SAN FRANCISCO, June 25, 2013 – The Merola Opera Program’s Summer Festival continues with the popular Schwabacher Summer Concert at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 18 at the Everett Auditorium and offered to the community for free at 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 20 as part of the Yerba Buena Gardens Festival. Conducted by **Kevin Murphy** and directed by **Roy Rallo**, the Schwabacher Summer Concert features extended scenes from six operas: Mozart’s *Don Giovanni*; Verdi’s *Don Carlo*; Rossini’s *L’Italiana in Algeri*; Donizetti’s *Lucia di Lammermoor*; Mascagni’s *L’Amico Fritz*; and Verdi’s *Otello*. Tickets for the concert at the Everett Auditorium are affordably priced and range from \$25 to \$40 with a special student price available.



A native of Syracuse, New York, Kevin Murphy has been director of music administration at the New York City Opera since September 2008. He is also an acclaimed coach and accompanist. In addition to his collaboration with his wife, Heidi Grant Murphy, he has worked with an array of today’s leading opera artists, including Michelle DeYoung, Bejun Mehta, Gary Lakes, Nathan Gunn, Olaf Bär, Bryn Terfel, Marcelo Alvarez, Placido Domingo, Frederica von Stade, Renée Fleming, Paul Groves and Cecilia Bartoli.

Internationally acclaimed stage director, Roy Rallo, has staged numerous productions for Merola, including *Il barbiere di Siviglia* in 2011 and the Schwabacher Summer Concert in 2009, 2010 and 2012. Rallo’s past work includes a new production of Strauss’ *Ariadne auf Naxos* for the Opéra National de

Bordeaux and a new music-theater piece, the *Methusalem Projekt*, for the Nationaltheater und Staatskapelle Weimar.

The Schwabacher Summer Concert is named in memory of **James H. Schwabacher** (1920-2006). Mr. Schwabacher, a noted singer and scholar, was not only instrumental in the establishment and development of the Merola Opera Program, he became its heart and soul, demonstrating an unwavering commitment to the next generation of vocal talent. He provided

vital financial and administrative stewardship to Merola, serving as President of the Board of Directors for 29 years and subsequently as Chairman of the Board for 15 years.

The Schwabacher Summer Concerts are graciously underwritten, in part, by the Frances K. and Charles D. Field Foundation, the Jack H. Lund Charitable Trust, the Grace A. Diem and Alice E. Siemons Fund and Rusty Rolland and the Schick Foundation. Roy Rallo and Kevin Murphy are generously sponsored by the Mr. and Mrs. A. Barlow Ferguson Fund.

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

Casting for the July 18 and July 20 Schwabacher Summer Concert is as follows:

Don Giovanni (W.A. Mozart)

Donna Elvira	Aviva Fortunata
Don Giovanni	Alex DeSocio
Leporello	Rhys Lloyd Talbot

Don Carlo (Giuseppe Verdi)

Rodrigo	Alex DeSocio
Don Carlo	Pene Pati

L'Italiana in Algeri (Gioachino Rossini)

Lindoro	Matthew Newlin
Mustafà	Rhys Lloyd Talbot
Haly	Thomas Richards
Isabella	Zanda Švėde
Taddeo	Alex DeSocio
Ensemble	Pene Pati, Issachah Savage

Lucia di Lammermoor (Gaetano Donizetti)

Edgardo	Pene Pati
Raimondo	Rhys Lloyd Talbot
Ensemble	Matthew Newlin, Issachah Savage, Alex DeSocio, Thomas Richards

L'Amico Fritz (Pietro Mascagni)

Fritz	Pene Pati
Beppe	Zanda Švėde
Offstage Chorus	Aviva Fortunata, Zanda Švėde, Matthew Newlin, Issachah Savage, Alex DeSocio, Rhys Lloyd Talbot

Otello (Giuseppe Verdi)

Otello	Issachah Savage
Desdemona	Aviva Fortunata
Emilia	Zanda Švėde
Iago	Alex DeSocio
Cassio	Matthew Newlin

Lodovico
Montano

Rhys Lloyd Talbot
Pene Pati

2013 Summer Festival Season Sponsors include the Al Garren Fund, the Bernard Osher Foundation, the Frances K. and Charles D. Field Foundation, the Jack H. Lund Charitable Trust, the National Endowment for the Arts and Rusty Rolland and the Schick Foundation.

CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE: 2013 Calendar of Performances

Merola Opera Program Presents

The Rape of Lucretia

Benjamin Britten

Sung in English with English supertitles

7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 11

2 p.m. Saturday, July 13

Everett Middle School Auditorium, 450 Church Street, San Francisco, CA 94114

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

Merola Opera Program Presents

Schwabacher Summer Concert

7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 18

Everett Middle School Auditorium, 450 Church Street, San Francisco, CA 94114

Tickets: \$40/\$25

Merola Opera Program Presents

Schwabacher Summer Concert

2 p.m. Saturday, July 20

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

FREE

Merola Opera Program Presents

Le nozze di Figaro

W.A. Mozart

Sung in Italian with English supertitles

7:30 p.m. Thursday, August 1

2 p.m. Saturday, August 3

Everett Middle School Auditorium, 450 Church Street, San Francisco, CA 94114

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

Merola Opera Program Presents

Merola Grand Finale and Reception

7:30 p.m. Saturday, August 17

War Memorial Opera House, 301 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102

Tickets: \$45 Orchestra Premium & Grand Tier Premium/\$35 Orchestra and Grand Tier/\$25

Dress Circle

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

*Reception tickets are an additional \$50 each

TICKETS:

Tickets for the July 18 Schwabacher Summer Concert are \$25 and \$40, in addition to a student price of \$15.* 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 or online at www.sfopera.com.

**Student tickets must be purchased in person at the Box Office window, located inside the War Memorial Opera House at 301 Van Ness Ave. Valid student ID is required.*

For more information about Merola, please visit www.merola.org or phone (415) 551-6299

PHOTO CREDIT:

Schwabacher Concert Cast / Kristen Loken

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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, the 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.