

## OPERA PREVIEW

### *Puccini's Tosca Opens San Diego Opera's 2009 Season*

San Diego Opera's 44th International Season opens on Jan. 24, 2009, with Giacomo Puccini's operatic thriller *Tosca*. Last performed by San Diego Opera in 2002, *Tosca* features the exciting company debut of French soprano Sylvie Valayre who has dazzled audiences as *Tosca* in Paris, Zurich, Vienna, Washington, D.C., and at the Metropolitan Opera in New York. Also making a company debut is American tenor Marcus Haddock whose *Cavaradossi* has been heard to critical acclaim in Paris, Munich and Washington, D.C. Returning to San Diego to round out the cast are bass-baritone Greer Grimsely as *Scarpia*, German bass Reinhard Dorn as *Angelotti/Sciarrone*, American bass-baritone Scott Sikon as *Sacristano*, and Taiwanese tenor Joseph Hu as *Spoletta*. San Diego Opera's principal guest conductor, Edoardo Müller, will conduct his first of three operas this season, and Australian stage director Andrew Sinclair directs.

Performed in Italian with English translations above the stage, *Tosca* is Giacomo Puccini's gripping drama filled with torture, treachery, lust, execution and suicide. *Scarpia*, the chief of police, wants only two things: to recapture the escaped prisoner *Angelotti* and to seduce *Tosca*, an opera singer of incredible voice and beauty. *Tosca* is in love with *Cavaradossi*, an artist and sympathizer of *Angelotti*. After arresting *Cavaradossi* for harboring *Angelotti*, *Scarpia* plays with *Tosca's* emotions, promising to free *Cavaradossi* if *Tosca* will have sex with him. But *Tosca* has a plan of her own and *Scarpia* a secret order, all of which unfolds with tragic consequences from which no one can escape. Soaring and sensuous, filled with such beautiful arias as *Tosca's* "Vissi d'arte," *Cavaradossi's* "Recondita armonia" and the beautiful choral piece "Te Deum," *Tosca* has some of opera's most beloved music, and one of opera's most gripping plots.

#### Performance Schedule

Jan. 24, 2009	7pm
Jan. 27, 2009	7pm
Jan. 30, 2009	8pm
Feb. 1, 2009	2pm
Feb. 4, 2009	7pm

[www.sdopera.com](http://www.sdopera.com)

*Tosca* was last performed by San Diego Opera in 2002. This production is owned by San Diego Opera with sets by Jean-Pierre Ponnelle and costumes by Suzanne Mess and Ray Diffen.



### *Massenet's Masterpiece Don Quixote Returns*

San Diego Opera's 44th International Season continues on Feb. 14, 2009, with its second production of the season, Jules Massenet's rarely performed French masterpiece *Don Quixote* (*Don Quichotte*), an opera based on the novel by Miguel Cervantes. Last seen in San Diego in 1969, this new production by San Diego Opera features the return of San Diego Opera favorite, the great Italian bass Ferruccio Furlanetto in the title role. These performances will mark his American role debut. Also returning to San Diego in the role of *Dulcinea* is American mezzo-soprano Denyce Graves, who was last seen in San Diego in 2006 in *Samson and Delilah* to critical and popular acclaim. Rounding out the cast is German bass Reinhard Dorn as *Don Quixote's* faithful companion, *Sancho Panza*; American tenor Bryan Register as *Juan*; American tenor Joel Sorensen as *Rodriguez*; American soprano Laura Portune as *Pedro* and American soprano Rebecca Skaar as *Garcias*. San Diego Opera's resident conductor Karen Keltner brings her mastery of the French repertoire to the podium, and San Diego Opera's General and Artistic Director Ian Campbell will stage the production. The ballet will be choreographed by Nicola Bowie.

Performed in French with English translations above the stage, Massenet's *Don Quixote* takes its story from the novel of the same name. The wandering knight *Don Quixote* filled with old-fashioned notions of chivalry and honor has fallen in love with the town beauty, *Dulcinea*, and offers her his devotion. *Dulcinea* instead offers him a quest: retrieve a stolen necklace from a group of dangerous bandits. So begins a fantastical voyage of the knight-errant and his faithful servant *Sancho Panza* that takes them from a Spanish village to the misty countryside where windmills are mistaken for giants, and mountain hideaways inhabited by bandits. But *Dulcinea's* destiny is different from *Don Quixote's*, and the eccentric knight is left wondering if there is a place for him and his ways in this world anymore. With a familiar story and moving music such as *Don Quixote's* "Seigneur, reçois mon âme, elle n'est pas méchante" and *Sancho Panza's* scathing critique of women "Comment peut-on penser du bien de ces coquines," *Don Quixote* will delight audiences who have not had a chance to see this opera in San Diego in over 40 years.

#### Performance Schedule

Feb. 14, 2009	7pm
Feb. 17, 2009	7pm
Feb. 20, 2009	8pm
Feb. 22, 2009	2pm

[www.sdopera.com](http://www.sdopera.com)

*Don Quixote* will delight audiences who have not had a chance to see this opera in San Diego in over 40 years. *Don Quixote* was last performed by San Diego Opera in 1969. This is a new production built and owned by San Diego Opera with sets by Ralph Funicello and costumes by Missy West. SDP