

**For Immediate Release**

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**San Diego Opera Announces 2011 Gala
In Conjunction with Opening Night of *Turandot*
Honoring Esther Burnham
Saturday, January 29, 2011**

San Diego, CA – San Diego Opera is proud to announce details for the **2011 Gala honoring Esther Burnham, which will be held on Saturday, January 29, 2011** in conjunction with the opening of the Company's 46th season with Puccini's masterpiece *Turandot*.

The black-tie event will begin at 5:30 PM with an elegant pre-opera cocktail reception at **The US Grant** followed by a performance of *Turandot* at 7 PM at the San Diego Civic Theatre.

Immediately following the opera, at approximately 10:00 PM, participants will make their way back to **The US Grant** where they will find themselves transported to Imperial Peking China for dinner and dancing with the cast of *Turandot*. In keeping with the theme of the evening dinner will be Chinese cuisine.

Chairing this event are the Dow Divas (a full listing of the Dow Divas appears below) and the lead sponsor of the gala is **Wells Fargo**. **Rancho Valencia** is the Patron Party Sponsor.

This year's gala will honor the contributions to the community by **Esther Burnham**. Esther is an investor and an outstanding community volunteer, and a resident of San Diego since 1973. She is a past Commissioner of the City of San Diego Commission for Arts & Culture, and her past Board service includes the UCSD Board of Overseers and Chancellor's Association, San Diego Museum of Art, San Diego Center for Children and the San Diego Community Foundation. She currently sits on the Board of Directors for the Neurosciences Institute. She is one of two Life Directors of San Diego Opera.

The cost to attend the gala begins at \$1,250 per person and includes the pre-opera reception, access to the intermission tent, the post-opera dinner and party, and

acknowledgement in the Gala program (opera tickets are not included). Additional \$2,500 packages are available that include everything above as well as an invitation to an exclusive patron party at Rancho Valencia Resort and Spa.

Tables for 10 individuals can also be purchased for \$12,500 and include the pre-opera reception, access to the intermission tent, the post-opera dinner and party and acknowledgement in the Gala program (opera tickets are not included).

Special all-inclusive tables for 10 guests are also available for \$15,000 and include opera tickets, the pre-opera reception, access to the intermission tent, the post-opera dinner and party, as well as multiple acknowledgments in the Gala program.

A very special VIP Table is available for \$25,000 and includes everything in the all-inclusive package as well as Lead Sponsor recognition and invitation to the exclusive patron party at Rancho Valencia Resort and Spa.

Finally, a Gala Table can be purchased for \$50,000 which includes everything in the VIP table package, prime reserved seating, specially selected wines at dinner, and a personal waiter for the table throughout the reception.

To purchase tickets to the Gala, call Jan Kaplan at San Diego Opera at (619) 232-7636 or by email at Jan.Kaplan@sdopera.com.

Reception cuisine will be catered by **The US Grant**. Music for the post-opera Gala party will be performed by **Haute Chile Productions**. Event décor is by **Jim Lennox, Pacific Event Productions** and flowers and linens are by **Kathryn Gayner, Kathryn Gayner Designs, Inc.** Patron gifts will be provided by **Neiman Marcus**.

The Dow Divas were originally formed 15 years ago as women's investment group but over the past decade have expanded their original vision and now also operate as community and cultural activists. The 2010 Dow Divas are: **President Iris Lynn Strauss, Rusti Bartell, Barbara Bloom, Tanya Brandes, Lee Clark, Karen Cohn, Valerie Cooper, Olivia Farrell, Alberta Feurzeig, Jake Figi, Dawn Gilman, Lee Goldberg, Jennifer Greenfield, Joan Jacobs, Jeanne Jones, Wanda Kaufman, Lynda Kerr, Sheila Lipinsky, Mary Keough Lyman, Sarah B. Marsh-Rebelo, Sheila Potiker, Colette Carson Royston, Sheryl White, M. Faye Wilson and Pamela Wygod.**

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The 2011 International Season

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| <i>Turandot</i> | Giacomo Puccini | January 29, February 1, 4 and 6 (mat), 2011 |
| <i>Der Rosenkavalier</i> | Richard Strauss | April 3 (mat), 6, 9 and 12, 2011 |
| <i>Faust</i> | Charles Gounod | April 23, 26, 29 and May 1 (mat), 2011 |
| <i>Carmen</i> | Georges Bizet | May 14, 17, 20 and 22 (mat), 2011 |

General Information

A widely respected member of the international opera community, *San Diego Opera* brings the world's finest artists to San Diego. Founded in 1965, and led for the last 27 years by General Director and Artistic Director Ian

D. Campbell, San Diego Opera produces performances of the highest artistic quality while remaining financially stable.

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