



**For immediate release:
September 14, 2010**

Contact:
Edward Wilensky, Director of Media Relations
Edward.Wilensky@sdopera.com
Telephone: 619.232.7636

San Diego Opera Announces “Community Conversations” For 2011 Season

***Casual lecture series will explore the San Diego Opera season
through a series of collaborative conversations at well-known
institutions with a panel of expert speakers***

San Diego, CA – San Diego Opera is proud to announce “Community Conversations” a free, citywide lecture series that explores the various aspects of San Diego Opera’s 2011 season – *Turandot*, *Der Rosenkavalier*, *Faust* and *Carmen* - pairing San Diego Opera’s Geisel Director of Education and Outreach, Dr. Nicolas Reveles, with exciting speakers who are experts in their respective fields. Topics include “The Operatic Designs of David Hockney,” “Carmen on the Couch: A Study in Dysfunctional Relationships” and “Faust’s Pact with the Devil: An Interfaith Dialogue on the Concept of Evil,” among others. A full list of the lectures, locations and guests appear below.

Lectures will be held at Lead Partner venues around the community. The Lead Partners for these lectures are the **The Neurosciences Institute, Congregation Beth Israel, St. James by-the-Sea Episcopal Church, San Diego Museum of Art, Torrey Pines Christian Church, Carlsbad Public Library and the Museum of Contemporary Art.**

“It’s such a delight to partner with other organizations and team up with experts in fields outside of opera in order to put a focus on the art form’s relevance to human issues. Besides having beautiful music, the operas *Turandot*, *Der Rosenkavalier*, *Faust* and *Carmen* deal with things like sacrifice, myth, the problem of evil, obsession, identity crises,” adds San Diego Opera’s Geisel Director of Education and Outreach, Dr. Nicolas Reveles. “These themes present great opportunities to open the world of opera up to

people who've never before been attracted to it. For instance to speak to a great authority on myths and fairy tales like Jonathan Young will reveal what a deeply drawn story *Turandot* is, with its ice princess who holds her suitors at bay with three riddles that they must answer before marrying her. And what about *Faust*, concerning a scientist who makes a pact with the devil in return for eternal youth? I think we can find parallels in today's society for all of the issues presented by opera, and it'll be exciting to explore them with these renowned experts in their fields."

All events are free and open to the public but an RSVP is required. Interested individuals are encouraged to visit <http://www.sdopera.com/CommunityConversations> for more information and to reserve a seat.

Community Conversation lectures are as follows:

OPERA AS MYTH: PUCCINI'S *TURANDOT*

Monday, October 25, 2010 at 7:00pm – The Neurosciences Institute

Dr. Jonathan Young, Ph D, (founder of the Center for Story and Symbol and founding curator of the Joseph Campbell Archives) and Dr. Nicolas Reveles, The Geisel Director of Education and Outreach for San Diego Opera discuss archetypes, myth and elements of fairy tale in Puccini's opera *Turandot*. Does the story of the ultimate "ice princess" who sets up impassable barriers to intimacy have anything to say about relationships? And what about prince Calaf who submits to the possibility of death in order to break those barriers?

Speakers: Dr. Jonathan Young, Ph D, founder of the Center for Story and Symbol and founding curator of the Joseph Campbell Archives, Dr. Nicolas Reveles, Geisel Director of Education, San Diego Opera.

Location: Neurosciences Institute Auditorium, 10640 John Jay Hopkins Drive, San Diego, CA 92121

***FAUST'S* MÉPHISTOPHÈLÈS: ANGELS, DEMONS AND THE PROBLEM OF EVIL**

Wednesday, November 3, 2010 at 7:00pm – Congregation Beth Israel

In a conversation between Rabbi Michael Berk, Congregation Beth Israel, and Dr. Nicolas Reveles, The Geisel Director of Education and Outreach for San Diego Opera, the character of Méphistophélès in Charles Gounod's opera *Faust* will be the springboard for an exploration of the place of angels, demons and Satan in Jewish belief. The discussion will also focus on the "problem of evil", how it is possible for evil to exist in the face of a loving, all-benevolent God.

Speakers: Rabbi Michael Berk, Congregation Beth Israel, Dr. Nicolas Reveles, Geisel Director of Education, San Diego Opera

Location: Congregation Beth Israel, 9001 Towne Centre Drive, San Diego, CA 92122

TURANDOT: THE OPERATIC DESIGNS OF DAVID HOCKNEY

Sunday, January 9, 2011 at 3:00pm – Museum of Contemporary Art, La Jolla

Kathryn Kanjo, Chief Curator of the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, and Dr. Nicolas Reveles, The Geisel Director of Education and Outreach for San Diego Opera, will have a lively discussion of the opera designs of David Hockney, the great contemporary British artist. Hockney's work has included designs for Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde* (LA Opera), Mozart's *The Magic Flute* (Glyndebourne), Strauss's *Die Frau Ohne Schatten* (Covent Garden), a triple bill of Stravinsky works at the Metropolitan Opera and Puccini's *Turandot* (San Francisco Opera, which San Diego Opera will present in the 2011 Season).

MCASD is pleased to offer guests free admission before or after *Community Conversations* to see the exhibition on display: *Collection Applied Design: A Kim MacConnel Retrospective*.

Speakers: Kathryn Kanjo, Chief Curator of the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, Dr. Nicolas Reveles, Geisel Director of Education, San Diego Opera

Location: Sherwood Auditorium, Museum of Contemporary Art, La Jolla. 700 Prospect St. La Jolla, CA 92037

FAUST'S PACT WITH THE DEVIL: AN INTERFAITH DIALOGUE ON THE CONCEPT OF EVIL

Sunday, February 27, 2011 at 2:00PM - St. James by-the-Sea Episcopal Church

In a roundtable discussion anchored by Dr. Nicolas Reveles, The Geisel Director of Education and Outreach for San Diego Opera, leaders from the Christian, Jewish, Islamic, Hindu and Buddhist communities will discuss how each of their faiths understands evil within the context of contemporary society, using the classic story of *Faust* as a starting point. The panel will explore Faust's contract with Méphistophélès to give us an insight into how individuals and communities, even nations, make 'deals with the devil' in order to cope with daily life.

Speakers: The Rt. Rev. James R. Mathes, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego, Rabbi Lenore Bohm, D. Div., Dr. Nicolas Reveles, Geisel Director of Education, San Diego Opera, and others to be announced.

Location: St. James by-the-Sea Episcopal Church, Parish Hall, 7776 Eads Avenue, La Jolla 92037

A COLLISION OF OLD AND NEW: ROCOCO, ART NOUVEAU AND THE WORLD OF *DER ROSENKAVALIER*

Tuesday, March 1, 2011 at 7:00pm – San Diego Museum of Art

Dr. John Marciari, Ph D, Curator of European Art at the San Diego Museum of Art and Dr. Nicolas Reveles, The Geisel Director of Education and Outreach for San Diego Opera will talk about the two worlds represented in Richard Strauss's *Der Rosenkavalier*: 18th century Vienna (the era of the opera's setting) and early 20th century Vienna (the era and culture of the opera's creation). From the opera's lavish sets and costumes to the world of Freud, Klimt and Mucha, the explosion of diverse styles that the opera represents will be followed through generous examples of the art and music of the times.

Speakers: Dr. John Marciari, Curator of European Art and Head of Provenance Research at the San Diego Museum of Art, Dr. Nicolas Reveles, Geisel Director of Education, San Diego Opera

Location: San Diego Museum of Art, European Gallery 16, 1450 El Prado, Balboa Park

DER ROSENKAVALIER: THE ROLE OF SACRIFICE IN RELATIONSHIPS

Tuesday, March 8, 2011 at 7:00pm – Torrey Pines Christian Church

The touching moment at the end of *Der Rosenkavalier* when the Marschallin gives up her relationship with the young Octavian becomes a jumping off point for a discussion between Rev. Dr. Michael Spitters, Lead Pastor of Torrey Pines Christian Church, and Dr. Nicolas Reveles, The Geisel Director of Education and Outreach for San Diego Opera. Does sacrifice in relationships mean a complete negation of self? Is there a place for selflessness in a world that surrounds us with examples of looking after one's own needs to the expense of others?

Speakers: Rev. Dr. Michael Spitters, Lead Pastor of Torrey Pines Christian Church, Dr. Nicolas Reveles, Geisel Director of Education, San Diego Opera

Location: Torrey Pines Christian Church 8320 La Jolla Scenic Drive North, La Jolla 92037

CARMEN ON THE COUCH: A STUDY IN DYSFUNCTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

Monday, April 25, 2011 at 7:00pm – Carlsbad Public Library

Psychotherapist Gita Morena, Coordinator of the Sandplay Therapy Studies Program at UCSD Extension and a Doctor of Transpersonal Psychology, and Dr. Nicolas Reveles, The Geisel Director of Education and Outreach for San Diego Opera, take a close look at the dysfunctional relationship of the two main characters in Bizet's *Carmen*, Don José and the gypsy seductress. What happens when a classic obsessive personality meets a free spirit? Through the application of myth and Jungian analysis we'll get a closer look at what goes wrong in a popular opera that ends badly for everybody!

Speakers: Psychotherapist Gita Morena, Coordinator of the Sandplay Therapy Studies Program at UCSD Extension and a Doctor of Transpersonal Psychology, Dr. Nicolas Reveles, Geisel Director of Education, San Diego Opera

Location: Carlsbad Public Library, The Ruby G. Schulman Auditorium, 1775 Dove Lane, Carlsbad, 92011

The 2011 International Season

<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

Purchasing Tickets

Three or four-opera subscriptions for the 2011 International Season are currently on sale. Subscriptions range from \$108 - \$880 and can be purchased by calling (619) 533-7000 or online at www.sdopera.com

Tuesday Night Senior Discounts are also available for a full series four-opera subscription. Proof of age is required. Call (619) 533-7000 or online at www.sdopera.com for more information.

Single Tickets will be on sale October 4, 2010.

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.

www.sdopera.com

THE **VITERBI** FAMILY
2011 INTERNATIONAL SEASON SPONSOR