

NICOLA LUISOTTI LEADS PERFORMANCES OF TOSCA AT LA SCALA, VERDI'S *I MASNADIERI* AT TEATRO DI SAN CARLO AND *TURANDOT*, *DON GIOVANNI*, *CARMEN* AND *ATTILA* AT SAN FRANCISCO OPERA

2011-2012 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDES ORCHESTRAL ENGAGEMENTS WITH THE SAN FRANCISCO OPERA ORCHESTRA, BERLIN PHILHARMONIC, CLEVELAND AND PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRAS AND ORQUESTA NACIONAL DE ESPAÑA

September 7, 2011 – Called “both an original thinker and a great respecter of tradition” by *Opera News*, which featured him on the cover of the July special issue on conductors, Italian maestro Nicola Luisotti begins his 2011-2012 performance season at San Francisco Opera with *Turandot* on September 9. This will be followed by a special performance on September 11 of Mozart’s Requiem in D minor with the San Francisco Opera Orchestra, Chorus and acclaimed soloists from the Company’s Fall 2011 Season in a free concert in Golden Gate Park, recognized as San Francisco’s official civic observance in commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. In his third season as music director, Maestro Luisotti also leads performances of *Carmen*, *Don Giovanni* and *Attila*, the latter two in new productions by noted Italian film and theater director Gabriele Lavia.



Luisotti recently made his La Scala debut in Milan with the premiere of Lavia’s new production of *Attila* to great critical acclaim. *Il Giornale della Musica* commented that “Luisotti splendidly drew out the difficult balance between lyricism and larger-than-life epic poetry which made the orchestra play in way that rarely happens at La Scala” and *Corriere della Sera* called him “fearless of the raw and rough present in this music.” He will conduct the Lavia production of *Attila*, a co-production between La Scala and the San Francisco Opera, in the summer of 2012, the first performances of this early Verdi masterpiece on the San Francisco Opera stage in twenty years. Luisotti’s operatic engagements for the 2011-2012 season also include a return visit to La Scala for *Tosca* and appearances with Teatro di San Carlo in the rarely performed Verdi opera, *I Masnadieri*.

Critically acclaimed for his orchestral conducting, Luisotti’s 2011-2012 performance schedule includes appearances with six great orchestras including his own San Francisco Opera Orchestra. In partnership with Cal Performances, Luisotti has a special opportunity to showcase the terrific musicians of the San Francisco Opera Orchestra on stage, rather than in the pit, in two concerts at UC Berkeley’s Zellerbach Hall that will include performances of Beethoven

Symphonies Nos. 5 and 7 and Prokofiev Symphony No. 1. He also leads Poulenc's *Gloria* and Prokofiev's Symphony No. 5 with the Berliner Philharmoniker, Puccini's *Messa di Gloria* with Orchestra del Teatro di San Carlo in Naples and a Mahler program with Madrid's Orquesta Nacional de España. His program with The Cleveland Orchestra features Prokofiev's Symphony No. 5 and Osvaldo Golijov's *Three Songs for Soprano and Orchestra* with soprano Dawn Upshaw. He makes his Philadelphia Orchestra debut in a program that includes Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade* in addition to works by Bach and Shostakovich in partnership with violinist Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg.

Luisotti was praised by the *New York Times* for his "stylish, nuanced and sensitive conducting" of *La fanciulla del West* during the Metropolitan Opera's recent performances in celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the world premiere. At a special reception following the performance on December 10, The Puccini Fondazione honored Luisotti with its Premio Puccini Award to recognize his important contributions to the composer's legacy.

Luisotti made his San Francisco Opera debut in 2005 conducting *La forza del destino* and has served as Music Director since the Fall of 2009. He has led performances of *La bohème*, *Il trovatore*, *Salome*, *Otello*, *La fanciulla del West*, *Aida*, *Le nozze di Figaro* and *Madama Butterfly* with the company. His critically acclaimed international debut leading a new production at the Stuttgart State Opera led to performances with nearly every major opera company across the globe, including the Bavarian State Opera, Canadian Opera Company, Dresden Staatskapelle, Frankfurt Opera, La Scala, Los Angeles Opera, Metropolitan Opera, Paris Opera, Royal Opera House, Seattle Opera, Teatro Carlo Felice, Comunale di Bologna, Teatro La Fenice, Teatro Real, Teatro di San Carlo, and Vienna State Opera. He made his debut in Japan, where he served as Principal Conductor of the Tokyo Symphony from April 2009 to 2012, with a semi-staged production of *Tosca* at Suntory Hall and has since returned for *Turandot*, *La bohème*, and the Mozart/Da Ponte trilogy of *Don Giovanni*, *Le nozze di Figaro* and *Così fan tutte*.

The Italian conductor has also led many of the world's most acclaimed orchestral ensembles, including the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, Frankfurt's Alte Oper, Atlanta Symphony, Bavarian Radio Orchestra, Berliner Philharmoniker, Budapest Radio Orchestra, Filarmonica della Scala, Hamburger Philharmonic, Hessischer Rundfunk Orchestra, London Philharmonia, NHK Symphony, Orchestra Sinfonica Nazionale della RAI, Russian National Orchestra, Dresden Staatskapelle, San Francisco Symphony, Tokyo Symphony, and Zagreb Philharmonic. Luisotti led special concerts in Beijing in conjunction with the 2008 Olympic Games.

For more information on Maestro Luisotti, including downloadable photographs and an updated biography, please visit www.nicolaluisotti.com.

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Nicola Luisotti – 2011-2012 Season Performance Calendar

Puccini, *Turandot*

San Francisco Opera

September 9, 14, 17, 22, 25; October 1, and 4, 2011

San Francisco, CA

For official information: www.sfopera.com

Mozart, *Requiem in D minor*

San Francisco Opera in the Park

San Francisco Opera Orchestra, Chorus and Soloists

September 11, 2011; 2PM

San Francisco Opera, CA

For official information: www.sfopera.com

Mozart, *Don Giovanni* - New Production

San Francisco Opera

October 15, 18, 21, 23, 26, 29; November 2, 5, and 10, 2011

San Francisco Opera, CA

For official information: www.sfopera.com

Concert

San Francisco Opera Orchestra

October 28, 2011

Beethoven, *Symphony No. 5*

Beethoven, *Symphony No. 7*

Berkeley, CA

For official information: <http://www.calperfs.berkeley.edu/>

Bizet, *Carmen*

San Francisco Opera

November 6, 9, 12, 15, 17, 20, 23, 26, and 29, 2011

San Francisco Opera, CA

For official information: www.sfopera.com

Concert

Berliner Philharmoniker

December 21, 22, 23, 2011

Debussy, *Syrinx* for Solo Flute; Emmanuel Pahud, Flute

Poulenc, *Gloria* in G major; Leah Crocetto, Soprano

Berio, *Sequenza I* for Solo Flute; Emmanuel Pahud, Flute

Prokofiev, *Symphony No. 5* in B flat major

Berlin, Germany

For official information: <http://www.berliner-philharmoniker.de/en/>

Concert

Philadelphia Orchestra

February 2, 3, 4, 2012

Bach, *Chaconne* (Stokowski version); Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, Violin
Shostakovich, Violin Concerto No. 1; Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, Violin
Rimsky-Korsakov, *Scheherazade*

Philadelphia, PA

For official information: <http://www.philorch.org/>

Concert

Orquesta Nacional de España

February 17, 18, 19, 2012

Mahler, *Kindertotenlieder*; Dietrich Henschel, Baritone

Mahler, Symphony No. 1 in D major "Titan"

Madrid, Spain

For official information: <http://ocne.mcu.es/>

Concert

The Cleveland Orchestra – Miami Residency

March 2, 3, 2012

Verdi, Triumphal March and Ballet Music from *Aida*

Golijov, *Three Songs for Soprano and Orchestra*; Dawn Upshaw, Soprano

Prokofiev, Symphony No. 5 in B flat major

Miami, FL

For official information: <http://clevelandorchestramiami.com/>

Verdi, *I Masnadieri*

Teatro di San Carlo

March 21, 25, 27, 29, and 31, 2012

Naples, Italy

For official information: <http://www.teatrosancarlo.it/>

Concert

Orchestra del Teatro di San Carlo

March 23, 24, 2012

Puccini, *Messa di Gloria*; Stefano Secco, Markus Werba – Soloists

Naples, Italy

For official information: <http://www.teatrosancarlo.it/>

Puccini, *Tosca*

Teatro alla Scala

April 22, 26, 28; May 2, 6, 9, 11, 12, and 15, 2012

Milan, Italy

For official information: <http://www.teatroallascala.org/en/index.html>

Concert

San Francisco Opera Orchestra

June 3, 2012

Prokofiev, Symphony No. 1 in D major “Classical”

Boccherini, Cello Concerto; Amit Peled, Cello

Cherubini, Symphony in D major

Berkeley, CA

For official information: <http://www.calperfs.berkeley.edu/>

Verdi, *Attila* - New Production (produced at La Scala 2011)

San Francisco Opera

June 12, 15, 20, 23, 28; July 1, 2012

San Francisco Opera, CA

For official information: www.sfopera.com