



SAN FRANCISCO OPERA AND CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENT SOPRANO ANGELA GHEORGHIU IN CONCERT SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 AT ZELLERBACH HALL

SAN FRANCISCO (August 14, 2008)— Romanian soprano **Angela Gheorghiu**, hailed as “undoubtedly the most distinctive and recognizable soprano voice in the world today” (*The Times*, London), will continue San Francisco Opera’s Opening Weekend festivities with a special solo recital on **Saturday, September 6 at 7:30 p.m.** A rare force combining beauty, dramatic stage presence and a rich voice of a wide range, Gheorghiu has enjoyed international stardom for almost two decades. After her 2007 San Francisco Opera debut, Gheorghiu returns with a program of songs written by Giacomo Puccini and Giuseppe Verdi, among others. She is joined onstage by the **San Francisco Opera Orchestra**, with conductor **Marco Armiliato**, whom the *New York Times* has dubbed “one of the [Metropolitan Opera]’s great young finds...supple, graceful [and] rhythmically buoyant”.

Gheorghiu’s program will focus on classical Italian will songs and arias from several of her noted operatic roles. The evening opens with an orchestral arrangement, followed by Giuseppe Giordani’s “Caro mio ben.” The first half also features two Puccini works: “Ch’il bel sogno di Doretta” from *La Rondine*, with which she made her San Francisco Opera debut in 2007; and “Un bel di vedremo” from *Madama Butterfly*. The first act concludes with Verdi’s “Pace, Pace, Mio Dio” from *La Forza del Destino*.

Following the intermission, Gheorghiu and the San Francisco Opera Orchestra return with Ernesto di Curtis’s “Non ti scordar di me,” “Siboney” by the Cuban composer Ernesto Lecuona, and “Les filles de Cadix” by Leo Delibes. In a nod to her native Romania, Gheorghiu will also sing George Grigoriu’s “Muzica.” Gheorghiu finishes the evening with “O Sole Mio” by Eduardo di Capua, a popular classical song that has been performed and covered by various artists, from The Three Tenors to Elvis Presley.

This concert is the first of three co-presentations with Cal Performances this season. Jake Heggie's new chamber opera *Three Decembers*, featuring Frederica von Stade (December 11-14) and Salvatore Licitra's orchestral recital at Zellerbach Hall (January 10) round out the trio of events.

Tickets and Information

Tickets for the September 6 Angela Gheorghiu concert, performed at Zellerbach Hall at the University of California, Berkeley, are priced from \$35 to \$100 and may be purchased online at www.sfopera.com or through the San Francisco Opera Box Office [War Memorial Opera House, 301 Van Ness Avenue (at Grove Street), or by phone at (415) 864-3330]. Tickets can also be purchased through Cal Performances' Box Office [Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus, or by phone at (510) 642-9988] or online at www.calperfs.berkeley.edu.

About the Artists

Soprano **ANGELA GHEORGHIU** made her San Francisco Opera debut last season as Magda de Civry (*La Rondine*) and will return to the Company to sing Mimì (*La Bohème*) this coming December. The soprano was born in Adjud, Romania and graduated in 1990 from the Bucharest Music Academy. She made her international debut in 1992 at Covent Garden as Mimì (*La Bohème*) and in the same year made debuts at the Metropolitan Opera and at Vienna State Opera. In 1994 she appeared at Royal Opera, Covent Garden as Violetta (*La Traviata*) in a celebrated performance that was subsequently all but spontaneously broadcast on BBC Radio. Gheorghiu's recent appearances include Violetta (*La Traviata*), Amelia (*Simon Boccanegra*), and Mimì at the Met; Magda de Civry, Marguerite (*Faust*), and the title role of Tosca at Royal Opera, Covent Garden; Mimì at Vienna State Opera; Nedda (*Pagliacci*) at Los Angeles Opera; and Magda de Civry at the Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris. The soprano's extensive discography includes complete recordings of *La Traviata* with the orchestra of Royal Opera, Covent Garden; *L'Elisir d'Amore* with the orchestra of Lyon Opera; *La Bohème* with the orchestra of La Scala; as well as solo discs Arias, Verdi Heroines, My World, and Mysterium on the Decca label. In 1998 she signed an exclusive recording agreement with EMI records and has since released a large number of recordings including Duets and Arias, Verdi per due, and Angela & Roberto Forever with Roberto Alagna; as well as complete recordings of Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette*; *Gianni Schicchi*; Massenet's *Werther* and *Manon*; *Il Trovatore* and *Carmen*. Her most recent release is the recital disc Live from La Scala which features works by a wide range of composers including Bellini, Donizetti, Verdi, and Frederick Loewe. Gheorghiu's film portrayal of Tosca, directed by Benoît Jacquot, was greeted with resounding acclaim upon its cinema and DVD release in 2000 (Kultur). Gheorghiu was honored with La Médaille Vermeille de la Ville de Paris and given the title Officier de l'Ordre des Arts et Lettres by the French government. Upcoming engagements include Suzel (*L'Amico Fritz*) at Deutsche

Oper Berlin, Marguerite (*Faust*) at Vienna State Opera, Magda de Civry and Adina (*L'Elisir d'Amore*) at the Met, and Violetta and the title role of *Tosca* at Deutsche Oper Berlin.

MARCO ARMILIATO has been a regular guest conductor at San Francisco Opera since his 1997 debut in *La Bohème*. He has since led the Company in productions of *Un Ballo in Maschera*, *Pagliacci*, *Cavalleria Rusticana*, *Il Trovatore*, *Tosca*, *Rigoletto*, *La Traviata*, *La Favorite*, *Turandot*, and *Madama Butterfly*. A frequent conductor at Vienna State Opera, Armiliato recently appeared there for productions of *La Bohème*, *L'Elisir d'Amore*, *Tosca*, *Werther*, *Don Carlos*, *Manon Lescaut*, *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, *Tosca*, and *Andrea Chénier*. Sought internationally for his interpretation of the Italian and French repertoire, he has led productions of *Cyrano de Bergerac* at the Palau de les Arts in Valencia, Spain; *La Traviata* and *La Bohème* at Bavarian State Opera in Munich; *Rigoletto* at the Teatro Verdi in Trieste; a new production of Puccini's *Il Trittico* at the Théâtre du Capitole in Toulouse; and *La Rondine* at the Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris. Armiliato conducts annually at the Metropolitan Opera, where his most recent productions include *La Fille du Régiment*, *Cavalleria Rusticana*, *Pagliacci*, *La Traviata*, *Andrea Chénier*, *La Bohème*, *Turandot*, and *Madama Butterfly*. Future productions include *La Rondine* at the Metropolitan Opera; *Le Nozze di Figaro* in Toulouse; *Il Trovatore* in Barcelona; *La Traviata*, *Lucia di Lammermoor*, *L'Elisir d'Amore*, and *Falstaff* at Vienna State Opera; *La Traviata* at Deutsche Oper Berlin; and *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* at Paris Opera. This September he shares Opening Night conducting honors at the Met with James Levine, leading a gala concert featuring Renée Fleming. Next summer he returns to the War Memorial Opera House to conduct *Tosca* at San Francisco Opera.

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