



SACRAMENTO OPERA NEWS RELEASE

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SACRAMENTO OPERA

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SACRAMENTO OPERA AND THE CROCKER ART MUSEUM PRESENT

ART & ARIAS: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2009 AT 4 PM

(Sacramento, CA 11/4/09) The Sacramento Opera and the Crocker Art Museum present “Art & Arias,” a concert featuring the art and music of the Gilded Age on Saturday, November 21, 2009 at 4 pm, Sacramento Community Center Theater Lobby, 1301 L Street, Sacramento. Baritone David Small, Violinist Franklyn D’Antonio, and Pianist Gregory Mason will perform art songs and opera arias by Faure, Wagner, Verdi, Brahms, and Grieg that were popular during the Crocker Family’s Grand Tour of Europe (1869 to 1871). Crocker Art Museum Curator William Breazeale and Sacramento Opera Artistic Director Timm Rolek will open and close the concert with brief remarks.

Pre-registration is required by November 13, 2009. To register, call 916.808.5499 or education@crockerartmuseum.org. Tickets: Crocker Art Museum members or Sacramento Opera donors, \$5; General, \$10; Students and Seniors, \$8. The concert is approximately 90 minutes. Visit sacopera.org or crockerartmuseum.org for more information.

The program is offered in conjunction with *Treasures, Curiosities and Secrets: The Crockers and the Gilded Age*, on view at the Crocker from November 6, 2009 through May 9, 2010. The exhibit pays tribute to the Crocker Family who established the Museum in 1885. More than 75 objects, including jewelry, gowns, china, furniture, and personal letters, tell the stories of philanthropy, eccentricity, and high style that made the Crockers the epitome of the Gilded Age.

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Baritone David Small enjoys an established and continuing career on the operatic and concert stage. Equally comfortable with comedy or drama, his repertoire is richly varied, including performances of over fifty different operatic roles. In 1991, he debuted his Figaro in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* for the Lyric Opera of Kansas City with great success and subsequently has enjoyed over one hundred performances of the role. Mr. Small's repertoire also includes Escamillo (*Carmen*), Dr. Malatesta (*Don Pasquale*), Belcore (*L'Elisir d'Amore*), The Pirate King (*Pirates of Penzance*), Girard (*Andrea Chenier*), Valentin (*Faust*), Danilo (*Merry Widow*), Don Giovanni (*Don Giovanni*), Il Conte d'Almaviva (*Le Nozze di Figaro*), Guglielmo (*Così fan tutte*), Papageno (*The Magic Flute*), The Four Villains (*Les Contes d'Hoffman*), Marcello (*La Bohème*), Scarpia (*Tosca*), Sharpless (*Madama Butterfly*), High Priest (*Samson & Delilah*), Eisenstein (*Die Fledermaus*), Faninal (*Der Rosenkavalier*), Germont (*La Traviata*), and many others. He earned an Artist's Diploma in Opera and a Master of Music in Voice Performance from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. He earned his Bachelor of Music degree from the DePauw University School of Music and received a Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance with a Performer's Certificate.

Violinist Franklyn D'Antonio has accumulated a wealth of solo, chamber music, and orchestral experience since his studies with Jascha Heifetz at the University of Southern California at the age of 16. The following year, he was appointed to the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra by its Music Director, Sir Neville Marriner before going on to win positions in the Detroit Symphony, Chicago Symphony, and Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestras. His performances over the last 35 years have taken him on tours throughout North America, Europe, and Asia. He was most recently heard performing the Stravinsky Violin Concerto with the San Francisco Ballet this summer. Mr. D'Antonio is in his fourth season as Concertmaster of the Berkeley Symphony Orchestra.

Pianist Gregory Mason has performed and taught across the U.S. and abroad. He has performed in Barcelona, Madrid, Hamburg, Lisbon, Vienna, tours of South and Central America, at the United Nations, the Yale Collection of Historic Instruments, the Casals Festival, the Festival International de la Cultura, the Yale Collection of Historic Instruments, Wildwood Festival, OFAM, the Festival of the Millennium and recitals on NPR radio and PBS television. Recent performing highlights include the Stravinsky and

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Khachaturian piano concertos, the Bartok Sonata for Two Pianos and Percussion, the Rhapsody in Blue and recitals for the Oregon Mozart Players and on the Music Today Festival. He performed Beethoven's Fourth Piano Concerto in January with the Sacramento Philharmonic. As a coach in New York City, Mason was pianist for the American Music Competition at Carnegie Hall, the opera classes at the Juilliard school and a master class with Placido Domingo at the Metropolitan Opera. Mr. Mason was a coach at Virginia Opera for two seasons including Mozart's *Magic Flute* with Renée Fleming, and has given master classes at universities in the US and overseas, most recently at UC-Davis. Mr. Mason has prepared prominent singers for organizations including the Pittsburgh Symphony, the San Francisco Opera, a Luciano Pavarotti stadium concert tour, the Metropolitan Opera and the New York City Opera, the New York Philharmonic, Music of the Baroque at Chicago's Orchestra Hall, the Saint-Denis Festival in Paris, the London Proms, Australian Opera, the Richard Tucker Foundation at Avery Fisher Hall, Cincinnati May Festival. He is currently on the faculties of American River College and Sacramento City College.

The Sacramento Opera's 2009-2010 Season is sponsored by the generosity of the James Irvine Foundation, Raley's Family of Fine Stores, Barbara K. Jackson, and the County and City of Sacramento's Cultural Arts Award administered by the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission. The mission of the Sacramento Opera is to produce outstanding opera, to develop and cultivate a wider public interest in opera and its allied arts, and to further music education in the region.

The Crocker Art Museum was established in 1885 and continues as the leading art institution for the California Capital Region and Central Valley. The Museum offers a diverse spectrum of special exhibitions, events and programs to augment its collections of California, European and Asian artworks. The Crocker is located at 216 O Street in Downtown Sacramento. Museum hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Tuesday-Sunday; 1st & 3rd Thursdays until 9 p.m. Free admission on Sundays from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. is made possible through the support of Bank of America. The Crocker will open an expanded wing in October 2010. For more information on exhibits and events call (916) 808-7000 or visit crockerartmuseum.org.

Programs and artists are subject to change.

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