



**SP&O to Present Puccini's "Tosca" on May 5
Full Concert Performance to be Semi-Staged**

Sacramento, California – March 5, 2018

The Sacramento Philharmonic & Opera (SP&O) is proud to announce that the performance of Giacomo Puccini's *Tosca* on May 5, 2018 will be presented in a semi-staged production. The production, which will bring the record-setting 2017/18 season to a stunning close, will feature cast and chorus in full costume and make up with dramatic lighting. The orchestra, on stage during the production, will be situated on a specially designed set to enhance the visual beauty of the performance and place Puccini's orchestra at the heart of the action.

Mark Streshinsky, the General Director of the incredibly creative West Edge Opera in Berkeley, will direct a cast of singers drawn from around the country. Mr. Streshinsky, who has directed productions at some of the leading opera houses in the United States, brings years of experience designing creative productions for unique spaces and semi-staged productions with orchestra. The highly lauded Christoph Campestrini will conduct the performance. Lynne Giovannetti, long-time costume designer for the Sacramento Opera, will design costumes for this production. The full cast will be announced on March 19, 2018.

Alice Sauro, Executive Director of the SP&O said: "We are thrilled to present *Tosca*, one of Puccini's grandest symphonic operatic masterworks. It further demonstrates our desire to serve the opera and theater lovers of our community. This symphonic realization of *Tosca*, elaborately semi-staged, takes us that much closer to staged opera in seasons to come as the company secures and sustains a financially responsible future."

Laurie Nelson, Immediate Past President of the SP&O Board of Directors and longtime champion of opera in Sacramento, said: "I am so excited that we are enhancing this performance of *Tosca*. The Board of Directors has been actively working over the last couple of years to fulfill the promise we made to the region's opera lovers. We are enthusiastic about the future of opera at SP&O in this supportive community."

Just a few tickets remain for the single performance of *Tosca* on May 5, 2018, and are selling swiftly. Please visit www.SacPhilOpera.org for more information.

Performance Date: Saturday, May 5, 2018 at 8:00 pm
Location: Sacramento Community Center Theater
Director: Mark Streshinsky
Conductor: Christoph Campestrini
Costume Designer: Lynne Giovannetti
Cast: TBA on March 19, 2018

About Mark Streshinsky

Mark Streshinsky has created many productions for West Edge Opera, starting in 2003 with *Eugene Onegin* and continuing with productions of *Legend of the Ring*, *Xerxes*, *Ariadne auf Naxos* and many others. Nationally, Mark has been on the staging staffs of several large companies including San Francisco Opera, The Dallas Opera, Los Angeles Opera and New York City Opera. He has directed his own productions for Florida Grand Opera, Opera Theater of Saint Louis, Seattle Opera, Dallas Opera, Michigan Opera Theater, Boston Baroque, Cincinnati Opera and Lyric Opera of Kansas City. For the Reina Sofia Opera House in Valencia, Spain he directed Massenet's *Manon*. Mark has worked with students at The San Francisco

Conservatory of Music, Yale Graduate School of Opera and the Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University. Outside of the opera world, Mark has an association with *The Crucible* center for industrial art where he has created several fire performances, most recently "Machine" -- a fire opera for which he wrote the libretto and directed and produced the huge fiery production.

About Christoph Campestrini

Christoph Campestrini now maintains an active worldwide conducting schedule, having appeared with the London Symphony Orchestra, Moscow Radio Symphony Orchestra, Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin, Frankfurt Radio Symphony, Mozarteumorchester Salzburg, Vienna Radio Symphony, Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse, Real Orquesta Sinfonica de Sevilla, Prague Radio Symphony, Budapest Radio Symphony, National Symphony Orchestra of Mexico, Cairo Symphony Orchestra, Seoul Philharmonic, National Symphony Orchestra of Taiwan and many more.

In 2016 Christoph Campestrini was appointed Kapellmeister at the prestigious Wiener Hofmusikkapelle. There he will conduct the Vienna Philharmonic, Vienna Boychoir and Male Choir of the Vienna State Opera in seven programs of sacred music annually. In addition he is also Music Director of the International Late Summer Music Festival Dubrovnik and Music Director of the Oper Klosterneuburg Festival Vienna, where his most recent production of "Cavalleria rusticana"/ "I Pagliacci" has earned accolades of praise by the Vienna press.

Every season he is also a regular guest conductor in the United States and Canada, where he has worked with The Philadelphia Orchestra, Houston Symphony, Detroit Symphony, Indianapolis Symphony, Florida Orchestra, Vancouver Symphony, National Arts Centre Orchestra Ottawa, Orchestre Symphonique de Quebec and many others.

Christoph Campestrini is equally in demand as an accomplished opera conductor. At the well-known Essen Aalto Musiktheater he served as 1. Kapellmeister (Principal Conductor), leading over 100 performances of various repertoire. He has also appeared at the Teatro Regio Torino, Teatro Lirico Cagliari, Deutsche Oper am Rhein, Minnesota Opera, Opera de Montreal, Edmonton Opera and the Sakai City Opera Osaka in Japan. Among the international soloists he has collaborated with are Lang Lang, Gidon Kremer, Julian Rachlin, Alisa Weilerstein and Julia Fischer.

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