

# UCSB DEPARTMENT of MUSIC

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## **UCSB Opera Theatre presents “Aspects of Love”**

(Santa Barbara, California / January 15, 2016)—The award-winning UCSB Opera Theatre will present “Aspects of Love,” scenes from great operas, and the one-act opera, *Signor Deluso*, by Thomas Pasatieri, January 28-30 at 7:30 p.m., and January 31 at 3 p.m. in Karl Geiringer Hall on the UCSB campus. Emmy award-winning director David Grabarkewitz will direct, and UCSB Professor Benjamin Brecher will conduct students ranging from freshmen to doctoral candidates in scenes by Rossini, Bizet, Mozart, and Strauss. The program will conclude with the wildly amusing *Signor Deluso*.

Mr. Grabarkewitz is pleased to return to work with the students at UCSB, “some of whose voices are world class talent.” UCSB Opera Theatre previously collaborated with Mr. Grabarkewitz for the premiere of Joel Feigin’s *Twelfth Night*, a production that won First Prize in the National Opera Association’s 2015 Production Competition. Mr. Grabarkewitz believes that the upcoming scenes program, which culminates with the classic one-act American tale, *Signor Deluso*, by American composer Thomas Pasatieri, will be “delightful and accessible” and “sung by some of the finest young voices in America.” *Signor Deluso* is a half-hour long opera with a story following the confused amorous adventures of one Signor Deluso, and his happily and unhappily mismatched neighbors. The piece—written in 1974 and based on a Molière play—has “decidedly sexist tones” in its telling of a girl and her next-door neighbors pining for love and romance, so he has set the piece in post-World War II Americana to comment on “America’s *Good Housekeeping* lifestyle.” Mr. Grabarkewitz is “thrilled to be back working with such great voices at UCSB, and with renowned American tenor Benjamin Brecher” as Music Director.

The scenes program also features the love duet from Georges Bizet’s *The Pearl Fishers*, which Mr. Grabarkewitz calls “stunningly beautiful music,” along with the love duet from *La Cenerentola*, the Italian opera telling of the story of Cinderella. Included in the first half of the program is the comic trio from Mozart’s *The Marriage of Figaro*, one Mr. Grabarkewitz claims is “the funniest trio in all of opera,” and the haunting finale to *Der Rosenkavalier*—all wonderfully different ‘Aspects of Love!’

An award-winning director, Mr. Grabarkewitz has directed operas and musicals across America for such companies as New York City, Miami, Connecticut, Central City in Colorado, Omaha, Denver, and Buffalo. His production of *Madama Butterfly* for The New York City Opera was awarded the 2008 Prime Time Emmy Award for Best Live Performance. His past positions include fifteen years as the Resident Stage Director for the New York City Opera, as well as the Executive Director of El Paso Opera. Mr. Grabarkewitz premiered his first *Tosca* with American opera star Lauren Flanigan in both El Paso, Texas and in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, and produced the first-ever western opera in the Kingdom of Bhutan, *Acis and Galatea*, in 2013. He has taught at The Hartt School of Music, Louisiana State University, The Boston Conservatory of Music, and The New England Conservatory of Music.

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Collaborating with guest artists and professional opera organizations continues to be a top priority for the UCSB Voice Program. A new initiative between the UCSB voice students and Opera Santa Barbara comes on the heels of the First Place Award at the National Opera Association. Following auditions this past fall, all of the UCSB graduate students and senior voice majors were offered either small roles or chorus in the Opera Santa Barbara season. Seven UCSB students will sing supporting roles in the upcoming productions of *Gianni Schicchi* and *Suor Angelica*, and graduate student Molly Clementz was selected as a Mosher Young Artist for the opera company. "The opportunities inherent in such an initiative have profound ramifications for the training of our singers as well as positive effects in the recruitment and retention of high-quality students to our program," according to Dr. Linda Di Fiore, Head of the Voice Area at UCSB.

Please join the UCSB Opera Theatre in its presentation of "Aspects of Love," January 28-30 at 7:30 p.m., and January 31 at 3 p.m. in Karl Geiringer Hall on the UCSB campus. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for non-UCSB students with ID, \$5 for UCSB students with ID, and free for children under 12 years of age. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.music.ucsb.edu](http://www.music.ucsb.edu) or by phone at (805) 893-2064.

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For additional information, photos, or to request an interview with an artist, please contact Adriane Hill at [ahill@music.ucsb.edu](mailto:ahill@music.ucsb.edu) or (805) 893-3230. To sign up for the Department of Music's newsletter, please [click here](#). Follow the Department of Music on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).