

UCSB DEPARTMENT *of* MUSIC

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UCSB OPERA THEATRE PRESENTS MOZART'S "THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO"

UCSB's award-winning opera program presents Mozart's timeless tale of love and forgiveness

(SANTA BARBARA, CA) January 16, 2018—UCSB's award-winning Opera Theatre program will present Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's beloved opera buffa, *Le Nozze di Figaro* (The Marriage of Figaro), on Thursday, February 8 and Saturday, February 10, 2018, with both performances taking place at 7:30 p.m. in Lotte Lehmann Concert Hall. Opera Santa Barbara's General and Artistic Director, Kostis Protopapas, will conduct the production, with Isabel Bayrakdarian (UCSB Assistant Professor of Voice) serving as Stage Director and Benjamin Brecher (UCSB Professor of Voice) serving as Music Director and Producer. The opera will feature many of the program's top graduate students, including Tyler Reece as Count Almaviva, Julie Davies as Countess Almaviva, Naomi Merer as Susanna, Byron Mayes as Figaro, and Kelly Newberry as Cherubino.

Isabel Bayrakdarian, who has performed this opera on many of the world's greatest stages, has worked closely with the students in preparation for the production. "It's an incredible honor for me to direct this masterpiece with such a stellar cast of student singers and instrumentalists, and supported by an incredible creative team. Opera is a very unique venture which manages to bring together the entire Performance Area of the Music Department in a symbiotic cross-departmental collaboration, offering a one-of-a-kind learning experience for all the students."

Composed in 1786 and premiered that same year at the Burgtheater in Vienna, the four act opera buffa weaves a charming narrative of love and forgiveness, while playing off of ever-present tensions among the social classes and between the sexes. Lorenzo Da Ponte's Italian libretto continues the tale of Gioachino Rossini's *The Barber of Seville*, in which Figaro helped Count Almaviva win over Rosina, who ultimately became the Countess Almaviva. In *The Marriage of Figaro*, Figaro is now working as the Count's valet, and is set to marry the Countess' maid, Susanna. Count Almaviva has also fallen for Susanna, and challenges Figaro for her affection. After learning of her husband's intentions, Countess

Almaviva quickly becomes embroiled in the drama. The resulting chaos makes for an entertaining experience for all.

Audience members will have the unique opportunity to see the prequel to *The Marriage of Figaro* story, *The Barber of Seville*, in the same season thanks to Opera Santa Barbara. Mr. Protopapas will conduct OSB's production of *The Barber of Seville* on Friday, March 2, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, March 4, 2018 at 2:30 p.m. Tickets and further information can be found at www.operasb.org/events/event/barber_2018/

Creative Team

Conductor | Kostis Protopapas
Stage Director | Isabel Bayrakdarian
Music Director and Producer | Benjamin Brecher
Production Manager | Anthony Garcia
Stage Manager | Cari Frantz
Assistant Stage Manager | Kathryn Carlson
Set Designer/Builder | Rick Adamson
Lighting Designer | Ben Crop
Board Operator/Master Electrician | Tiffany Rizzo-Weaver
Costume Designer | Lise Lange
Student Costume Assistant | Janet Carrasco
Hair and Make-up Designer | Danielle White

Cast

Count Almaviva | Tyler Reece
Countess Almaviva | Julie Davies
Susanna | Naomi Merer
Figaro | Byron Mayes
Cherubino | Kelly Newberry
Marcellina | Molly Clementz
Don Curzio/Basilio | Zach Mendez
Barbarina | Carol Tsai
Antonio | Byron Wu
Bartolo | Scott Levin
Chorus | Alexa Lopez, Alexandria Jackson, Terra Giddens, Cloe Gentile
Rehearsal Pianist | Jared Eben

Performance Dates and Times

[Thursday, February 8, 2018 | 7:30 p.m. | Lotte Lehmann Concert Hall](#)

[Saturday, February 10, 2018 | 7:30 p.m. | Lotte Lehmann Concert Hall](#)

Tickets

General (\$20), non-UCSB students with ID (\$10), UCSB students with ID (\$5), children under 12 (FREE). Tickets may be purchased at the door, at the Associated Students Ticket Office window (UCEN Room 1535, across from Corwin Pavilion), online at the link below music.ucsb.edu/news/purchase-tickets, or by calling the Associated Students Ticket Office at **(805) 893-2064**. Youth tickets may be reserved in advance by visiting the Associated Students Ticket Office window on the UCSB campus (UCEN Room 1535, across from Corwin Pavilion) or by contacting the Associated Students Ticket Office at ticketoffice@as.ucsb.edu or **(805) 893-2064**.

Directions and Parking Information: music.ucsb.edu/about/maps

About the UC Santa Barbara Department of Music

From an institution that began life dedicated to training the next generation of music educators, to what is now a fully established research and professional graduate program, graduates of the UC Santa Barbara Department of Music have distinguished themselves both nationally and internationally. Many have gone on to teaching, either privately or in outstanding secondary school positions, and in more recent years, graduates have joined the faculties of major colleges and universities in the United States and abroad. A number have become widely recognized and published scholars; some are now prize-winning and frequently performed composers, while others are writing for television and film. Alumni are also establishing fine reputations as conductors of orchestras, opera, and choruses. Graduates of the instrumental programs have gone on to solo and orchestral careers with leading orchestras, and graduates of the voice program can be heard in opera companies around the world.

With over 200 events presented annually, the UC Santa Barbara Department of Music offers something for every music lover. The department boasts 26 unique performing ensembles, each with a quarterly concert calendar. Chamber music, large ensembles, opera, contemporary groups, world music, and jazz ensembles make up the department's rich performance calendar, along with lectures, master classes, and presentations from the ethnomusicology, musicology, theory, and composition programs. For a complete listing of performances and lectures for the quarter, please visit the UC Santa Barbara Department of Music website, at music.ucsb.edu.

For additional information, photos, or to request an interview with an artist, please contact Adriane Hill at adrianehill@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](#).

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