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PENSACOLA OPERA ANNOUNCES 29TH SEASON PRODUCTIONS

Pensacola Opera is proud to announce its 29th Season productions, Puccini's *Madama Butterfly* and Verdi's *Rigoletto*. Performances will be held at the historic Saenger Theatre in downtown Pensacola and will feature nationally-acclaimed opera singers and full sets and costumes.

About *Madama Butterfly* by Giacomo Puccini:

One of the world's most beloved operas returns to the Pensacola Opera stage with Puccini's tragic opera, *Madama Butterfly*. Set in Japan in the early 20th Century, the story follows the innocent Cio-Cio San (Butterfly) who catches the eye of a caddish, young American Naval officer. The tragedy unfolds when the two are wed, only for Butterfly to be abandoned and dishonored. For more than a century, audiences have been thrilled by Puccini's evocative music and touched by the lovely Butterfly, who gives up everything for love.

Conducted by: Jerome Shannon

Directed by: Kyle Marrero

Casting includes: Inna Dukach as Cio-Cio San, Dinyar Vinai as Pinkerton, Corey McKern as Sharpless, and Elise Quagliata as Suzuki

Performances will be January 20 at 7:30 p.m. and January 22 at 2:00 p.m., 2012.

About *Rigoletto* by Giuseppe Verdi:

In the court of the Duke of Mantua, the hunchback court jester Rigoletto is about to face a father's worst nightmare - his innocent, loving daughter Gilda has become the latest conquest of the lecherous Duke. Verdi's powerful operatic treatment of Victor Hugo's classic "Le roi s'amuse" explores the dark side within us all. It is a tour de force of contrasts - from scenes of magnificence and light to scenes of darkness and squalor, from pure love to corrupt love, and from selfish passion to chaste self-sacrifice.

Conducted by: Peter Rubardt

Directed by: A. Scott Parry

Casting includes: Todd Thomas as Rigoletto, Jane Redding as Gilda and Chad A. Johnson as the Duke

Performances will be March 9 at 7:30 p.m. and March 11 at 2:00 p.m., 2012

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Ticket Information

Season tickets are on sale now and range from \$40-\$160. Purchase by calling the Pensacola Opera Center at (850) 433-6737 or by downloading a ticket order form at www.pensacolaopera.com .

Single tickets go on sale **August 1, 2011** and can be purchased at the Pensacola Opera box office, Saenger Theatre box office or by visiting www.ticketmaster.com.

The Pensacola Opera Center office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

For more information on these and other upcoming events, visit the Opera's website at www.pensacolaopera.com.

The mission of Pensacola Opera is to enrich the culture of Northwest Florida by producing professional opera performances, educational programs and other opera-related community events for people of all ages, interests and backgrounds.