Teatro Lirico D’Europa Brings 'Barber' to Cohan Center Feb. 28

SAN LUIS OBISPO – The “Figaro Aria” is only one of the highlights audiences will enjoy as Teatro Lirico D’Europa returns to San Luis Obispo with the comic opera, “The Barber of Seville.”

It’s time once again for young love, old fools, and happy endings as Cal Poly Arts presents Rossini’s bawdy farce on Tuesday, February 28, at 8 p.m. in the Christopher Cohan Center. At the center of the comic libretto is opera’s most adorable central character: the wily, lovable baritone barber who can arrange anything...for a price.

The production will be sung in Italian, with English supertitles.

"Teatro Lirico D'Europa has delivered yet again…an entertaining evening of quality opera that is colorful, well sung and acted, and as professional as you will likely see anywhere else, here or abroad." (operaonline.us)

"Energy, spirit, and heart!" (Boston Globe)

Teatro Lirico D’Europa was created in 1988 by the late French ballet divo and arts promoter, Yves Josse, and Bulgaria’s celebrated singer, Giorgio Lalov. While Josse booked performances from his Paris office, Lalov created the sets and costumes for the productions and organized the chorus and orchestra in Bulgaria.

The collaboration was a huge success in a very short time, resulting in tours with over 250 performances a season, drawing soloists from a huge reservoir of operatic talent in Bulgaria and central Europe.

From the very beginning, the company established a reputation for delivering traditional, full-scale productions featuring a large orchestra and chorus, as well as seasoned, professional opera singers. The chemistry of the company proved to be very popular with European audiences and critics, with performances in France, Belgium, Switzerland, Spain, Portugal, the Netherlands, and Germany.

"The solo and ensemble singing...was lusty, whole hearted-full throated and honest. Something personal and passionate that is often missing from evenings of opera." (Opera News)

The company has also produced a collection of live CD recordings.

Teatro Lirico D’Europa had completed over 2000 performances worldwide at the time of company co-founder Yves Josse’s passing in 1995. But 1995 also marked a new beginning for Teatro Lirico D’Europa with the birth of Lalov's American-born son, Christian. Lalov then shifted his focus from touring in Europe to touring in the USA with the professional assistance of his wife, Jenny Kelly -- creator of International Classic Artists Management.

This year, Teatro Lirico D’Europa embarks on its 9th U.S. tour.

A pre-concert lecture will be held by Cal Poly Music Department professor Jacalyn Kreitzer, beginning at 7 p.m. in the Philips Recital hall.

Tickets for the performance range from $42 - $54, with student discounts available, and may be purchased at the Performing Arts Ticket Office, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays. To order by phone, call (805) 756-2787; to order by fax: (805) 756-6088. Order on-line at www.pacslo.org.

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