



Jan. 23, 2009

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TICKET SALES: 805/756-2787

Cal Poly Arts Brings Opera Valentine to Performing Arts Center

SAN LUIS OBISPO – ROD GILFRY is one of today's most sought-after and compelling baritones. His artistry is known and appreciated in all the world's music capitals, including Vienna, Paris, London, Munich, Zurich, New York, Chicago, San Francisco, and Los Angeles.

On Thursday, February 12, 2009 at 8 p.m. in the Cohan Center, Cal Poly Arts presents ROD GILFRY's lushly romantic evening, "My Heart is So Full of You" – a celebration of life's important moments, conveyed through the songs of great composers such as George Gershwin, Richard Rodgers, Frank Loesser, as well as a tale or two from classic operas.

In addition to West Coast recitals and concerts, his 2008-09 season includes performing Trouble in Tahiti in concert with the Bayerische Rundfunk in Munich; joining mezzo-soprano Susan Graham for an all-Bernstein concert at Carnegie Hall; performing Elijah with the Orchestre de Paris, and returning to San Diego Opera for performances of Balstrode in Peter Grimes.

Recent engagements include Carmina Burana with the Tonhalle-Orchester in Zurich, under the baton of John Nelson; Danilo in The Merry Widow with Dallas Opera; the title role in Messian's St. François d'Assise with Netherlands Opera, and Falke in Die Fledermaus at Seiji Ozawa's prestigious Saito-Kinen Festival.

With a repertoire of over 40 roles, Gilfry sings music from the Baroque to the contemporary, including pieces that were composed expressly for him.

He received worldwide attention when he created the role of Stanley Kowalski in the 1998 premiere of André Previn's, A Streetcar Named Desire with the San Francisco Opera. In the fall of 2006, he created his fifth world-premiere role as Jack London in the new Libby Larsen/Philip Littell opera, Every Man Jack in Sonoma, California.

In the spring of 2007, he performed the role of De Guiche in Alfano's Cyrano de Bergerac in Valencia, Spain opposite Plácido Domingo, as well as The Merry Widow at Los Angeles Opera.

Additionally last season, Gilfry performed his one-man show, "Rodgers to Rossini," in Stevens Point, Wisconsin and sang the role of Joey in Frank Loesser's musical, The Most Happy Fella, at the Ravinia Festival with the Chicago Symphony.

Other recent notable engagements include Lionel in the San Francisco Opera production of Tchaikovsky's Joan of Arc, Prospero in the American premiere of Thomas Ades' The Tempest at the Santa Fe Opera, and Nathan in the American premiere of Nicholas Maw's Sophie's Choice in Washington D.C. – a role he created at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden in 2002.

Gilfry has been recognized as a Distinguished Alumnus of both Cal State Fullerton, where he earned a Bachelor's

degree in 1981, and the University of Southern California, where he earned a Master's degree in Vocal Performance in 1983.

A pre-concert lecture by Cal Poly Music Dept. professor Jacalyn Kreitzer will be held in the Performing Arts Center's Gallery level lobby at 7 pm.

Student and adult tickets for the performance range from \$25 to \$38 and may be purchased at the Performing Arts Center 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.

24-hour on-line ordering at www.calpolyarts.org.

The evening concert is sponsored by Aaron Graves and Adam Graves.

SPECIAL NOTE:

Rod Gilfry will be holding a special Master Class at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center Pavilion on Friday, February 13, 2009.

This free Master Class event is open to the public.

For more information on all Cal Poly Arts events, including audio and video samples, please visit www.calpolyarts.org.

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