



***Livermore Valley Opera Presents Free OperaLIVE! Events Feb. 12; Mar. 4
Outreach Program to Preview March Production of “Tosca”***

LIVERMORE, Calif – Continuing with its commitment of making opera more accessible to the community, Livermore Valley Opera will showcase talented opera singers who will appear in the March production of Puccini’s “Tosca” in two OperaLIVE! events.

Details are as follows:

OperaLIVE! at the Pleasanton Public Library

- Sunday, February 12, 2pm – 3:00 p.m.

OperaLIVE! at the Livermore Public Library

- Sunday, March 4, 2pm – 3:00 p.m.

“OperaLIVE! events are free, public events that are all about bringing opera to the community so that people who might not otherwise have the opportunity can experience the music and drama in an intimate public setting,” says LVO Executive Director Elizabeth Wells. “We hope that the experience will encourage people to seek out other opera and musical opportunities.”

Gary Sears, LVO’s Outreach Coordinator who manages OperaLIVE! has seen the popularity of the free events grow. “We present the library performances prior to each opera production, and over the years I’ve seen attendance expand. It’s one of many outreach programs LVO offers which includes programs and vocal coaching at Tri-valley middle and high schools.

The one-hour performances will feature professional opera singers performing arias from *Tosca* as well as those from other well-known operas. **Soprano and Metropolitan Opera artist Marie Plette**, who will sing the title role of *Tosca* in the Bankhead Theater production, will perform at the Pleasanton Library on February 12. **Tenor David Gustafson** who will sing the part of Cavaradossi, *Tosca*’s lover, will perform at both the February 12 and March 4th event.

“The singers will perform selections from Puccini’s classic opera as well as selected arias. Their performance will give listeners a taste of the wonderful talent that they will hear at the Bankhead Theater when ‘*Tosca*’ opens March 10,” adds Sears.

A question and answer period follows immediately after the performance. “The singers are always more than happy to answer questions about opera, what it’s like to sing opera and be on stage,” says Sears. “It’s a great opportunity to learn about this passionate and diverse art form.”

For more details on the full production of *Tosca* and the library preview programs, please visit www.livermorevalleyopera.com

About LVO

Livermore Valley Opera was founded in 1992, and presents fully-staged operas in the spring and fall at the Bankhead Theater. The theater is located in Livermore in the Tri-Valley area, just 45

miles east of San Francisco. The Bankhead Theatre features excellent lines of sight and acoustics, helping LVO attract talented singers and stage directors.

LVO combines the talents of professional musicians, stage directors, principal singers, and designers with the dedication and practical abilities of volunteers filling such critical roles as board members, chorus, stage crew, and set builders to reach our artistic goals.

Livermore Valley Opera is a 501(c)3 non-profit charitable organization.