



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
Communications Department

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Central Library Celebrates 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Opera Insights Series**

**SAN DIEGO** – On the evening of October 30, 1955, the new Central Library at 820 E. Street hosted an opera preview program of Puccini's *Tosca*. Thus began a decades-long, free series that has introduced numerous San Diegans to opera. In addition to free preview presentations of the San Diego Opera's 2015-16 season (*Tosca*; *Madama Butterfly*; *Great Scott*: lecture schedule to be announced this fall), the San Diego Central Library @ Joan A Irwin Jacobs Common is pleased to partner with the San Diego Opera and its *Community Conversations* series to present two special events as part of the Library's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Opera Insights season.

**Community Conversation: A Vision for San Diego Opera**

**Thursday, September 10, 2015 at 7 p.m.**

Nicolas Reveles will engage new General Director of San Diego Opera, David Bennett, in a public "interview" about his background as well as his special vision for the future of the company. Come discover the possibilities of production and community engagement in this free-wheeling discussion.

**Community Conversation: Tosca, 115 Years of Great Performances**

**Thursday, October 29, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.**

San Diego Opera's two premiere lecturers, Ron Shaheen and Nicolas Reveles, will discuss the history of singers who have proven distinctive in their interpretations of the three main roles: *Tosca*, Cavaradossi and Baron Scarpia. Commemorating the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of opera lectures at the Central Library, this will be a special multimedia presentation of some of the world's greatest singers.

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Both events are free; however, RSVPs are encouraged as seating is limited at <https://www.sdopera.com/c2>.

### **About the Opera Insights Series**

The Opera Insights Series prepares opera goers with enjoyable, informative, and engaging sessions that integrate historical and cultural background, music analysis, plot synopsis, and CD and DVD selections. The lectures will be held at the San Diego Central Library in the Neil Morgan Auditorium, located at 330 Park Boulevard, in downtown San Diego. Lectures on San Diego Opera's upcoming operas will begin in February 2016 (dates to be determined). These presentations will be delivered by Dr. Ron Shaheen, an adjunct associate professor with a specialization in music history and vocal music at the University of San Diego.

For more information about the presentations, call the Central Library at 619-236-5800 or visit the Library's website at [www.sandiegolibrary.org](http://www.sandiegolibrary.org). For more information about the productions and other San Diego Opera outreach activities, visit the San Diego Opera's website at [www.sdopera.com](http://www.sdopera.com).

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