

# Livermore Valley Opera NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Photo attached

## ***Livermore Valley Opera's Glamorous Benefit Event The Italian Affair, February 11***

LIVERMORE, CALIF. – Be transported into an Italian dream for one night of glamour, fun and drama at Livermore Valley Opera's *The Italian Affair*. LVO's major benefit event will celebrate its 31<sup>st</sup> season and the March performances of Puccini's opera *TOSCA*. It's a glamorous evening that promises music and entertainment in the beautiful Club at Ruby Hill in Pleasanton. This magical evening begins with a sparkling wine reception, tasty hors d'oeuvres, games of chance and a musical concert featuring the three principal artists of *Tosca*. Purple and gold attire is encouraged for the glamorous night with black tie as optional. Details are as follows:

***The Italian Affair***

Saturday, February 11th, 2023

4:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

The Club at Ruby Hill

2400 Ruby Hill Drive

Pleasanton, California

"This is the first benefit event we've been able to host in two years," says Keith Sawyer, LVO Board President. "Due to COVID we had to cancel our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary benefit event, so we are very excited about all the activities we have planned for our guests on February 11."

**Event Highlights**

*Musical performance by the stars of TOSCA*

Principal singers soprano Ann Toomey, tenor Alex Boyer, and baritone Aleksey Bogdanov will perform selections from the opera and other opera favorites, accompanied by LVO's Conductor and Music Director Alexander Katsman.

*A Bit of Shakespeare*

SPARC Theater (formally Livermore Shakespeare Festival) will present scenes from one of Shakespeare's best loved Italian plays, *Much Ado About Nothing*. Equity Association

actors Jennifer Le Blanc and Ryan Tasker will bring Beatrice and Benedick to The Italian Affair for the guests' entertainment.

### *Dinner*

A delicious three-course dinner will be accompanied with the wines from the local Livermore Valley wineries of Cuda Ridge Winery, McGrail Vineyards, Occasio Winery and Wood Family Vineyards.

### *Games of Chance*

Guests are invited to participate in games of chance for fabulous prizes. Roll doubles in "Diva's Dice" for a chance to win a gold gondola charm and necklace (valued at \$,1000) donated by Caratti Jewelers of Livermore and "Hidden Wine Gems" where guests can take a chance of selecting from beautifully decorated disguised bottles of premium wines valued \$45, with an occasional extraordinary wine mixed into the treasure hunt.

### *Ruby Jewelry Raffle*

Only 52 chances will be sold for this one of a kind jewelry valued at \$6,643. Magnificent Chatham Ruby and Diamond Pendant and Earring Set in white gold created by Lance Cavalieri Jewelers of Livermore. Chances can be purchased online at LVOpera.com. Winner need not be present to win.

### *Live Auction*

Charming and funny Frank Hanna, everyone's' favorite auctioneer will entertain guests with our exciting auction of travel packages and adventures, and finally Fund-a-Need for the beautiful costumes of TOSCA.

### **Tickets**

Tickets may be purchased at LVOpera.com with a selection of reserved table seating options such as Dine with a Diva or Divo. Deadline for purchasing tickets is Feb. 10.

### **About LVO**

Livermore Valley Opera was founded in 1992, and presents fully-staged operas at Livermore's Bankhead Theater in the spring and fall. This gem of a theater features excellent lines of sight and acoustics, helping the opera to attract talented singers and stage directors for their performances.

LVO's Artistic Director Erie Mills was awarded the 2022 Distinguished Artist of The American Prize in recognition of an outstanding career which evidences "sustained artistic excellence." In 2021, LVO was named the winner of The American Prize in the Professional Opera division for its March 2020 double-bill performances of Zemlinsky's *A Florentine Tragedy* and Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi*. The American Prize is the nation's most comprehensive series of non-profit competitions in the musical and theater arts.

LVO's mission is to enrich the community by producing world class operas and fostering the careers of professional opera singers. LVO encourages a wider appreciation of opera and the associated arts through community outreach and educational programs for youth in schools.

LVO is a professional opera company and a 501(c) 3 non-profit charitable arts organization. For more information, visit LVOpera.com.

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