



NEWS RELEASE

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Photos attached

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LIVERMORE VALLEY OPERA PRESENTS *TOSCA* *Drama, Passion and Romance Unfold on Stage in this Iconic Opera*

LIVERMORE, CALIF. – The Tri-Valley’s own professional opera company, Livermore Valley Opera (LVO), celebrating its 31st season will present Puccini’s dramatic *TOSCA*, with some of opera’s most iconic music, performed by an outstanding professional cast. It opens March 4 at the Bankhead Theater, the first of four performances.

Giacomo Puccini’s tour de force tells a tragic story of tempestuous opera singer Floria Tosca fighting to save her lover Cavaradossi from the sadistic police chief Scarpia. This classic tale, set in 19th century Rome and barely spanning 24 hours, is replete with love, jealousy, betrayal, torture and murder that will grip audiences with its intense drama, passionate arias, and unforgettable melodies.

Stage director Bruce Donnell will direct a powerful and talented principal cast who have thrilled LVO audiences over the years: soprano **Ann Toomey** as Tosca, tenor **Alex Boyer** as Cavaradossi, and bass-baritone **Aleksey Bogdanov** as the evil Scarpia. “This cast is excellent,” says Erie Mills, LVO’s Artistic Director. “I love all the voices! The LVO audiences will love them, too!”

Of soprano Ann Toomey, *Naples Daily News* proclaimed, “...is a brilliant Floria Tosca...[whose] rich voice projects power that doesn't disintegrate under adversity...” Of tenor Alex Boyer, *The Honolulu Star-Advertiser* said "Alex Boyer as Cavaradossi is a sheer delight, the perfect partner for Tosca and contrast for Scarpia. His voice’s naturally high placement and warm clarity make Boyer a great heroic tenor.”

Making his debut with LVO is Ukrainian-born bass-baritone **Aleksey Bogdanov** of whom *Opera Today* said, “As Scarpia, Aleksey Bogdanov sang with resounding tones that carried through the ‘Te Deum’s’ heavy orchestration.” *The Barre Montpellier Times Argus* stated, “... a stellar villain in bass-baritone Aleksey Bogdanov with both the physical and vocal presence to terrorize. Bogdanov did this, singing beautifully, and with

grandeur.” The performances will be expertly accompanied by orchestra, conducted by LVO’s maestro, Alex Katsman. Sung in Italian with English supertitles.

“Puccini's immortal opera TOSCA is a timeless tale of love, lust, and politics,” adds Mills. “It's a great opera for first-time guests or life-long opera fans, with its story of lovers tormented by a fabulous villain and incredible music including one of the best arias in opera.”

Details and other special events are as follows:

TOSCA by Giacomo Puccini

- March 4, 2023; 7:30pm, Opening night
- March 5, 2023; 2pm
- March 11, 2023; 7:30pm
- March 12, 2023 2pm
- Opening Night Dinner at Uncle Yu’s at the Vineyard, 4:00pm. (Separate ticket purchase required.)

Performance & Box Office Location:

Bankhead Theater

2400 First Street, Livermore, CA 94550

Bankhead Ticket Office: 925-373-6800

Hours: Wednesday through Saturday, 12 p.m. – 6 p.m

Ticket Pricing

Adults \$20-\$98. Tickets can be purchased through the LVO website at www.LVOpera.com.

Special ticket pricing: \$20 for age 20 and younger; \$40 for age 40-20.

Special Events

Opening Night Dinner at Uncle’s Yu’s at the Vineyard, March 4

Opening Night Dinner event at Uncle Yu's at the Vineyard is conveniently located one-half block from the Bankhead Theater. Tickets are \$95, and are available through Bankhead Theater box office. Opera performance tickets are a separate purchase.

The welcome reception with wine and appetizers begins at 4:00pm and dinner seating at 4:30 pm. All dishes will be accompanied by wine provided by the event sponsor **Steven Kent Winery**.

Pre-opera talk

Included in the ticket price are pre-opera talks held one hour prior to curtain time. LVO’s traditional artist’s reception is held in the lobby immediately following each performance.

2nd Saturday Casual and Pre-Opera Meet Up Event March 11

LVO introduces a new event for the March 11 performance called **2nd Saturday Casual** when you can dress up, or dress down in your favorite jeans.

Before the performance, stop by **The Last Word** for a pre-opera meetup and drinks from 5:30-7 p.m., located on the theater square just steps from the Bankhead ticket office. Present your TOSCA ticket at the door for your Tosca signature cocktail. The first one is on LVO. Address is 2470 First St. #100.

About LVO

Livermore Valley Opera, founded in 1992, 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. 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 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." 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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