



**SAN FRANCISCO OPERA PRESENTS *THE ELIXIR OF LOVE FOR FAMILIES*  
NOVEMBER 8 and 15 AT THE WAR MEMORIAL OPERA HOUSE**

**MATINEE PERFORMANCES DESIGNED ESPECIALLY FOR FAMILIES**

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW AT SPECIAL FAMILY PRICES  
CONTACT 415.864.3330 OR [WWW.SFOPERA.COM](http://WWW.SFOPERA.COM)**

SAN FRANCISCO (October 24, 2008) – San Francisco Opera presents two family performances of Gaetano Donizetti’s heartwarming opera, *The Elixir of Love*, on Saturday, November 8 and Saturday, November 15 at 12:30 p.m. at the War Memorial Opera House. Condensed into two hours with one 20-minute intermission, *The Elixir of Love for Families* is a specially designed production for parents and children alike.

A perfect introduction to the magic of opera, *The Elixir of Love for Families* is a charming tale sure to be entertaining for all ages. This whimsical production of Donizetti’s opera, directed by former Adler Fellow Jose Maria Condemi, takes place in the delightful setting of a Napa Valley county fair in 1915 complete with leatherhead football players and a Model-T truck. Using a translation by Donald Pippen, this production will be sung in English with English supertitles. The tale of shy Nemorino winning the heart of the beautiful Adina—with the help of a "love potion"—is a celebration of innocence and love in a simpler time.

In a showcase of San Francisco Opera Center talent, the young, energetic cast of *The Elixir of Love for Families* is entirely comprised of current and former Adler Fellows. Tenor Alek Shrader

stars as the bashful, love-struck Nemorino opposite soprano Ji Young Yang, the beautiful yet coy Adina —the object of Nemorino’s affection. Baritone Eugene Brancoveanu, who earned rave reviews last May for his role as The Pilot in San Francisco Opera’s *The Little Prince*, is the dashing Sergeant Belcore. The rest of the cast includes baritone Dale Travis as Dulcamara, the quack doctor and travelling salesman who sells Nemorino his magic elixir, and soprano Nikki Einfeld as Adina’s friend and chatty town gossip, Giannetta. Conductor Giuseppe Finzi, who will return to San Francisco Opera to conduct two performance of *La Bohème* in December, makes his San Francisco Opera debut with this production.

The opera will be performed in English with English supertitles. *The Elixir of Love for Families* is recommended for families with children aged six and older.

### **Tickets and Information**

Tickets for *The Elixir of Love for Families* are priced from \$20 to \$80 for adults, and \$10 to \$40 for children and students age 18 and under. Tickets may be purchased from the San Francisco Opera Box Office either in person or by phone at 415.864.3330. For further information, visit [www.sfopera.com](http://www.sfopera.com).

The War Memorial Opera House is located at 301 Van Ness Avenue, within walking distance of the Civic Center BART station and near numerous bus lines, including the 5, 21, 47, 49, and the F Market Street. For further public transportation information, visit [www.bart.gov](http://www.bart.gov) and [www.sfmuni.com](http://www.sfmuni.com).

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## Production Information

\* San Francisco Opera Debut

†Current San Francisco Opera Adler Fellow

**SPECIAL FAMILY PRESENTATION**  
***THE ELIXIR OF LOVE FOR FAMILIES***  
by Gaetano Donizetti

**November 8<sup>•</sup>** (12:30 p.m.), **15<sup>•</sup>** (12:30 p.m.), **2008**  
**War Memorial Opera House**

**Adapted from a co-production with Opera Colorado,  
Boston Lyric Opera, Pittsburgh Opera, Michigan Opera  
Theater and Fort Worth Opera**

Libretto by Felice Romani  
English translation by Donald Pippin, Abridged version by Kip Cranna  
Approximate running time: 2 hours  
Sung in English with English supertitles

**Cast:**

*Adina*  
*Nemorino*  
*Belcore*  
*Dulcamara*  
*Giannetta*

**Ji Young Yang†**  
**Alek Shrader†**  
**Eugene Brancoveanu**  
**Dale Travis**  
**Nikki Einfeld**

**Production Team:**

*Conductor*  
*Director*  
*Set Designer*  
*Costume Designer*  
*Lighting Designer*

**Giuseppe Finzi**  
**Jose Maria Condemi**  
**Allen Moyer**  
**Martin Pakledinaz\***  
**Paul Palazzo\***

• OperaVision Performance. San Francisco Opera introduced OperaVision in 2007 as an innovative way to give balcony audiences a better view of the stage. OperaVision screens, hung from the ceiling of the balcony section, provide close-up and mid-range ensemble shots in high-definition video. Supertitles are shown at the bottom of each screen.

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For further press information, please visit [www.sfopera.com/press](http://www.sfopera.com/press) or contact:

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