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**SAN FRANCISCO CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC OPERA THEATRE PRESENTS
*L'EGISTO***

Professionally staged production of Francesco Cavalli's Baroque Opera

SAN FRANCISCO, February 28, 2008: The San Francisco Conservatory of Music Opera Theatre presents Francesco Cavalli's *L'Egisto*, April 10-13, 2008 at Fort Mason Center's Cowell Theater. Sung in Italian with English supertitles, performances are Thursday-Saturday, April 10-12, at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, April 13, at 2:00 p.m.

True love strays when gods are at play...

Francesco Cavalli's *L'Egisto* was wildly popular when it premiered in 1643, however was seldom performed prior to its recent revival. *L'Egisto* reveals an enchanted world of mythological and mortal characters and their sometimes comical, sometimes serious, always emotional interactions. Come see Apollo and Venus toy with the lives and affections of heroic mortals in this feisty, emotionally-charged Baroque opera.

The production is directed by Conservatory Opera Theatre Director **Richard Harrell**, former director of the San Francisco Opera Center, The Juilliard Opera Center and artistic advisor for the Opera Training Program of the New National Theatre in Tokyo. A reduced Baroque orchestra is conducted by **Christopher Larkin**, former Music Director of the New York City Opera and regular guest conductor with operas in Santa Fe, Portland and Fort Worth. Musical direction is by **Kathryn Cathcart**, longtime music director of the Conservatory Opera Theatre and associate of the San Francisco Opera and Opera Center. Set design is by **Dean Shibuya**, costume design by **Kristi Johnson**, and choreography by **Heather Carolo**, Assistant Director of the Conservatory Opera Program.

(more)

SFCM Opera Theatre Presents *L'Egisto*

SFCM students are double cast in the principal roles:

Egisto:	Eleazar Rodriguez	Pedro Betancourt
Clori:	Shaeny Johnson	Katie Gerber
Apollo:	Alvin Tan	Jefferson Taylor
Climene:	Evgenia Chaverdova	Jennifer Panara
Lidio:	Lauren Groff	Elana Cowen

An integral part of the Conservatory's collegiate program, Opera Theatre draws exceptionally talented young singers from around the world and provides them with advanced training in voice, acting, stage movement and other essentials of operatic craft. Recent operas have included *Marriage of Figaro*, *Cendrillon*, *Gianni Schicchi*, *The Old Maid and The Thief*, *The Coronation of Poppea*, *Albert Herring*, *Tales of Hoffman* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Recognized as one of the premier music schools in the world, the San Francisco Conservatory of Music offers music instruction to more than 1,200 students annually through its Collegiate, Preparatory and Adult Extension divisions and summer programs, and its students and faculty present more than 1,500 public performances each year. In September 2006, the Conservatory relocated to its spectacular new teaching, performance, rehearsal and practice facility at 50 Oak Street in San Francisco's Civic Center, providing students, faculty and the Bay Area community with access to world-class musical resources in the heart of San Francisco's performing arts community. For more information, please visit www.sfcm.edu.

EVENT INFORMATION:

WHAT: San Francisco Conservatory of Music Opera Theater
Richard Harrell, Director; Christopher Larkin, Guest Conductor

PROGRAM: Francesco Cavalli's *L'Egisto* (sung in Italian with English supertitles)

WHEN: April 10-12, 7:30 p.m.; April 13, 2:00 p.m.

WHERE: Cowell Theater, Fort Mason Center

TICKETS: \$20 general admission
\$17 *Friends of Fort Mason*
\$15 students, seniors and *Friends of the Conservatory*.

INFO: Call 415.345.7575 to order tickets. For more information visit www.sfcm.edu.
Photos available in high resolution upon request.