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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
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**CONSERVATORY OPERA THEATER PRESENTS**  
**STRAVINSKY'S *THE RAKE'S PROGRESS***

The San Francisco Conservatory of Music's Conservatory Opera Theatre presents *The Rake's Progress* by Igor Stravinsky, April 8-11, 2010, at Fort Mason Center's Cowell Theater. Performances are Thursday-Saturday, April 8-10, at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, April 11, at 2:00 p.m. The production is sung in English.

Inspired by a series of 18th-century paintings by William Hogarth, Stravinsky's opera depicts the tumultuous journey of Tom Rakewell, who deserts his beloved Anne Trulove for the temptations of material happiness, guided by the malevolent Nick Shadow as the devil in disguise. The story's well-known cautionary aphorism, "For idle hands and hearts and minds the Devil finds a work to do," blends with more complicated themes of love, morality and redemption in Stravinsky's neo-classical masterpiece. With Stravinsky's innovative score and a sophisticated libretto by W.H. Auden and Chester Kallman, *The Rake's Progress* has become a masterpiece of twentieth-century opera.

The production is directed by Conservatory Opera Program director Richard Harrell, an internationally recognized leader in opera training and production who has previously directed Juilliard Opera, the San Francisco Opera Center (including the Merola Opera Program) and the New National Theatre in Tokyo. Conducting the orchestra is Bruno Ferrandis, music director and conductor of the Santa Rosa Symphony.

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

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training in voice, acting, stage movement and other essentials of operatic craft. Recent operas have included *Gianni Schicchi*, *The Old Maid and The Thief*, *The Coronation of Poppea*, *Albert Herring*, *The Tales of Hoffmann*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *L'Egisto* and *Orpheus in the Underworld*.

### **PRODUCTION INFORMATION:**

**WHO:** Conservatory Opera Theatre, San Francisco Conservatory of Music  
**WHAT:** Igor Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress* (sung in English)  
**WHEN:** April 8-10, 7:30 p.m.; April 11, 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 or visit [www.sfcm.edu](http://www.sfcm.edu).

*Director:* **Richard Harrell**, former director, San Francisco and Juilliard Opera Centers  
*Guest Conductor:* **Bruno Ferrandis**, Music Director, Santa Rosa Symphony  
*Music Director:* **Kathryn Cathcart**, associate of the San Francisco Opera and Opera Center  
*Choreographer:* **Michael Mohammed**, stage director/choreographer, Conservatory Opera Program

San Francisco Conservatory of Music students are double cast in the principal roles:

<i>Tom Rakewell:</i>	<b>David Heilman</b>	<b>Eleazar Rodriguez</b>
<i>Anne Trulove:</i>	<b>Angela Jarosz</b>	<b>Sonja Krenek</b>
<i>Nick Shadow:</i>	<b>Cole Grisson</b>	<b>Robert Stafford</b>
<i>Baba the Turk:</i>	<b>Melissa Hight</b>	<b>Kate Allen</b>
<i>Mother Goose:</i>	<b>Molly Mahoney</b>	<b>Evgenia Chaverdova</b>
<i>Father Trulove:</i>	<b>Nathan Condrat</b>	<b>James McGoff</b>
<i>Sellem:</i>	<b>Sergio Gonzalez</b>	<b>Michael Desnoyers</b>
<i>Jailer:</i>	<b>Daniel Epstein</b>	<b>Rolfe Daus</b>

### **About San Francisco Conservatory of Music:**

Founded in 1917, the San Francisco Conservatory of Music is the oldest conservatory in the American West and has earned an international reputation for producing musicians of the highest caliber. Notable alumni include Yehudi Menuhin, Isaac Stern, Jeffrey Kahane and Aaron Jay Kernis, among others. The Conservatory offers its more than 400 collegiate and graduate students fully accredited Bachelor's and Master's degree programs in composition and instrumental and vocal performance. Its Preparatory Division provides exceptionally high standards of musical excellence and personal attention to more than 550 younger students. The Conservatory's faculty and students give more than 400 public performances each year, many of which are offered to the public at no charge. Formerly located at 19th Avenue and Ortega Street in San Francisco's Sunset District, the Conservatory moved to its new home in the heart of San Francisco's Civic Center in 2006. The new school is an architectural and acoustical masterwork for the Conservatory's second century. Its Caroline H. Hume Concert Hall was lauded by the *New York Times* as the "most enticing classical-music setting" in the San Francisco Bay Area. For more information, visit [www.sfcm.edu](http://www.sfcm.edu).