

**PRESS CONTACTS**Gabriel Sakakeeny 415.503.6265, [gsakakeeny@sfc.edu](mailto:gsakakeeny@sfc.edu)Terry Fiala 415.503.6211, [tfiala@sfc.edu](mailto:tfiala@sfc.edu)**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****New production of Offenbach's "*Orpheus in the Underworld*"  
is set in San Francisco's Summer of Love****SAN FRANCISCO, March 20, 2009**

The San Francisco Conservatory of Music Opera Theatre presents a silly, sexy, psychedelic, San Francisco twist on Jacques Offenbach's *Orpheus in the Underworld*, April 2-5, 2009 at Fort Mason Center's Cowell Theater. Sung in English with English supertitles, performances are Thursday-Saturday, April 2-4, at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, April 5, at 2:00 p.m.

**Orpheus and Eurydice in San Francisco's Summer of Love**

A delightful spoof on Gluck's *Orphée et Eurydice*, set in 1960s San Francisco. Orpheus and Eurydice are a dysfunctional married couple, both of whom are having extra-marital affairs – which is completely unacceptable to the character of Public Opinion. In act one, set in Golden Gate Park: Pluto, god of the underworld, disguises himself as a hippie and sweeps his lover, Eurydice, off to Hades, much to her delight. Act two, set on the stage of the War Memorial Opera House: Jupiter and the other gods, consumed with boredom, decide to investigate the exciting underworld. Acts three and four take place in the underworld – the Haight Ashbury district: Much frivolity ensues, while Orpheus, Public Opinion and their allies attempt to sort things out.

Director: **Richard Harrell**, former director, San Francisco and Juilliard Opera CentersGuest Conductor: **Bruno Ferrandis**, Music Director, Santa Rosa SymphonyMusic Director: **Kathryn Cathcart**, associate of the San Francisco Opera and Opera CenterAssistant Music Director: **Darryl Cooper**, assistant music director, Conservatory Opera ProgramChoreographer: **Michael Mohammed**, stage director/choreographer, Conservatory Opera Program

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

Eurydice:	Emma McNairy	Ashley Seaton
Orpheus:	A.J. Glueckert	David Heilman
Public Opinion:	Evgenia Chaverdova	Jennifer Panara
Pluto:	Michael Desnoyers	Sergio Gonzalez
Venus:	Leslie Katter	Alice Dickenson
Mercury:	Jeremy Kreamer	Chris Ramos
Cupid:	Elise Cordle	Brook Munoz
Jupiter:	Emmanuel Franco	Daniel Epstein
Minerva:	Madison Smith	Cristina Marino
Mars:	Ben Cohen	Rolfe Daus

(more)

SFCM Opera Theatre Presents *Orpheus in the Underworld*

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 *L'Egisto*, *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*.

**EVENT INFORMATION:**

**WHO:** San Francisco Conservatory of Music  
Opera Theatre  
**Richard Harrell**, Director;  
**Bruno Ferrandis**, Guest Conductor

**WHAT:** Jacques Offenbach's  
*Orpheus in the Underworld* (sung in  
English with English supertitles)

**WHEN:** April 2-4, 7:30 p.m.; April 5, 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](http://www.sfcm.edu).



*Photo available in high resolution upon request.*

**About the Conservatory**

The San Francisco Conservatory of Music is one of the world's most distinguished schools of Western musical culture. It is the oldest college of music in the American West and has earned an international reputation for producing musicians of the very highest caliber. Its better known graduates include Yehudi Menuhin, Isaac Stern, Jeffrey Kahane, Aaron Jay Kernis, among others.

The Conservatory offers its nearly 400 collegiate and graduate students fully accredited Bachelor's and Master's degree programs in all areas of study related to the creation and performance of music. Its Preparatory Division provides over 400 younger students the finest pre-collegiate music education available in the United States. The Conservatory's faculty and students give more than 400 public performances each year, most of which are offered free to the public.

Formerly located at 19th Avenue and Ortega Street in San Francisco's Sunset District, the Conservatory moved to its new home in the very heart of San Francisco's Civic Center in 2006. The new school is an architectural and acoustical masterwork for the Conservatory's second century. For more information or to view a schedule of concerts, please visit [www.sfcm.edu](http://www.sfcm.edu).