



MEROLA OPERA PROGRAM KICKS OFF 2022 SUMMER FESTIVAL WITH A CELEBRATION OF AMERICAN SONG

July 9 at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music Concert Hall

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (2 June 2022) – San Francisco’s acclaimed **Merola Opera Program**, one of the most prestigious and selective opera training programs in the world, kicks off its historic 2022 Summer Festival with **A Celebration of American Song**, an exuberant recital curated by Grammy Award winner Craig Terry. This joyous tribute celebrates the rich legacy of music by icons including Harold Arlen, Hoagy Carmichael, Jerome Kern, Peggy Lee, Frank Loesser, Cole Porter, Jule Styne, Fats Waller, Harry Warren, Meredith Willson, and immortal songwriting teams such as George & Ira Gershwin and John Kander & Fred Ebb. **A Celebration of American Song** will be presented 3:00pm, Saturday, July 9 at the **San Francisco Conservatory of Music**, 50 Oak St., San Francisco. For more information or to purchase tickets (\$55/\$80), the public may visit www.merola.org/calendar.

In this retrospective look at popular American song, the 2022 Merola singers will take listeners on a journey through gems from the Great American songbook, highlights from Broadway and Hollywood, WWII era anthems, poignant ballads, and brilliant songs made famous by everyone from Judy Garland to The Andrews Sisters, Peggy Lee, and Judy Collins.

Curator **Craig Terry** is the Jannotta Family Endowed Chair Music Director of Lyric Opera of Chicago’s Ryan Opera Center, and is Artistic Director of *Beyond the Aria* recital series. He has performed extensively as pianist with many leading names in opera, and his discography includes collaborations with Joyce DiDonato, Patricia Racette, Stephanie Blythe, Nicole Cabell, and Lyric Opera of Chicago Principal Horn Jon Boen. In 2020, Terry won a Grammy Award for Best Vocal Solo Album (with Joyce DiDonato). Recent engagements include recitals with Joyce DiDonato (Teatro Colon, Buenos Aires; Barbican Center, London; Concertgebouw, Amsterdam; Teatro Real, Madrid), David Portillo (Kennedy Center, Washington DC), Ana María Martínez (Kimmel Center, Philadelphia), and Christine Goerke (Cal Performances, Berkeley). He has also served as Assistant Conductor at Lyric Opera of Chicago, Los Angeles Opera, Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, and the Metropolitan Opera.

The **Merola Opera Program** is widely regarded as the foremost opera training program for aspiring singers, pianists, and stage directors. Merola nurtures the opera stars of tomorrow through master classes and private coaching with opera’s most accomplished singers, conductors, and directors. Participants also receive training in operatic repertoire, languages, diction, acting, stage movement, and professional development. Offered free of charge to all participants, the Merola Opera Program is unique in the industry in many ways. It is the only

young artist program to provide financial support to developing artists for five years following their participation, offering aid for essential career development expenses including coaching, language classes, and audition travel.

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

WHAT: San Francisco's acclaimed **Merola Opera Program**, one of the most prestigious and selective opera training programs in the world, kicks off its historic 2022 Summer Festival with **A Celebration of American Song**, an exuberant recital curated by Grammy Award winner Craig Terry. This joyous tribute celebrates the rich legacy of music by icons including Harold Arlen, Hoagy Carmichael, Jerome Kern, Peggy Lee, Frank Loesser, Cole Porter, Jule Styne, Fats Waller, Harry Warren, Meredith Willson, and immortal songwriting teams such as George & Ira Gershwin and John Kander & Fred Ebb.

WHEN: 3:00pm, Saturday, July 9

WHERE: **San Francisco Conservatory of Music**, 50 Oak St., San Francisco

TICKETS: \$55/\$80

INFO: For more information or to order tickets, please visit www.merola.org/calendar or call the San Francisco Opera Box Office at **(415) 864-3330**. In-person purchases can also be made at **301 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco**.

The box office is open Monday, 10:00am–5:00pm, and Tuesday through Friday, 10:00am–6:00pm.

-30-

MEDIA: Sydney Albin, Carla Befera & Co. PR
sydney@cb-pr.com

Ruben Pimentel, Merola Director of Marketing & Communications
415.936.2323 | rpimentel@merola.org

PHOTOS: Downloadable high-res photos will be available here:
<http://www.cbpr.co/press/celebrationofamericansong>