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San Diego Opera Announces Opera Ball for All: “When in Rome”

***Honoring Peter and Peggy Preuss for their contributions
to the San Diego Community***

***Hosted by Veronica and Miguel Leff and Diana and
Eliezer Lombrozo***

***Saturday, April 22, 2023 at 5 PM
Hyatt Regency La Jolla at Aventine***

San Diego, CA – San Diego Opera is excited to announce its 2023 Opera Ball for All: “When in Rome”, that will honor the contributions to the community by **Peggy and Peter Preuss**. Building on the success of the Opera’s community-centric programming that accompanied the widely acclaimed world-premiere of *El último sueño de Frida y Diego (The Last Dream of Frida and Diego)* this fall, gala co-chairs **Veronica and Miguel Leff** and **Diana and Eliezer Lombrozo** invite opera devotees, friends of SDO, and anyone who wants to be transported to a beautiful evening inspired by *la dolce vita* to join the party. “When in Rome” is the perfect place for our community to unite in support of future exceptional performances, ongoing meaningful community collaborations, as well as award-winning education programs like Words and Music and Student Night at the Opera.

The event will be held **on Saturday, April 22, 2023 beginning at 5 PM at the Hyatt Regency La Jolla Aventine** with an Italian inspired cocktail hour and surprise photo opportunities while guests enjoy music ranging from opera to classic standards. A three course Italian inspired dinner will follow as well as a musical and fundraising program. Guests will end the evening with a fun dessert bar and dancing into the night with Haute Chili.

Each year, San Diego Opera identifies honorees who exhibit leadership, positively affect people's lives, and demonstrate a deep commitment to fulfilling our mission - to deliver exceptional vocal performances and exciting, accessible programs to diverse audiences, focusing on community engagement and the transformative power of live performance. We are profoundly grateful for the generosity and dedication of Peter and Peggy Preuss

About Peter and Peggy Preuss

Peggy and Peter Preuss have a long history of supporting the San Diego community with a special emphasis on K-12 education. They are the co-founders of The Preuss Foundation, a private foundation specializing in support of medical research and fostering communication among scientists. Among his many accomplishments, Peter is the former president and founder of Integrated Software Systems Corporation, a leading supplier of computer graphics software, and is a Regent Emeritus of the University of California having served on its board for over 15 years. Peggy, a former teacher, has long been a champion of education. She has served on various educational and artistic boards including the Board of The Preuss School at UCSD. Peggy has served on the Board of San Diego Opera and she and Peter have been long time supporters of San Diego Opera's programming as well as the extensive education efforts in Title 1 Schools. It is a great privilege for San Diego Opera to spotlight the tremendous commitment and impact that Peggy and Peter Preuss have had on our community and to highlight our shared vision for the importance of arts and education in our community and to preserve it for future audiences.

About Veronica and Miguel Leff and Diana and Eliezer Lombrozo

Mother and daughter duo Diana Lombrozo and Veronica Leff (along with their spouses) are honored to bring their years of community volunteering, their commitment to social action, and love of special events to help create a festive, elegant, and inviting fundraiser in support of San Diego Opera's many important programs. Their shared love of opera and the performing arts is at the heart of this undertaking, and they are excited to make this special evening a memorable one. Since graduating with a master's degree in arts management, Veronica, and her husband Miguel Leff, Esq. (along with their three daughters Suzy, Eliana and Ariela) have been committed patrons and audience members of the performing arts in town. Veronica joined the SDO Board of Directors in 2016 and has focused much of her development efforts on creating unique special events to raise friends and funds for the Opera like the recent Intimate Portrait featuring the history, music and culture of Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera's beloved Mexico. "I have long been inspired by my mother's decades-long commitment and volunteer work in the San Diego community," shares Veronica. Diana Lombrozo and her husband Eliezer are passionate

about music and have been loyal subscribers of the Opera since the 1980s when they first made La Jolla their home. Highlights from her years of volunteering include The Bishop's School 90th Anniversary Celebration, the "Celebrities Cook for the Cancer Center" gala (that led to what is now the Moores Cancer Center at UCSD) and chairing the Platinum tour of The Secret Garden Tour of the La Jolla Historical Society. Diana was a member of The La Jolla Guild of San Diego Opera and co-chaired its Mardi Gras gala. Diana and Eliezer have been loyal supporters of SDO's fundraising efforts, most recently opening their home to host as well as co-sponsor special events like Noche Española. Veronica and Diana concur, "We invite you to join us in helping to secure the future of San Diego Opera for our community and to honor Peggy and Peter Preuss and applaud their years of commitment to our community. They are an inspirational couple and an example to follow." San Diego Opera is looking forward to welcoming you to a fabulous evening ... "When in Rome!"

Individual tickets to the Opera Ball for All: When in Rome start at \$500. Preferred seating tickets start at \$1,000 per person. Tables of 10 start at \$5,000 with preferred seating tables beginning at \$10,000. All Opera Ball tickets include a three-course dinner, champagne upon arrival, wine service with dinner and complimentary valet service. To purchase tickets, or for more information, please visit www.sdopera.org/operaball

San Diego Opera Mission Statement

The mission of San Diego Opera is to deliver exceptional vocal performances and exciting, accessible programs to diverse audiences, focusing on community engagement and the transformative power of live performance.

San Diego Opera Vision Statement

San Diego Opera will be recognized internationally as a leading example of adaptability, innovation and sustainability in the operatic arts, promoting diversified programming and unique performance venues with world-class and emerging talent.

San Diego Opera Core Values Statement

Through excellence in innovative programming and education, SDO provides a lasting cultural service to the community.

- Our tradition of excellence in fully staged opera is augmented with new models of opera and venues. Our unique and deep commitment to the community propels us to explore ways of increasing affordability and accessibility.
- Through fiscal responsibility and nimble adaptation to the changing marketplace, we protect the future of San Diego Opera.
- Our educational and community involvement coupled with relevant programming will build the audience of the future.

www.sdopera.org

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