

# Season's Greetings !

Newsletter no. 24

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December 2009

Dear friends,

*I'd like to address this end-of-the-year message to those of you who, for so many years, have followed my career, offering their support and encouragement either in person – by coming to my performances – or in writing. Since I'm not always able to reply personally to the messages I receive, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest and trust, and to share with you, and with all subscribers, my thoughts and impressions on those events that have been for me the most important of the year 2009.*



Madama Butterfly  
Metropolitan Opera

*First of all, I'd like to express my enthusiasm for the great success of the Metropolitan Opera's "Live in HD" program which has given thousands of people the opportunity to see opera broadcasts live on the big screens of movie theaters throughout the world. The live transmission in March 2009 of the new production of **Madama Butterfly** created by the movie director Anthony **Minghella** was of particular importance to me, not only because I believe that it is one of the best productions of Puccini's masterpiece, but also because it was a tribute to a man of exceptional talent, for whom I have a profound admiration and from whom I have learned a lot about staging. His sudden death has left a big void in the art world.*

*Another engagement which I recall with pleasure was the revival at the Royal Opera of London in July 2009 of Jonathan Kent's production of Puccini's **Tosca**, staged for the first time in 2006. Deborah Voigt was scheduled to sing Tosca, but she had to cancel for health reasons, and was replaced not by one but by two renowned sopranos: Angela Gheorghiu and Nelly Miricioiu, with whom I had sung many times before. Our friendship contributed considerably to our ability to create, in spite of the limited rehearsal time together, the atmosphere of intimacy which is essential in order to give credibility to the actions and emotions of the characters. The role of Scarpia was sung by Bryn Terfel whose portrayal of the character was so intense to be almost scary. All the performances were received with great enthusiasm by the public, and our interpretative and vocal efforts were rewarded by thunderous applause night after night.*



Tosca at the Royal Opera - 2009

*I returned to New York in the fall of 2009 to sing for the first time at the Metropolitan Opera the role of Calaf in Puccini's **Turandot**, in the spectacular production of Franco Zeffirelli. Calaf is not one of my favorite characters, but the music of Puccini is sublime and, from a vocal point of view, the role has always had great appeal to tenors. The "tessitura" is difficult and one has to be careful because, even if one sings well all night but doesn't excel in the aria made famous by Pavarotti, "Nessun dorma", the audience is disappointed. Fortunately, I think I met the expectations of the audience because the aria was loudly applauded, and even received the acclaim of the critics.*

*My last operatic engagement of 2009 was **Un Ballo in Maschera** at the Staatsoper of Vienna. Unfortunately, I had to cancel some of the performances, as well as the **William Tell** in concert in Amsterdam, because of the flu which made it necessary for me to return home to recover and to rest my voice. I know that some of you had acquired the tickets for one or the other of these performances. I ask your understanding and forgiveness for a decision which is never made lightly, and is always distressing for me.*

*My work for the year 2009 will conclude with my participation as a teacher in the "Academy of Advanced Specialization for Opera Singers", created under the patronage of the Teatro Massimo Bellini of Catania, birthplace of Bellini. The Academy offers a one year course offered every other year titled "Melodrama from Study to Performance", devoted to the didactic and professional training of young opera singers. It is an initiative that I care about very much, and in which I participate with great enthusiasm, particularly since it includes the awarding of a scholarship created in the memory of*

*my father Michele Guagliardo, to whom I owe my career. The musical training of young opera singers has always been of great interest to me, and through the Academy I can realize my desire to contribute to the success of a new generation of opera singers.*

*This interest has also been an important factor in the creation of The Marcello Giordani Foundation which will become operative in early 2010. Its primary objective will be the promotion of opera, particularly Italian opera, through a new generation of opera singers, from Italy as well as from other countries, who possess the vocal capabilities and the temperament of the "Italianate singer", necessary to present successfully the Italian opera repertory on the world's stages.*

*Also on my schedule in 2010 are three Master Classes in the United States, the first in January at the Manhattan School of Music in New York, the second in March at the Vero Beach Opera, and the third in May at Opera Tampa in Florida. I always look forward to these events because they offer me the opportunity to share with tomorrow's singers what I have learned during the 25 years of my career. An additional contribution to the musical preparation of future opera singers will be the recital which I will give at Vero Beach to benefit the "Deborah Voigt/Vera Opera Foundation"..*



*with Angela Gheorghiu in Simon Boccanegra at the Metropolitan Opera - 2007*

*My first operatic engagement in 2010 will be the revival at the Metropolitan of Giancarlo del Monaco's production of **Simon Boccanegra**, first staged in 1995 with Placido Domingo in the tenor role of Gabriele Adorno. As you probably know, in this revival Domingo will assume the baritone role of Boccanegra, while I will repeat the role of his alleged rival Gabriele Adorno. Although I have already sung this role at the Metropolitan in 2007, to sing it next to an artist of Domingo's caliber is a truly emotional experience. I have often worked with Domingo as the conductor of many of my performances, but to share the stage with him and to have him next to me as a colleague fills me with pride and excitement.*

*I will conclude the operatic season with **Faust** at La Scala of Milan in June and **Simon Boccanegra** at the Teatro Real of Madrid in July, once again with Placido Domingo in the title role.*

*It is too early to announce my schedule of performances for the 2010-11 season, but I am happy to tell you about two new roles which I have always dreamed to sing one day: Radames in **Aida** in San Francisco and Dick Johnson/Ramirez in **La Fanciulla del West** in a new production which the Met is staging to mark the hundredth anniversary of the opera. I hope you'll be able to attend one or both of these debuts.*

*Scheduled for the 2010-11 season is also the issue of a CD by the title of "Ti voglio tanto bene" ("I love you so much"), a famous Italian song much beloved by Caruso. The CD is dedicated to tenors of the past, and commemorates the upcoming eightieth anniversary in 2011 of the death of Enrico Caruso, the centenary of the birth of Jussi Björling, and the ninetieth anniversary of the birth of my idol, Giuseppe Di Stefano. It includes previously unpublished selections and other compositions written expressly for them, as well as some of the best known and beloved Neapolitan and Italian songs. And since the year 2011 also marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my professional debut, it is also meant to be a tribute to the tenors of the past who have inspired me and whose example has encouraged me to embark on this extraordinary career.*

*Hoping to see you or hear from you again in 2010, my family and I wish all of you a peaceful and prosperous New Year.*

*Marcello, Wilma, Michele e GerardAndré*

## NEWS FROM THE CLUB

*Meet the Poet*

From left to right: Adam Cohen, Agnieszka Peszko, Lora Price, Marcello, Amelia Moser, Elizabeth Novella, Molly Peters.

*All of you know that Marcello is one of today's most admired opera singers, but did you know that he is also a poet? Some of Marcello's poems appeared in the last issue of the prestigious Italian Poetry Review. Plurilingual Journal of Creativity and Criticism (III 2008) published in Florence, Italy by SEF Editrice and sponsored by Columbia University, The Italian Academy for Advanced Studies in America, and Fordham University ([www.italianpoetryreview.net](http://www.italianpoetryreview.net)). On December 3rd, a group of students from Bard College, accompanied by their professor, Dr. Amelia Moser (Managing Editor of IPR), traveled to the Met to watch Marcello in Turandot, and to meet "the poet", whose poems they had read and analysed the previous day in class. They were graciously received by Marcello and his wife, Wilma, in his dressing room. I'm sure this photo will be for each one of them a precious souvenir of a wonderful "night at the opera".*

**Marcello on Facebook**  
If you have Internet access, you can visit Marcello's [new Facebook page](#) and add your name to the list of "fans"

**The Met: Live in HD:**  
**Saturday, Feb 6 (2010) 1:00pm**  
**Verdi's *Simon Boccanegra***

*"Placido Domingo makes history singing the title role in Verdi's gripping political thriller, which is written for a baritone. Adrienne Pieczonka, Marcello Giordani, and James Morris are his co-stars."*

**Master Classes with Marcello Giordani**  
**- where and when -**

**January 19, 2010**  
Manhattan School of Music - New York

**March 15 and 16, 2010**  
Vero Beach Opera

**May 17, 2010**  
Opera Tampa  
Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center

**Please check Marcello's calendar for additional information.**

**" Happy Holidays ! "**

The Club for Marcello Giordani

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## **Marcello Giordani's Future Engagements**

*January - July 2010*

<p>January 18, 22, 25, 29, February 1, 6, 2010 SIMON BOCCANEGRA The Metropolitan Opera Lincoln Center New York, NY U.S.A. 1 212 362-6000</p>	<p>April 29; May 5, 8, 13, 2010 TOSCA The Metropolitan Opera Lincoln Center New York, NY U.S.A. 1 212 362-6000</p>
<p>January 19, 2010 MASTER CLASS Manhattan School of Music John C. Borden Auditorium 120 Claremont Ave New York, NY 10027 U.S.A. 1 212 749-2802</p>	<p>May 16, 2010 OPERA TAMPA'S 15th ANNIVERSARY BENEFIT CONCERT Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center Ferguson Hall 1010 North W.C. MacInnes Place Tampa, Florida 33602 U.S.A.</p>
<p>February 24, 2010 (opening night - other dates to be determined) LA BOHÈME Teatro Massimo Piazza G. Verdi 90138 Palermo ITALY + 39 091 6053111</p>	<p>May 17, 2010 MASTER CLASS Opera Tampa Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center Tampa, Florida 33602 1 813 222-1003 1 813 222-1057 (fax)</p>
<p>March 15 &amp; 16, 2010 MASTER CLASS Vero Beach Opera Vero Beach, FL 32961 1 772 564-6993 U.S.A.</p>	<p>June 18, 21, 23, 26, 30; July 2, 5, 2010 FAUST Teatro alla Scala Via Filodrammatici 2 20121 Milan ITALY +39 02 88 791 +39 01 861 827 (fax)</p>
<p>March 20, 2010 CONCERT Deborah Voigt/Vero Beach Opera Foundation Vero Beach Opera Vero Beach, FL 32961 1 772 564-6993 U.S.A.</p>	<p>July 22, 25, 28, 2010 SIMON BOCCANEGRA Teatro Real 28013 Madrid SPAIN +91 516 06 00/516 06 51</p>

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