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CONTACT:
Paul Bilyeu, 813.222.1050 — paul.bilyeu@strazcenter.org or
Tara McNamara, 813.222.1059 — tara.mcnamara@strazcenter.org

Opera Tampa presents

La Rondine

April 23 and 25

Carol Morsani Hall at the Straz Center

Regularly priced tickets start at \$29.50

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TAMPA, Fla. — Giacomo Puccini's *La Rondine* – the story of a kept woman named Magda who finds herself caught between the unexpected love of a naïve younger man and the life she has become accustomed to living – will be presented in Carol Morsani Hall on Friday, April 23, at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, April 25, at 2 p.m. as part of Opera Tampa's 15th Anniversary season, presented by Homes by Helen.

In this rare staging of one of Puccini's most elegant and emotional operas, Magda is the kept woman of a wealthy Paris banker in the 1850s. When Ruggero, an earnest young man from a respectable family, falls for Magda, she must consider the price she has paid for her glittering existence. The opera has experienced a renaissance recently, with audiences experiencing this lost bittersweet treasure.

Blending soaring music with tender comedic flourish, *La Rondine* (The Swallow) showcases an international cast, as well as the Opera Tampa Orchestra and Chorus. Maestro Anton Coppola conducts a company that includes Rochelle Bard, Diana McVey, Gerard Powers, Bruce Reed and Mark Schnaible. Joachim Schamberger will direct the production. *La Rondine* will be sung in Italian with English translations projected above the stage.

In addition to the performances of *La Rondine*, Opera Tampa and the Patel Conservatory have planned events at the Straz Center to enhance the opera-going experience, including a FREE observational master class led by Opera Tampa Artistic Advisor Sherrill Milnes on Friday, March 19, at 7:30 p.m. and Sherrill Milnes presents *Prelude to La Rondine* (a "pay-what-you-can" event) on Sunday, April 11, at 2 p.m. Both events will be held in the Jaeb Theater and reservations are suggested by calling 813.222.1003, option 1.

La Rondine is sponsored in part by Florida Health Care News. Regularly priced tickets start at \$29.50 and may be purchased by calling 813.229.STAR (7827) or 800.955.1045 outside Tampa Bay, in person at the Straz Center Ticket Office or online at www.strazcenter.org. For more information about the David A. Straz, Jr. Center for the Performing Arts and its upcoming events, please visit the Straz Center's website at www.strazcenter.org.

For more information about Opera Tampa and its upcoming events, please visit www.operatampa.org.

Events, days, dates, times, performers and prices are subject to change without notice.

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