



SAN FRANCISCO
OPERA

LOG IN

SHOPPING CART

MY ACCOUNT

CONTACT

JOIN E-NEWSLETTER

SEARCH

GO

HOME

SEASON & TICKETS

CALENDAR

PLAN YOUR EXPERIENCE

WATCH & LISTEN

LEARN

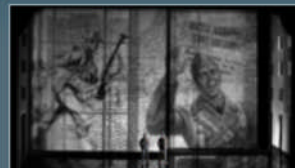
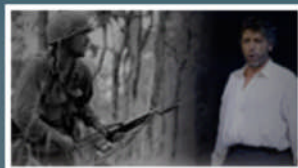
SUPPORT US

ABOUT

HEART OF A SOLDIER

HEART OF A SOLDIER EVENTS

BACKSTAGE AT SAN FRANCISCO
OPERA



PHOTOS

AUDIO

HEART OF A SOLDIER

CHRISTOPHER THEOFANIDIS

MUSIC BY CHRISTOPHER THEOFANIDIS • LIBRETTO BY DONNA DI NOVELLI • BASED ON THE BOOK BY JAMES B. STEWART AND THE LIFE STORIES OF SUSAN RESCORLA, RICK RESCORLA AND DANIEL J. HILL • COMMISSIONED BY SAN FRANCISCO OPERA

WORLD PREMIERE

What makes a hero? The question was never an academic one for **Rick Rescorla**, a British-born adventurer who fought in Vietnam before settling in New York as head of security for a brokerage firm based in the World Trade Center. On September 11, 2001, his extraordinary courage and calmness in a crisis paid off: Rescorla led all of the 2,700 people under his care to safety—literally singing them down the stairs—before heading back into the burning building for one last check. He never emerged.

To commemorate the 10th anniversary of the devastating terrorist attacks, San Francisco Opera presents the world premiere of *Heart of a Soldier*, which tells the dramatic story of Rescorla's extraordinary life. The Company's latest commission features a dynamic and soulful score by **Christopher Theofanidis**, "one of the world's most sought-after living composers" (*Seattle Times*). Baritone **Thomas Hampson**, renowned for his "clarion power and burnished tone" (*Los Angeles Times*), sings the role of Rick Rescorla in this story of enduring friendship and late-found love. Tenor **William Burden** is Daniel J. Hill, Rescorla's best friend and fellow soldier, and soprano **Melody Moore** portrays Susan, Rescorla's wife and soul mate.

American composer Christopher Theofanidis is best-known for *Rainbow Body*, one of the most performed orchestral works of the past decade. His dramatic oratorio *The Refuge* "drew standing ovations and bravos" (*The New York Times*) at its Houston Grand Opera premiere in 2007.

Librettist **Donna Di Novelli** wrote the lyrics for Rachel Portman's 2009 musical *Little House on the Prairie*. Director **Francesca Zambello**, San Francisco Opera's Artistic Adviser, created the acclaimed production of *Porgy and Bess* recently presented by the Company, as well as this past summer's critically acclaimed *Ring* cycle. Conductor **Patrick Summers**, Principal Guest Conductor for San Francisco Opera, is music director of the Houston Grand Opera; his many San Francisco Opera productions include the world premieres of *Dead Man Walking* and *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

Contains adult language and themes.

PERFORMANCES

Sat 09/10/11 8:00pm

[BUY TICKETS](#)

Tue 09/13/11 7:30pm *

[BUY TICKETS](#)

Sun 09/18/11 2:00pm *

[BUY TICKETS](#)

Wed 09/21/11 7:30pm *

[BUY TICKETS](#)

Sat 09/24/11 2:00pm

[BUY TICKETS](#)

Tue 09/27/11 8:00pm

[BUY TICKETS](#)

Fri 09/30/11 8:00pm

[BUY TICKETS](#)

[BUY NEW SUBSCRIPTION](#)

**OperaVision*: High-definition video projection screens will be featured on the balcony level for this performance.

The world premiere of *Heart of a Soldier* is made possible, in part, by Company Sponsors John A. and Cynthia Fry Gunn. Additional support provided by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Sung in English with English supertitles

Approximate running time: 2 hours, 10 minutes including one intermission

San Francisco Opera production

Rick Rescorla photo: AP Photo/Peter Arnett; Photo: Thomas Hampson in San Francisco Opera production of *Macbeth* by Terrence McCarthy
Production set design images: Peter Davison

Audio credit: *Heart of a Soldier* workshop, December 2010: *The Coffee Duet*; Melody Moore as Susan Rescorla; Austin Kness as Rick Rescorla; pianists Bryndon Hassman and Ernest Knell; conducted by Patrick Summers. The situation in the opera: Rick and Susan meet over coffee. Tentatively, at first, they share information about their past lives, back story.

Cast, program, prices and schedule are subject to change.

CAST & CREDITS

SYNOPSIS



CAST

RICK RESCORLA	THOMAS HAMPSON
DANIEL J. HILL	WILLIAM BURDEN
SUSAN RESCORLA	MELODY MOORE
JULIET, BARBARA	NADINE SIERRA *
CYRIL	HENRY MASON PHIPPS *
TOM, TED	MICHAEL SUMUEL *
LOLITA, BRIDESMAID	SUSANNAH BILLER
PAT, ANN	SARA GARTLAND
KATHY, BRIDESMAID	MAYA LAHYANI
OMAHA, ROBERT	TA'U PUPU'A *
DEXTER, DEX	DANIEL SNYDER *
JOSEPH, JOE	TREVOR SCHEUNEMANN
SAM, WESLEY	WAYNE TIGGES *

PRODUCTION CREDITS

COMPOSER	CHRISTOPHER THEOFANIDIS *
LIBRETTIST	DONNA DI NOVELLI *
CONDUCTOR	PATRICK SUMMERS
DIRECTOR	FRANCESCA ZAMBELLO
SET DESIGNER	PETER J. DAVISON
COSTUME DESIGNER	JESS GOLDSTEIN *
LIGHTING DESIGNER	MARK MCCULLOUGH
PROJECTION DESIGNER	S. KATY TUCKER
CHORUS DIRECTOR	IAN ROBERTSON
PHYSICAL ACTION DIRECTOR	RICK SORDELET *
CHOREOGRAPHER	LAWRENCE PECH
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY	STEVE CONDIOTTI *
PROJECTION IMAGING TEAM	PROJECTION IMAGING TEAM

* SAN FRANCISCO OPERA DEBUT

 Like  Send  296 people like this. Be the first of your friends.

 Follow @sfopera · 2,589 followers

 Share  3

 Share  52



San Francisco Opera
301 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102-4509
(415) 864-3330

[BRAVO CLUB](#)

[OPERA GUILD](#)

[OPERA CENTER](#)

[ORPHEUS](#)

[MEROLA OPERA PROGRAM](#)

© 2011 SAN FRANCISCO OPERA

[PRIVACY POLICY](#)

[SITE MAP](#)

[PRESS ROOM](#)



SEASON SPONSOR

