



**HoustonGrandOpera**

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## Houston Grand Opera's *Tosca* Returns this May in Free Outdoor Performances

*HGO to revive 2015–16 production at Miller Outdoor Theatre and  
The Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion*

Houston, April 20, 2016— Houston Grand Opera (HGO) will present performances of Puccini's beloved opera *Tosca* at Miller Outdoor Theatre on Friday, May 20, and Saturday, May 21, at 8 p.m., and at The Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion in The Woodlands on Friday, May 27, at 8 p.m. *Tosca*, a co-production of HGO and Lyric Opera of Chicago, tells a dramatic tale of devotion and deceit set in Rome during one of history's most turbulent times. HGO's performances on the two stages offer free admission and access for new and returning audiences to experience the acclaimed production, which the company presented in its downtown home to full houses earlier this season.

In HGO's May presentations of the classic opera, soprano **Kelly Kaduce** will sing the role of the tragic heroine Floria Tosca, alongside HGO Studio alumnus **Chad Shelton** in the tenor role of Mario Cavaradossi. Baritone and Houston native **Weston Hurt** portrays the ruthless Baron Scarpia.

This fully staged production was directed during HGO's 2015–16 season by **John Caird** and will be revived by director **Omer Ben Seadia**. The opera will feature sets and costumes designed by **Bunny Christie**, and musical direction by HGO Head of Music Staff **Bradley Moore**, with the **Houston Grand Opera Orchestra, Chorus, and Children's Chorus**.

"HGO's annual performances at Miller Outdoor Theatre and The Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion are always high points in our season," notes HGO Managing Director Perryn Leech. "We are thrilled to be able to offer fully staged opera of the highest quality to the thousands of Houstonians of all ages who enjoy watching live opera in a relaxed and informal setting."

HGO has staged productions at Miller Outdoor Theatre on a regular basis since 1957 and at The Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion in The Woodlands since 1998.

Lead support for HGO's performance of *Tosca* in The Woodlands is generously provided by ConocoPhillips and Margaret Alkek Williams. HGO performances at Miller Outdoor Theatre are supported by the City of Houston through the Miller Theatre Advisory Board. Both presentations are supported through HGO's NEXUS Initiative, which is made possible by Anchorage Foundation of Texas; The Brown Foundation, Inc.; Nabors Industries; Shell Oil Company; BBVA Compass; M.D. Anderson Foundation; MD Anderson Cancer Center; and The Wortham Foundation, Inc.

## PERFORMANCE DETAILS:

### Puccini's *Tosca* at Miller Outdoor Theatre

**WHEN:** Friday, May 20, and Saturday, May 21, at 8 p.m.

**WHERE:** 6000 Hermann Park Drive, Houston TX 77030

**TICKETS:** Free tickets for covered seating are available (limit 4 per person) at the Miller box office on the day of the performance. Open seating on the hill. Visit [MillerOutdoorTheatre.com](http://MillerOutdoorTheatre.com) for information.

#### CAST:

Floria Tosca, Kelly Kaduce  
Mario Cavaradossi, Chad Shelton ‡  
Baron Scarpia, Weston Hurt

#### CREATIVE TEAM:

Conductor, Bradley Moore  
Original Director, John Caird  
Revival Director, Omer Ben Seadia  
Set & Costume Designer, Bunny Christie, sets adapted by the HGO Technical Department  
Revival Lighting Designer, Michael James Clark  
Chorus Master, Richard Bado ‡  
Children's Chorus Director, Karen Reeves

### Puccini's *Tosca* at The Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion in The Woodlands

**WHEN:** Friday, May 27, at 8 p.m.

**WHERE:** 2005 Lake Robbins Drive, The Woodlands, TX 77380

**TICKETS:** \$20 orchestra seating and free mezzanine and lawn seating. Free tickets must be picked up at the box office. Visit [woodlandscenter.org](http://woodlandscenter.org).

#### CAST:

Floria Tosca, Kelly Kaduce  
Mario Cavaradossi, Chad Shelton ‡  
Baron Scarpia, Weston Hurt

#### CREATIVE TEAM:

Conductor, Emily Senturia ‡  
Original Director, John Caird  
Revival Director, Omer Ben Seadia  
Set & Costume Designer, Bunny Christie, sets adapted by the HGO Technical Department  
Revival Lighting Designer, Michael James Clark  
Chorus Master, Richard Bado ‡  
Children's Chorus Director, Karen Reeves

‡ Former Houston Grand Opera Studio artist

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## About Houston Grand Opera

Since its inception in 1955, Houston Grand Opera has grown from a small regional organization into an internationally renowned opera company. HGO enjoys a reputation for commissioning and producing new works, including 59 world premieres and seven American premieres since 1973. In addition to producing and performing world-class opera, HGO contributes to the cultural enrichment of Houston and the nation through a diverse and innovative program of performances, community events, and education projects that reaches the widest possible public. HGO has toured extensively, including trips to Europe and Asia, and has won a Tony, two Grammy awards, and two Emmy awards—the only opera company to have won all three honors.

Through HGOco, Houston Grand Opera creates opportunities for Houstonians of all ages and backgrounds to observe, participate in, and create art. Its *Song of Houston* project is an ongoing initiative to create and share work based on stories that define the unique character of our city and its diverse cultures. Since 2007, HGOco has commissioned 17 new works along with countless innovative community projects, reaching more than one million people in the greater Houston metropolitan area.

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