

opera modesto

formerly townsend opera players

For Immediate Release:

Townsend Opera Announces New Name, New Season

A spectacular Opera Gala and Georges Bizet's Carmen top the recently renamed company's 35th season

Modesto, California—September 12, 2018. Following on the heels of its successful 34th season, and to celebrate 35 consecutive years of bringing opera to Modesto and the region, Townsend Opera will become **Opera Modesto**. The new name, which better reflects the company's place in the community, was selected by the Board of Directors at a recent meeting. Board President Freda Motto said, "While we will never forget the massive contributions of our founder, Buck Townsend, the time has come to let the world know that we are the premier opera company in the Central Valley—and Modesto's own." The Board has considered changing the name of the company many times over the years since Buck's passing in 2008, but never felt the time was quite right until now. "Buck always knew this needed to happen eventually, and he would be pleased to know that the Board has finally taken this important next step," said Erika Townsend, Buck's wife of many years and the company's former business manager.

Townsend Opera will use this season to introduce its new name to the community, beginning with a grand celebration at its 35th Anniversary Gala in October. The Gala will bring together a variety of local and international opera singers to perform in concert in the Foster Family Theater of the Gallo Center for the Arts. Included in the program will be performances by the Townsend Opera orchestra and chorus and the Dance Factory, as well as a tribute to company founder Buck Townsend. The opera gala will be followed by a lavish reception for the audience in the lobby of the Gallo Center.

On May 3rd and 5th, 2019, the 35th season will conclude with a fully staged production of Georges Bizet's *Carmen* in the Gallo Center's Rogers Theater. This well-known opera, with its tale of passion gone wild, is filled with memorable melodies and Bizet's glorious orchestrations. You are sure to leave the theater humming its unforgettable tunes.

About Townsend Opera: Founded in 1983 by Modesto native and international opera star Erik Buck Townsend, Townsend Opera (now Opera Modesto) has become known for bringing nationally and internationally ranked singers and opera productions to Central Valley audiences. Townsend Opera is equally dedicated to enabling the finest local talent to share the stage with opera's stars, as well as nurturing the next generation of singers through its Kristina Townsend Memorial Competition and Summer Opera Institute for young singers.

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35th Anniversary Gala

Presented by Opera Modesto (formerly Townsend Opera)

Curtain 2:00pm, October 29th, 2018

Gallo Center for the Arts, Modesto CA

For more information visit Townsendopera.com

Tickets at galloarts.org/Tickets

Georges Bizet's *Carmen*

Presented by Opera Modesto (formerly Townsend Opera)

Preshow lecture 6:30pm, curtain 7:30pm, May 3rd, 2018

Preshow lecture 1:00pm, curtain 2:00pm, May 5th, 2019

Gallo Center for the Arts, Modesto CA

For more information visit Townsendopera.com

Tickets at galloarts.org/Tickets

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