



## NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:  
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### **Special Guest Maestro Stefano Vignati from Italy to teach Opera Master Class this Saturday in Dana Point**

**DANA POINT, CALIFORNIA** – The SOCSA Academy is pleased to announce that special guest Maestro Stefano Vignati from Italy will be teaching an Opera Master Class this Saturday, Feb. 28th from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in the Porthole Theater on the campus of Dana Hills High School.

Maestro Vignati will work with selected students of the SOCSA Academy at Dana Hills High School and other Orange County high schools during an Opera Master Class. The class will feature Italian arias sung by the students and be accompanied by SOCSA's Artistic Director, Ray Woods, on the piano.

The general public is welcome to attend and observe this special Opera Master Class free of charge. No tickets are needed, just show up at the Porthole Theater on the campus of Dana Hills High School at 9:30 on Saturday and enjoy. Those who attend will get to watch hand-selected high school opera students who are preparing for SOCSA's 6th Annual *OPERA CELEBRATION!* Gala to be held at the Laguna Cliffs Marriott Resort on March 29th and preview concert at the San Juan Hills High School on March 28th.

*"SOCSA Foundation and faculty are so very thankful to Maestro Vignati coming all the way from Italy and to ILAR - The International Lyric Academy in Rome and Viterbo, Italy - for this generous donation of his time and talent to work with our talented young opera students,"* said SOCSA Foundation President Alan Wickstrom. *"To have a world-renowned opera conductor of his caliber working with our SOCSA students is simply a wonderful gift. He will give them advice and direction that will enhance their performance capabilities and they will carry this training with them for years to come."*

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**SOCSA: South Orange County School of the Arts Academy and Foundation**  
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*SOCSA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, Federal ID No. 33-0810174*



Maestro Vignati is the Artistic Director of ILAR - The International Lyric Academy in Rome and Viterbo, Italy - and he is donating his time and talent to these gifted SOCSA students at no cost to the SOCSA Foundation.

ILAR - The International Lyric Academy in Rome and Viterbo, Italy will also be holding open auditions for their summer program in Italy immediately following the Master Class on Saturday, Feb 28, 2009, at 11:00 a.m. at the Porthole Theater on the campus of Dana Hills High School.

Auditions will be lead by Maestro Vignati, ILAR's Artistic Director, and Claudio Ferri, ILAR's General Manager. ILAR Auditions are open to all classically trained emerging artists; those selected will have the opportunity to study and perform in Italy in July/August of 2009. ILAR will be auditioning qualified emerging artists for singers, pianists, instrumentalists, ensemble and chorus.

ILAR is part of the New Operafestival di Roma and Viterbo Artemusica. An Italian non-profit organization, they aim to offer young musicians and singers from all nations the opportunity to perform in Rome and Viterbo, participating in the International Lyric Academy.

The International Lyric Academy is a unique opportunity for students and emerging classically trained artists. During an intensive month of training, artists receive professional coaching and voice lessons and participate in a full range of classes, master classes, concerts, recitals and rehearsals culminating in eight fully staged Orchestra performances of "DON GIOVANNI" by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and "L' ELISIR D'AMORE" by Gaetano Donizetti with the Festival's Symphony Orchestra. There will be also a special session dedicated to the Italian Opera scenes (in concert, Rigoletto, L' Elisir d' Amore (with Orchestra Ensemble) that will give students the opportunity to study thoroughly the role with Italian coaches and Maestros and, at the end, to perform in several concerts.

For more information on Maestro Vignati, ILAR and their live auditioning information, please visit the ILAR web site at:

<http://www.internationallylyricacademy.com/liveauditions.htm>

For information on SOCSA's OPERA CELEBRATION! and to buy tickets online for the March 28th preview concert or the March 29th Gala, please visit:

<http://www.SOCSArts.org/opera.php>

- 30 -

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