

## **UCSD's Friends of Judaic Studies and Friends of Music present Verdi's opera "Nabucco"**

**October 13, 1988**

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UCSD'S FRIENDS OF JUDAIC STUDIES AND FRIENDS OF MUSIC TO PRESENT VERDI'S OPERA, "NABUCCO," THE STORY OF THE INVASION OF JUDEA BY KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR OF BABYLON AND THE LONGING OF THE JEWS TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMELAND

Selections from Giuseppe Verdi's opera "Nabucco" will be staged at the University of California, San Diego at 8 p.m. Wednesday, November 9, in the Mandeville Auditorium.

Professor Richard Elliott Friedman of the UCSD Judaic Studies Program will discuss the biblical background of Verdi's opera prior to the performance.

Excerpts from "Nabucco" will be performed by Constance Lawthers, soprano; Carol Plantamura, soprano; John Peeling, tenor; William Noland, baritone and Philip Larson, bass. Larson and Plantamura are members of the UCSD music faculty.

The performers will be accompanied by the UCSD Concert Choir and an ensemble from the La Jolla Civic University Orchestra, under the direction of Thomas Nee.

Verdi's first operatic success, "Nabucco" opens in the year 587 B.C., with Nabucco (King Nebuchadnezzar) entering into Jerusalem, and the subsequent subjugation of the Judeans. The prophet Zachariah attempts to raise the spirits of his people and prevent their exile to Babylon. His efforts are thwarted by Judean Prince Ismaele, who is in love with the Babylonian princess, Fenena, a Judean hostage.

This abridged presentation of the opera will contain one of Verdi's best loved melodies, "Fly, thought, on wings of gold."

Verdi selected the theme of the opera, the yearning of the Jews to return to their homeland, as a vehicle for arousing Italian national feelings at a time when Italy was a part of the Austrian Empire.

A reception for faculty members, performers, members of the Founders and Benefactors of the Friends of Music, the Board of Visitors of Judaic Studies and the Friends of Judaic Studies will be held at the UCSD Faculty Club following the performance.

For ticket reservations call Laurel Mannen at 534-4551. Ticket prices are \$10 for general admission and \$5 for students.

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