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## LA Opera Presents Hans Krása's *Brundibár*

### Four free family performances of inspirational children's opera to be presented by Opera Camp

(Los Angeles) July 24, 2013 — LA Opera will present *Brundibár*, a 35-minute children's opera by Hans Krása, to be performed by children participating in Opera Camp, an intensive two-week educational summer program.

*Brundibár* will be performed four times at the **Barnsdall Gallery Theater**, at noon and 2pm on Saturday, August 10, and at noon and 2pm on Sunday, August 11. The production will be conducted by **Karen Hogle Brown** and staged by director **Eli Villanueva**. Advance tickets are required for admission; there will be a \$1 per order handling fee and a four-ticket limit per household. Tickets will become available at 10am on Thursday, July 25, and can be reserved online at [www.LAOpera.com](http://www.LAOpera.com) or by phone at 213.972.8001. The Barnsdall Gallery Theatre is owned and operated by the City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs' Community Arts Division, and is located at 4800 Hollywood Boulevard, Los Angeles CA 90027.

An uplifting tale of tolerance and hope, *Brundibár* is historically significant, for it had been performed by Jewish children imprisoned at the Terezín concentration camp during the Holocaust. The opera tells the story of a young brother and sister trying to buy milk for their sick mother. After watching an organ grinder named Brundibár earn money by making music in the town square, they decide to do the same thing, but the greedy Brundibár drives them away. A friendly cat, bird and dog encourage the siblings to enlist the help of the town's other children and to try again. Together, the children and

their animal friends return to the town square, where they win over the townspeople and triumph over Brundibár.

The cast will be made up of young performers participating in LA Opera's Opera Camp, one of the Company's many Education and Community Engagement programs. Opera Camp brings together more than 50 children from all over Los Angeles County, ages 9 to 17, for two intensive weeks each summer to work with professional opera artists, culminating in public performances of a children's opera.

Hans Krása (1899-1944) composed *Brundibár* between 1938 and 1939 for the children of the Jewish orphanage in Prague. After the German occupation of Czechoslovakia, Krása and other Czech Jews were sent to the Nazi concentration camp in Terezín. The score for *Brundibár* was subsequently smuggled into the camp where it was performed at least 55 times by children imprisoned in the camp, including one performance for International Red Cross inspectors on June 23, 1944. Just a few months later, on October 17, 1944, Krása was killed at Auschwitz.

At the conclusion of each performance, Ela Weissberger, a survivor of the Terezín concentration camp, will share her extraordinary experiences with audience members and performers. Mrs. Weissberger had been transported to Terezín as a child with her Czech family in 1942, and performed the role of the Cat in those early performances of *Brundibár*.

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