Sac State alumnus to return for concert

Baritone Eugene Villanueva will perform with Symphony Orchestra

Sacramento State alumnus Eugene Villanueva is finding great success in the opera world. Since his graduation in 2006, the baritone has attended four musical training programs, including the San Francisco Opera Merola Training Program. Following that, he has performed engagements with orchestras, festivals and theaters all over the world, including Paris, Berlin, Rome, St. Petersburg and Bogota.

This month, he returns to Sac State for a performance with the University’s Symphony Orchestra.

“I do my best to remain in contact with Sac State,” Villanueva says. “I am delighted to sing once again with the wonderful Symphony Orchestra.”

The concert is at 8 p.m. Tuesday, April 15, at the Music Recital Hall. Tickets are $10 general, $7 seniors and $5 students, available at the University Ticket Office, (916) 278-4323 or www.csus.edu/hornettickets.

Villanueva will perform Mahler’s five-song “Rückert Lieder.” “What stands out most clearly in (the songs) is their individuality,” Villanueva says. “The poetic theme of each is underlined by its distinctly different thematic material, orchestral scoring and structural layout.”

The orchestra, led by Professor Leo Eylar, also will perform Camille Saint-Saëns’ Symphony No. 3, Organ Symphony.

“Eugene and I have collaborated on numerous projects over the years,” Eylar says. “It is an absolute pleasure to have him back to sing at Sacramento State, and to witness the fabulous artistry and maturity of this world-class vocalist. This is a concert not to be missed.”

Villanueva is looking forward to coming back home to Sac State and notes how important it is for alumni to return, both for the former student and for the University. “It is vital for educational institutions to showcase and celebrate the accomplishments of their graduates,” he says. “It provides a wonderful example to the sponsors, the people
interested or enrolled in the institution, and the surrounding community that their dreams and aspirations can be achieved from the investment they are making.”

For more information on the Music Department and its programs, visit www.csus.edu/music or call (916) 278-5191. For media assistance, call Sacramento State’s Public Affairs office at (916) 278-6156. – Craig Koscho

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