

Andrea Bocelli arrives in San Antonio

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Andrea Bocelli is one of the most talented operatic pop tenors to have arrived on the scene in years. He's recorded classical, opera and pop music and sold more than 65 million albums worldwide. Now he's performing in town Tuesday and Wednesday at the Municipal Auditorium.

By Ramon Hernandez



(Photos courtesy Ramon Hernandez)

In this report, our correspondent Ramon Hernandez caught up with him at a news conference.

Andrea Bocelli does not perform until tomorrow night and tickets for both Tuesday and

Wednesday's performances at the Municipal Auditorium are sold out, but Bocelli does not rest on his laurels.

On Sunday night he rehearsed with the San Antonio Opera Chorus and San Antonio Master Singers. With two sold-out shows, he does not need the publicity, yet this afternoon, he held court with the press at the Grand Hyatt Hotel. That's how nice, humble and down-to-earth he remains in spite of his international stardom.

Entering the media-filled room wearing a blue pin-stripe coat, blue jeans and a navy blue silk tie, he was all smiles; and his smile reflected a kind gentle human being.

In reviewing many of his compact discs, one is note that he sings with lots of passion and he sings from the heart. With this in mind I asked if there is any one tune in which exhibits a little anger, or a hint of hate.

"There's already too much too much hate and negativity in the world, so why add to it," he answered. "I love women and I love to sing about love."

The immediate overall response from those in attendance was a rousing "Bravo, bravo."

Araceli Cardenas-Bon, who has seen Bocelli perform several times in Italy as a reporter for www.ROMEreports.com flew in the way in from Rome for the press conference and tomorrow's performance.

Her question for the 6-foot-2-inch tall operatic singer was how it felt to play a strong personality,

such as Turiddu when expectations are so high in an opera as difficult as “Cavalleria Rusticana.”

“I enjoy it because I love women. So I don’t find it difficult to sing this role because I’m so passionate about love,” Bocelli answered with a flattering smile.

“Cavalleria Rusticana” is set in a small Sicilian village where a young soldier, Turiddu (Bocelli), returns to his hometown and seduces Santuzza (Verónica Villarroel), a peasant girl and leaves her pregnant. Then he moves on and falls in love, or at least in lust, with Lola.

Santuzza finds out, and in a weak moment tells Lola’s husband Alfio (Marcello Guzzo) of the sordid affair.

To say anymore would spoil the plot, but the music remains some of the most famous in all of opera.

Villarroel, who is from Chile and Guzzo, from Uruguay, were also present for the media gathering along with San Antonio Opera conductor Maestro Eugene Kohn.

A perfectionist at his craft, tonight the entire cast and orchestra will hold a dress rehearsal to ensure a knockout performance.

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(Photos courtesy Ramon Hernandez)

And while the show has been sold out for month, limited tickets for both nights are expected to be released today.

So it's not too late to obtain tickets at www.ticketmaster.com, www.saopera.com or by calling (210) 225-5972.

Incidentally, just so opera lovers are forewarned, the show will open with an orchestral show of opera overtures before the 50-year-old opera superstar takes the stage in a one-act semi-staged production of "Cavalleria Rusticana."

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