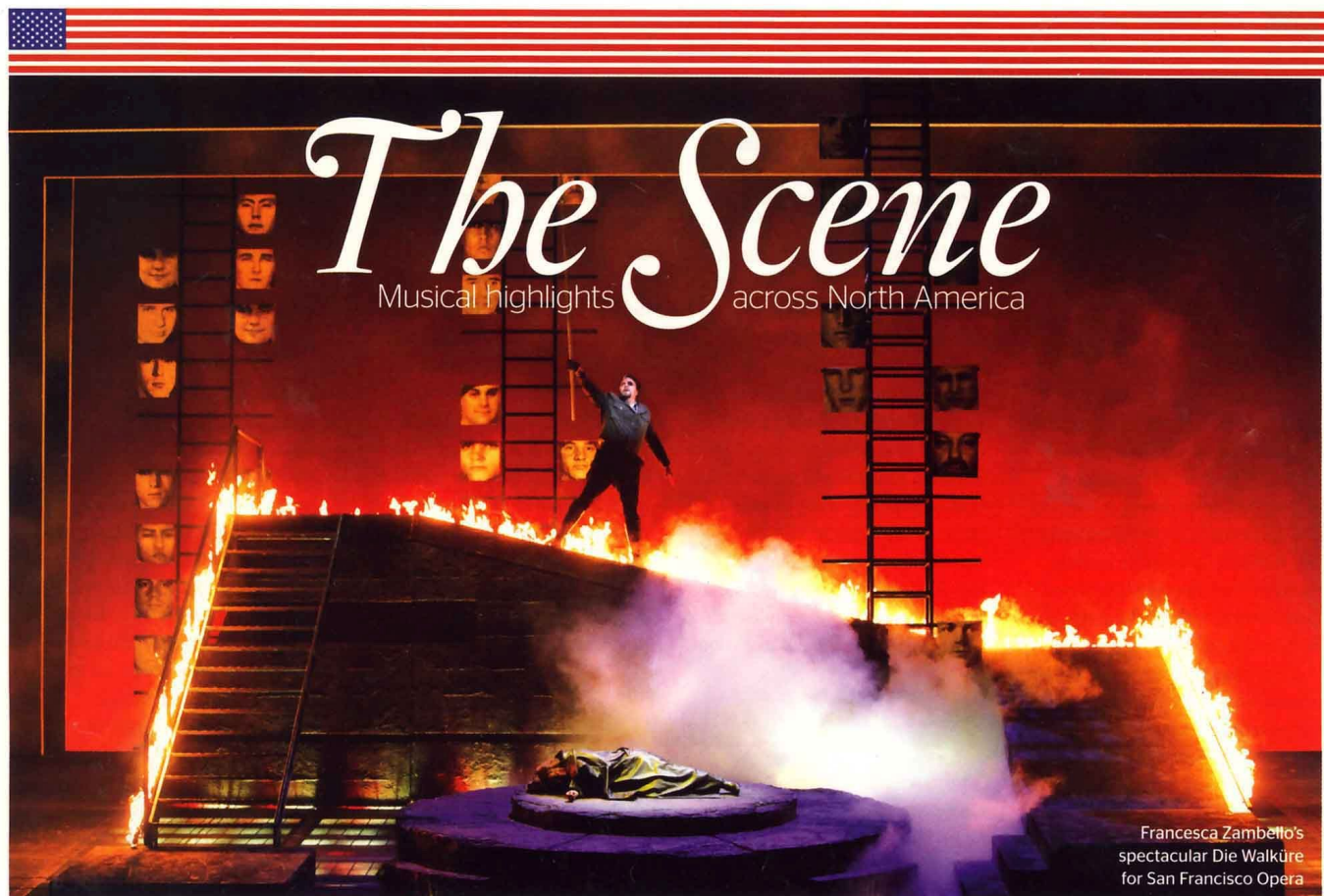


GRAMOPHONE

June 2011



Francesca Zambello's
spectacular *Die Walküre*
for San Francisco Opera

SAN FRANCISCO

San Francisco Opera

The Ring Cycle (May 29 - July 3)

Francesca Zambello's interpretation of Wagner's Eddic epic can be seen complete for the first time this summer. Drawing on several periods of US history, Zambello offers a commentary on the nation's history of "greed and lust". Iconic moments like the *Ride of the Valkyries* are paired with trademarks of Americana, such as Brünnhilde decked out in Amelia Earhart aviatrix gear. In this fortuitous role, Nina Stemme makes her complete-cycle debut. Mark Delavan reprises his role as Wotan and tenor Ian Storey makes his company debut as Siegfried. While *Das Rheingold* and *Die Walküre* were imagined for the company in 2008 and 2010, respectively, this will mark the first performances of *Siegfried* and *Götterdämmerung*: the former opens on May 29 and the latter on June 5. Complete cycles run June 14-19, June 21-26 and June 28 to July 3, and will be tied into numerous other events in the Bay Area that form the San Francisco Ring Festival.