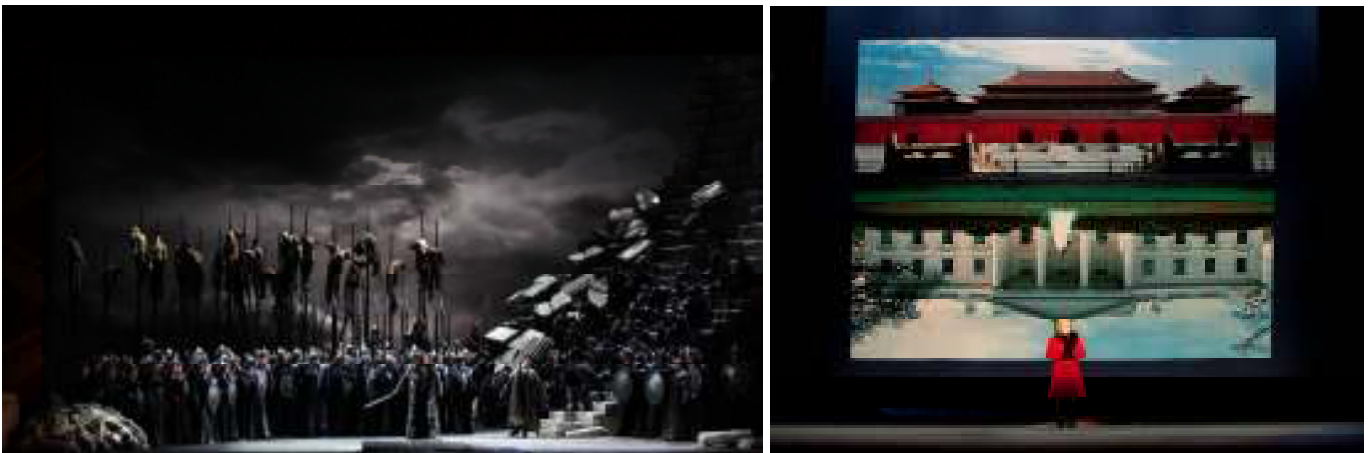




**THREE NEW-TO-SAN FRANCISCO PRODUCTIONS TO BE PRESENTED
DURING THE SUMMER 2012 SEASON, JUNE 8 TO JULY 8**



L-R: Attila (photo by Brescia-Arminsano/Teatro alla Scala) and Nixon In China (photo by Tim Matheson/Vancouver Opera)

**Bay Area premiere of *Nixon in China* by John Adams and Alice Goodman opens the
Summer Season June 8**

**San Francisco Opera co-production with La Scala of Verdi's *Attila* led by Music
Director Nicola Luisotti opens June 12**

**Summer season also offers a new production of Mozart's *The Magic Flute* by Jun
Kaneko from June 13**

**Music Director Nicola Luisotti and the San Francisco Opera Orchestra to perform in
Concert June 3**

For season ticket information: Call (415) 864-3330 or sfopera.com

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (January 25, 2012)—San Francisco Opera's Summer Season will feature three productions never before seen in San Francisco, opening on Friday, June 8 with the long-awaited Bay Area premiere of *Nixon In China* by Bay Area composer John Adams and librettist Alice Goodman.

The season continues with the San Francisco debut of a co-production of Verdi's *Attila* that was premiered at La Scala in Summer 2011, and concludes with the premiere of a new production of Mozart's *The Magic Flute*.

In addition to the three opera productions at the War Memorial Opera House, Music Director Nicola Luisotti and the San Francisco Opera orchestra will perform in concert at Zellerbach Hall in Berkeley on Sunday, June 3 at 3 p.m. with a program of Prokofiev, Cherubini as well as Boccherini's Cello Concerto performed by Amit Peled.

***Nixon in China*—John Adams and Alice Goodman**

John Adams' rhythmically rich recreation of Nixon's 1972 presidential trip to Beijing has established itself as a great American opera described by the *New York Times* as a work of "clarity, simplicity, shocking elegance." Twenty-five years after premiering at Houston Grand Opera under the leadership of David Gockley, this seminal work receives its Bay Area stage premiere. The cast features Brian Mulligan making his role debut as Richard Nixon; the rich baritone thrilled audiences in San Francisco Opera's *Faust* (2010) and *Werther* (2010). The cast also includes Maria Kanyova (Pat Nixon), Simon O'Neill (Mao Tse-tung), Hye-Jung Lee (Madame Mao Tse-tung), Chen-Ye Yuan (Chou En-lai) and Patrick Carfizzi (Henry Kissinger). Lawrence Renes, whose conducting of Adams' *Doctor Atomic* won praise from London critics, will lead the orchestra in an acclaimed Vancouver Opera production directed by Michael Cavanagh that was described by the *Vancouver Sun* as "vibrant, exhilarating and totally compelling."

In addition to Brian Mulligan, Simon O'Neill, Hye Jung Lee and Patrick Carfizzi are also making their role debuts, heralding a new generation of singers to take on this landmark work.

***Attila*—Giuseppe Verdi**

In the popular imagination, Attila the Hun was a ruthless barbarian, but to Giuseppe Verdi, he was a far more complex and compelling figure: a brave, ambitious warrior tormented by fierce internal doubts. This new co-production with Teatro alla Scala, which was first performed in Italy in June 2011 led by Maestro Luisotti in his La Scala conducting debut, is staged by Gabriele Lavia with sets by Alessandro Camera, the creative team that made its San Francisco Opera debut with *Don Giovanni* in October.

The distinguished cast features legendary bass Ferruccio Furlanetto in the title role; Lucrecia Garcia (Odabella) who recently sang this role at La Scala; tenor Fabio Sartori (Foresto), in a role shared by Diego Torre for two performances; baritone Quinn Kelsey (Ezio) and renowned bass Samuel Ramey (Pope Leo I).

***The Magic Flute*—Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**

Endlessly inventive, charmingly fantastical and utterly unique, Mozart's final opera is a profound yet lighthearted tale of romantic love, spiritual transcendence and the beguiling art of birdcatching. In this production premiere, the internationally acclaimed ensemble cast is led by dynamic young conductor Rory Macdonald and includes lyric tenor and former Adler Fellow Alek Shrader as Tamino (shared with Nathaniel Peake for two performances), soprano Heidi Stober (Pamina), acclaimed baritone Nathan Gunn (Papageno), bass Kristinn Sigmundsson (Sarastro), and in the opera's most virtuoso role, Russian soprano Albina Shagimuratova, who is "in demand everywhere as the Queen of the Night" (*The New York Times*). Sung in English, this new one-of-a-kind San Francisco Opera co-production is created by renowned Japanese-American visual artist Jun Kaneko and directed by Harry Silverstein.

High resolution downloadable photographs of 2012 Summer Season productions and artists are available at sfopera.com/press.

TICKETS AND INFORMATION

Three-opera Trio packages for *Nixon in China*, *Attila* and *The Magic Flute* are available at a 30% discount (priced from \$63 to \$693) through March 31, 2012. Trio packages are available at the San Francisco Opera Box Office either in person or by phone at (415) 864-3330. This offer is not valid online. Single tickets are priced from \$21 to \$389 and may be purchased at sfopera.com or through the San Francisco Opera Box Office [301 Van Ness Avenue (at Grove Street), or by phone at (415) 864-3330]. Standing Room tickets go on sale at 10 a.m. on the day of each performance; tickets are \$10 each, cash only.

Before every opera performance, listen to charismatic music scholars present a 25-minute Opera Talk including an overview of the opera, with insights on the music, composer and historical background. Talks begin fifty-five minutes before each performance in the orchestra section of the War Memorial Opera House and are presented free of charge to patrons with tickets for the corresponding performance.

The War Memorial Opera House is located at 301 Van Ness Avenue at Grove Street. Patrons are encouraged to use public transportation to attend San Francisco Opera performances. The War Memorial Opera House is within walking distance of the Civic Center BART station and near numerous bus lines, including 5, 21, 47, 49 and the F Market Street. For more public transportation information, visit bart.gov and sfmuni.com.

Casting, programs, schedules and ticket prices are subject to change. For further information about San Francisco Opera's Summer 2012 season, please visit sfopera.com.

SUMMER 2012 SEASON CASTING AND CALENDAR

* San Francisco Opera Debut † Current Adler Fellow ♪ Role Debut • OperaVision Performance
All performances take place at the War Memorial Opera House unless noted.

SUMMER 2012 OPERA SEASON

NIXON IN CHINA

by John Adams and Alice Goodman
Vancouver Opera Production

SAN FRANCISCO OPERA PREMIERE

June 8 (8 p.m.), **14*** (7:30 p.m.), **17*** (2 p.m.), **22** (8 p.m.),
26* (8 p.m.), **30** (8 p.m.); **July 3** (7:30 p.m.), **2012**

Libretto by Alice Goodman

Approximate running time: 2 hours, 50 minutes with one intermission

Sung in English with English supertitles

First Performance: Houston, October 22, 1987

Cast:

<i>Richard Nixon</i>	Brian Mulligan ♪
<i>Pat Nixon</i>	Maria Kanyova *
<i>Mao Tse-tung</i>	Simon O'Neill *♪
<i>Chiang Ch'ing</i>	Hye Jung Lee *♪
<i>(Madame Mao Tse-tung)</i>	
<i>Chou En-lai</i>	Chen-Ye Yuan *
<i>Henry Kissinger</i>	Patrick Carfizzi ♪
<i>Wu Ching-Hua</i>	Chiharu Shibata
<i>Hung Ch'ang-Ch'ing</i>	Bryan Ketron

Production Team:

<i>Conductor</i>	Lawrence Renes *
<i>Director</i>	Michael Cavanagh *
<i>Set Designer</i>	Erhard Rom *
<i>Costume Designer</i>	Parvin Mirhady *
<i>Lighting Designer</i>	Christopher Maravich
<i>Projection Designer</i>	Sean Nieuwenhuis *
<i>Choreographer</i>	Wen Wei Wang *
<i>Chorus Director</i>	Ian Robertson

ATTILA by Giuseppe Verdi

Co-production with Teatro alla Scala

PRODUCTION NEW TO SAN FRANCISCO OPERA

June 12 (8 p.m.), **15** (8 p.m.), **20** (7:30 p.m.), **23*** (8 p.m.),
28* (7:30 p.m.); **July 1*** (2 p.m.), **2012**

Libretto by Temistocle Solera

Approximate running time: 2 hours, 45 minutes with one intermission

Sung in Italian with English supertitles

First Performance: Venice, March 17, 1846

First SFO Performance: November 21, 1991

Most Recent SFO Performances: November 1991

Cast:

<i>Attila</i>	Ferruccio Furlanetto
<i>Odabella</i>	Lucrecia Garcia *
<i>Foresto</i>	Fabio Sartori *
	Diego Torre *♪ (6/28, 7/1)
<i>Ezio</i>	Quinn Kelsey ♪
<i>Pope Leo I</i>	Samuel Ramey

Production Team:

<i>Conductor</i>	Nicola Luisotti
<i>Director</i>	Gabriele Lavia
<i>Set Designer</i>	Alessandro Camera
<i>Costume Designer</i>	Andrea Viotti
<i>Lighting Designer</i>	Christopher Maravich
<i>Chorus Director</i>	Ian Robertson

THE MAGIC FLUTE by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

NEW PRODUCTION PREMIERE

Co-production with Washington National Opera, Opera Carolina, Opera Omaha and Lyric Opera of Kansas City

June 13 (7:30 p.m.), **16** (8 p.m.), **19** (8 p.m.),
21* (7:30 p.m.), **24*** (2 p.m.), **27*** (7:30 p.m.), **29** (8 p.m.);
July 6 (8 p.m.), **8** (2 pm), **2012**

Libretto by Emanuel Schikaneder

Approximate running time: 3 hours, 30 minutes with one intermission

Sung in English with English supertitles

First Performance: Vienna, September 30, 1791

First SFO Performance: October 11, 1950

Most Recent SFO Performances: November 2007

Cast:

Cast:

Pamina

Heidi Stober

Tamino

Alek Shrader

Nathaniel Peake* ♯ (7/6, 7/8)

Papageno

Nathan Gunn

Sarastro

Kristinn Sigmundsson

The Queen of the Night

Albina Shagimuratova*

Monostatos

Greg Fedderly

Papagena

Nadine Sierra † ♯

First Lady

Melody Moore ♯

Second Lady

Lauren McNeese

Third Lady

Renée Tatum

The Speaker

David Pittsinger

First Armored Man

Beau Gibson

Second Armored Man

Jordan Bisch

Production Team:

Production Team:

Conductor

Rory Macdonald*

Director

Harry Silverstein

Production Designer

Jun Kaneko*

Lighting Designer

Paul Pyant

Chorus Director

Ian Robertson

NICOLA LUISOTTI AND THE SAN FRANCISCO OPERA ORCHESTRA

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley

Sunday, June 3, 2012 at 3:00 p.m.

Program: Prokofiev / “Classical” Symphony

Boccherini / Cello Concerto in B-flat Major, featuring cellist Amit Peled

Cherubini / Symphony in D Major

San Francisco Opera is sponsored, in part, by the Ann and Gordon Getty Foundation, John A. and Cynthia Fry Gunn, Franklin and Catherine Johnson, Mrs. Edmund W. Littlefield, Bernard and Barbro Osher, and Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Farrow. San Francisco Opera is sponsored, in part, by a grant from Grants for the Arts/San Francisco Hotel Tax Fund.

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Nixon in China is made possible, in part, by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Additional support provided by the Fleishhacker Foundation.

Company Sponsors John A. and Cynthia Fry Gunn are proud to support *Attila*. This production is made possible, in part, by the Amici di Nicola of Camerata, the Koret Foundation and Tad and Dianne Taube.

The Magic Flute is made possible, in part, by Thomas F. & Barbara A. Wolfe, the Koret Foundation and Tad and Dianne Taube. Jun Kaneko's design fee is supported, in part, by the Tobin Theatre Arts Fund. Additional support provided by Betty & Jack Schafer, members of Camerata, and Chevron.

Yamaha is the official piano of San Francisco Opera. Pianos provided by Music Exchange.



2011–12 Season Sponsor

For further press information or to obtain Summer 2012 Season photographs, please visit sfopera.com/press or contact:

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