



SAN FRANCISCO
OPERA CENTER

SHERI GREENAWALD, DIRECTOR

AUDITIONS
FOR THE 2009 PROGRAMS OF
SAN FRANCISCO OPERA CENTER
 including
MEROLA OPERA PROGRAM
ADLER FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

San Francisco Opera Center, Sheri Greenawald, Director, under the auspices of the internationally renowned San Francisco Opera, David Gockley, General Director and Donald Runnicles, Music Director and Principal Conductor, offers a continuing sequence of performance and career development opportunities for the best young professional singers, coach/accompanists and stage directors.

Since 1982, San Francisco Opera Center has held auditions for its programs. Successful coach/accompanist auditionees are invited to participate in the Merola Opera Program, a 12 week (for coach/accompanists) summer program of performance and study. In addition, selected artists are offered contracts for the prestigious Adler Fellowship Program.

Coach/accompanists must take part in San Francisco Opera Center auditions to be eligible for the Merola Opera Program and Adler Fellowship Program.

The Merola Opera Program is the entry-level program for all San Francisco Opera Center programs. The Adler Fellowship Program is a renewable yearlong residency offered to selected singers and coach/accompanists from the Merola Opera Program.

REGIONAL AUDITIONS WILL BE HELD AS FOLLOWS:

	<u>PRELIMINARIES</u>	<u>FINALS</u>	<u>POSTMARK DEADLINES</u>
Seattle	October 16, 2008	October 17, 2008	September 19, 2008
Chicago	October 23-25, 2008	October 26, 2008	September 23, 2008
Houston	October 27, 2008	October 28, 2008	September 26, 2008
San Francisco	October 31, 2008	November 1, 2008	September 29, 2008
New York	November 11-14 & 17-19, 2008	November 20 & 21, 2008	October 6, 2008

2009 repertoire will include:

Pietro Mascagni's *L'AMICO FRITZ* (sung in Italian)

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's *COSÍ FAN TUTTE* (sung in Italian)

SCENES PROGRAM with orchestra

Repertoire will be determined based upon artists chosen

Every singer will be cast in either an opera or the scenes program

Applications must be postmarked *no later than* the deadline date for the region where you are auditioning. Applications postmarked after the deadline date will not be accepted. The 2009 Merola Opera Program will take place at San Francisco Opera from June 8 through August 23, 2009 (coach/accompanists will begin June 1); singers, coach/accompanists and stage directors may apply. Visit our Webpage at <http://www.sfopera.com/auditions> or call (415) 565-3277.

PROGRAMS OF THE SAN FRANCISCO OPERA CENTER

MEROLA OPERA PROGRAM

Approximately five apprentice coach/accompanists will be invited to join this intensive 12 week (for coach/accompanists) summer training program held at San Francisco Opera, along with approximately 23 singers and one apprentice stage director. Two opera productions, one staged scenes program with orchestra, and one concert with orchestra will be presented. Internationally renowned artists will conduct a series of master classes for the Merola Opera Program. **The 2009 Merola Opera Program will take place from June 8 through August 23, 2009 (coach/accompanists will begin June 1).**

Under master coach supervision, apprentice coaches will accompany and coach approximately 23 promising singers in Merola productions and perform assistant conductor duties (e.g. keyboard in the orchestra, backstage and assistant conducting). The Merola Opera Program seeks coaches with a sound piano technique and some experience in opera coaching.

The Merola Opera Program provides a living stipend, round-trip transportation from place of residence to San Francisco, and shared-accommodation housing. **Please note: the Merola Opera Program only provides housing to participants and does not provide housing to spouse/partner, children, other relatives or pets.**

Participation in the Merola Opera Program requires proper, current U.S. Immigration Services authorization for non-U.S. citizens, valid through August 2009. If applicable, see "Non-United States Citizenship" on second page of application for further details.

Career grants in the amount of \$10,000 are available to each Merola alumnus/a by application for five years, with a maximum of \$5,000 in any single year.

ADLER FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

(Resident Artists of San Francisco Opera)

Each year, one or two apprentice coach/accompanists from the Merola Opera Program are chosen for an intensive fellowship involving all facets of being an opera coach/accompanist. Coach/accompanists are involved in all elements of musical preparation, rehearsals and performance in the Opera Center. In addition, they have the opportunity to work under the supervision of the San Francisco Opera music staff on the operas of the mainstage season. The Adler Fellowship is a renewable yearlong residency and is a salaried position.

AUDITION PROCESS

Coach/accompanist applicant should prepare four of the six excerpts listed on the enclosed audition repertoire form. The excerpts are to be played at the piano. The applicant must be able to sing all parts with an understanding of the text. The playing should reflect the excerpt's orchestral weight and color, while maintaining a pianistic sensibility. Applicant must prepare excerpts #1 and #2 on audition repertoire form. In addition, applicant should prepare a piano solo of their choice. The solo does not need to be memorized; however, the judges are looking for pianistic and musical preparation. Sight-reading may be required. Auditionee will not be asked to play from a full orchestral score at audition. Applicants granted an audition will take part in one audition and interview (there are no callbacks for coach/accompanist auditions). The audition will last approximately one half-hour and will conclude with a brief interview. Applicant is to include a current resume with application. Additionally, applicant is to include a brief statement (typed or neatly handwritten) describing their interest in being an apprentice coach/accompanist in the Merola Opera Program.

CONDITIONS

1. Applicant should be between the ages of 20-34 as of June 8, 2009. Exceptions are made on a case-by-case basis. Applicant may take part in San Francisco Opera Center auditions up to three times.
2. Applicant must have references from two recognized musical authorities in the opera field (e.g. musical coach, conductor) with whom the applicant has worked regularly for at least six months. Spouse, relatives and artistic representatives may not serve as applicant's musical authority reference. Applicant is to provide each musical authority with our reference form (in application) and have each musical authority return completed form to applicant in sealed envelope with musical authority's signature across the seal. *Musical authority reference forms must be returned to San Francisco Opera Center by applicant with application material; not sent directly by musical authority.*
3. Applicant must include a brief statement describing their interest in being an apprentice coach/accompanist and a current resume.
- 4a. Identification: a photocopy of the applicant's valid passport or birth certificate (not original) must be enclosed with the application (other forms of identification will not be accepted). Non-U.S. citizens: see "Non-United States Citizenship" on second page of application form. 4b. Photograph: enclose a recent 8x10 photograph labeled with the applicant's name; *photograph cannot be returned.* (Professional black & white headshot preferred, but not required.)
5. Do not include press material, recording material or any additional material not requested with application packet. Only requested material will be taken into consideration for an audition; *any additional material will be discarded.*
6. A photocopy of the entire completed application should be kept for personal reference; *application material cannot be returned.*
7. Mail application material to San Francisco Opera Center with two self-addressed \$.42 U.S. stamped business size envelopes and a \$30.00 *non-refundable* application fee. **Money order only; personal check will not be accepted.** Money order payable to "San Francisco Opera Center". International applicants: enclose cashier's check or foreign draft in U.S. dollars—contact us if issues. Include two self-addressed envelopes, though no postage is needed.
8. Application must be postmarked *no later than* the deadline date for the region where you are applying to audition. **An incomplete or late application will not be considered. Do not send application without enclosing completed musical authority reference forms in sealed envelopes.**
9. Application will be screened by San Francisco Opera Center audition committee. Applicant will be notified by San Francisco Opera Center as to whether or not he/she has been accepted to audition approximately three weeks after the deadline date. All applications are considered confidential.
10. Applicant may take part in San Francisco Opera Center auditions up to three times. Applicant unable to appear for scheduled audition may be eliminated from consideration. Failure to call in advance of the audition to cancel will constitute one of the three possible audition times.
11. San Francisco Opera Center expects that entrance into these auditions indicates availability for the Merola Opera Program.
12. Judge's forms and comments are the sole property of San Francisco Opera Center and are typically not made available to applicants/auditionees. Requested feedback may be made available to coach/accompanist auditionees at the discretion of the audition committee.
13. By applying, applicant agrees to abide by these conditions and agrees not to make any claim against San Francisco Opera Association or the Merola Opera Program regarding auditions and all aspects of the audition process. Decisions of the audition committee are final.
14. If invited to participate in a San Francisco Opera Center program, incoming participant agrees to be available for the duration of the program. Requests to perform elsewhere during the contract term are not encouraged. However, if participant receives such an invitation, formal request for leave must be made in writing. Participant will request that San Francisco Opera Center receive credit on any programs for the courtesy of releasing participant.



2009 AUDITIONS

COACH/ACCOMPANIST APPLICATION

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
 Date Received _____
 _____ Accepted
 _____ Not Accepted
 Late _____
 Incomplete _____
 Other _____

Please completely read through the *Conditions* on the previous page before completing this form. TYPE OR PRINT NEATLY.

Professional Name: _____ Legal Name: _____

Audition Region: _____

Preferred audition date (if any): _____ Preferred time of day (if any): _____

Auditions are scheduled in the order in which the applications are received; preferences are not guaranteed. Coach/accompanists will be scheduled for one audition on the preliminary audition dates only. New York Region Applicants: Apprentice coach/accompanist auditions will take place during the first audition week.

Current Home Street Address: _____

City/Town: _____ State/Province: _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____ Country: _____

Mobile Telephone: _____ Landline Telephone: _____ Alternate Telephone: _____

Email: _____ Fax Number: _____
(If available)

Age as of June 8, 2009: _____ *(see Condition 1 for age guidelines)* Date of Birth: _____ Height: _____ Weight: _____

Are you a United States Citizen? _____ **If NO, see "Non-United States Citizenship" section on next page**

EDUCATION:

_____/_____/_____/_____/_____/_____
 College/University City State/Province # of Years Degree Major

_____/_____/_____/_____/_____/_____
 Graduate School City State/Province # of Years Degree Major

MUSICAL AUTHORITY REFERENCES:

Please list two musical authorities providing your references *(see Condition 2)* enclosed with application material.

1. Name: _____ Affiliation: _____

Street Address: _____

City/Town: _____ State/Province: _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____ Country: _____

2. Name: _____ Affiliation: _____

Street Address: _____

City/Town: _____ State/Province: _____ Zip/Postal Code: _____ Country: _____

Have you entered San Francisco Opera Center/Merola auditions before? _____ List year(s): _____ Region(s): _____
Please note: Applicants may take part in San Francisco Opera Center auditions up to three times.

Have you participated in any San Francisco Opera programs? _____ List program(s)/year(s): _____

NON-UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP:

Do you currently have a valid employment authorization card from the U.S. Immigration Services? Yes _____ No _____

If YES, include a photocopy of valid employment authorization card and a photocopy of current passport.

If NO, include a photocopy of current passport. Where applicable, attach all previous entry visas to the U.S., and/or proof of enrollment at any U.S. schools, universities, apprenticeship programs, etc. Canadian citizens: if you do not have a current passport, please submit photocopies of all Canadian-issued identification.

I have carefully read all of the conditions on the accompanying pages and agree to be governed by them. If selected, I agree to participate in the entire program for which I am selected. I understand that San Francisco Opera Center staff may wish to verify any and all information provided by me in the above application. I permit any inquiry into facts included in this document and approve of the release of necessary information from any of the institutions and organizations mentioned in this application. I understand that an incomplete or late application will not be considered for an audition. I certify, with my signature below, that the information I have provided is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, and understand that providing false information on this application will render me ineligible for this and all future auditions with San Francisco Opera Center.

With this completed application, I am returning the following required documents as indicated by my initials:

_____ Application fee of \$30.00 (non-refundable) in a **money order** payable to "San Francisco Opera Center"—**no personal checks**
International applicants: please enclose cashier's check or foreign draft in U.S. dollars—contact us if issues (*see Condition 7*)

_____ Two musical authority reference forms in signed and sealed envelopes (*see Condition 2*)

_____ Brief statement and current resume per "Audition Process" section on second page (*see Condition 3*)

_____ Photocopy of valid passport or birth certificate (*see Condition 4a*)

_____ 8x10 photograph (labeled with applicant's name) (*see Condition 4b*)

_____ Two self-addressed \$.42 U.S. stamped business size envelopes
International applicants: no postage needed; must include two self-addressed business size envelopes

_____ Non-U.S. citizen applicants: required material enclosed per "Non-United States Citizenship" section above

Signature: _____ Date: _____

MAIL MATERIAL TO: San Francisco Opera Center Auditions, 301 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102

SAN FRANCISCO OPERA CENTER

AUDITIONS REPERTOIRE

Pianists should prepare the **first and second** items on the list. In addition, you should choose two of the other four selections to prepare a total of four excerpts.

- 1. Mozart** *Così fan tutte* from Act I
Sextet “Alla bella Despinetta”

- 2. Mascagni** *L’amico Fritz* from Act II
beginning at six measures before reh. #19 to reh. #34 “Suzel, buon dì”

- 3. Tchaikovsky** *Eugene Onegin* from Act III
Final Scene (N.B. please prepare the orchestral prelude that begins this scene.
You may prepare the excerpt in Russian or an English translation.)

- 4. Bizet** *Carmen* from Act II
Quintet “Nous avons en tête une affaire”

- 5. R. Strauss** *Ariadne auf Naxos* from the Prologue
“Sein wir wieder gut...” beginning reh. #108 (*sehr lebhaft*) to reh. #117
(*etwas schneller*)

- 6. Stravinsky** *The Rake’s Progress* from Act I
Scene 3 “No word from Tom...I go to him” reh. #177 to end of act

COACH/ACCOMPANIST

**SAN FRANCISCO OPERA CENTER AUDITIONS
MUSICAL AUTHORITY REFERENCE**

APPLICANT: *Please complete this section only. Remainder of form is to be completed by musical authority and returned directly to you in a signed and sealed envelope. Be sure to provide musical authority with enough time to complete and return to you before postmark deadline date. You are to return this form in envelope with application material to San Francisco Opera Center.*

Professional Name: _____ Postmark Deadline Date: _____

Legal Name: _____ Audition Region: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Name of Musical Authority: _____ Telephone: _____

Professional Affiliation of Musical Authority: _____

MUSICAL AUTHORITY: *Please complete this section. (Please type or print neatly.)*

Number of years you have worked with this coach/accompanist: _____

PLEASE RATE THIS COACH/ACCOMPANIST IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

PIANISTIC ABILITY: _____

CONDUCTING ABILITY (not a requirement): _____

COMMAND OF LANGUAGES: _____

MOTIVATION: _____

CAREER POTENTIAL: _____

RELIABILITY: _____

PERFORMING INSTINCTS: _____

WORKING RELATIONSHIPS WITH COLLEAGUES: _____

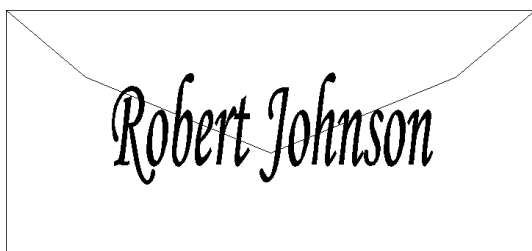
LEARNING SPEED: _____

COMMENTS: _____

Printed Name

Signature

Date



MUSICAL AUTHORITY INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Place this completed musical authority reference form in envelope.
2. Seal envelope and place your signature across the envelope flap to ensure confidentiality (note sample diagram to the left).
3. Deliver sealed envelope to applicant at above address or hand deliver to applicant by requested date (arrangement made with applicant). *Please do not mail directly to San Francisco Opera Center.*
4. Applicant will include your sealed envelope with application material and mail to San Francisco Opera Center.

COACH/ACCOMPANIST

**SAN FRANCISCO OPERA CENTER AUDITIONS
MUSICAL AUTHORITY REFERENCE**

APPLICANT: *Please complete this section only. Remainder of form is to be completed by musical authority and returned directly to you in a signed and sealed envelope. Be sure to provide musical authority with enough time to complete and return to you before postmark deadline date. You are to return this form in envelope with application material to San Francisco Opera Center.*

Professional Name: _____ Postmark Deadline Date: _____

Legal Name: _____ Audition Region: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Name of Musical Authority: _____ Telephone: _____

Professional Affiliation of Musical Authority: _____

MUSICAL AUTHORITY: *Please complete this section. (Please type or print neatly.)*

Number of years you have worked with this coach/accompanist: _____

PLEASE RATE THIS COACH/ACCOMPANIST IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

PIANISTIC ABILITY: _____

CONDUCTING ABILITY (not a requirement): _____

COMMAND OF LANGUAGES: _____

MOTIVATION: _____

CAREER POTENTIAL: _____

RELIABILITY: _____

PERFORMING INSTINCTS: _____

WORKING RELATIONSHIPS WITH COLLEAGUES: _____

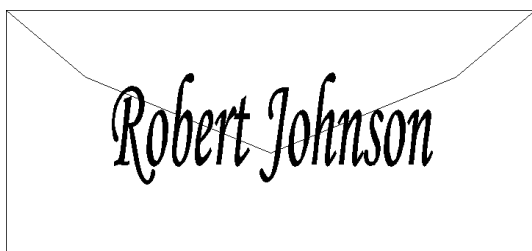
LEARNING SPEED: _____

COMMENTS: _____

Printed Name

Signature

Date



MUSICAL AUTHORITY INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Place this completed musical authority reference form in envelope.
2. Seal envelope and place your signature across the envelope flap to ensure confidentiality (note sample diagram to the left).
3. Deliver sealed envelope to applicant at above address or hand deliver to applicant by requested date (arrangement made with applicant). *Please do not mail directly to San Francisco Opera Center.*
4. Applicant will include your sealed envelope with application material and mail to San Francisco Opera Center.