



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 stage director auditionees are invited to participate in the Merola Opera Program, an 11 week summer program of performance and study.

*Stage directors must take part in San Francisco Opera Center auditions to be eligible for the Merola Opera Program.*

The Merola Opera Program is the entry-level program for all San Francisco Opera Center programs.

**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 applying. 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 on 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

One apprentice stage director will be invited to join this intensive 11 week program held at San Francisco Opera, along with approximately 23 singers and five coach/accompanists. 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).**

The apprentice stage director will act as the assistant director on the two Merola Opera Program productions, and will be the primary director for the “semi-staged” Merola Grand Finale. This concert generally consists of 20 scenes/arias. The apprentice stage director will also receive classes alongside the singers in diction, stage deportment, movement, make-up, languages and acting from a distinguished staff of specialists from San Francisco Opera.

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 spouses/partners, 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.**

## INTERVIEW PROCESS

Apprentice stage director applicant must submit a completed application with required material to San Francisco Opera Center. Applicant is asked to include a brief statement (typed or neatly handwritten) describing their interest in being an apprentice stage director in the Merola Opera Program. In the statement, the applicant should outline their reasons for choosing to be a stage director for opera, how their experience and background makes them uniquely qualified for this field, and what they hope to achieve from their participation in the Merola Opera Program. Also include a current resume. If granted an interview, candidate will be required to participate in a 45 minute interview with a San Francisco Opera Center audition committee representative in the candidate’s chosen audition region. Candidate interviews will be scheduled around the singer and apprentice coach/accompanist auditions. **If granted an interview, candidates are asked to bring an up-to-date portfolio to the interview. Please do not send portfolio with application material.**

## 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/interviews up to three times.
2. Applicant must have references from three recognized professional authorities in the opera field, preferably one conductor and two stage directors, with whom the applicant has worked. Spouse, relatives and artistic representatives may not serve as applicant’s professional authority reference. Applicant is to provide each professional authority with our reference form (in application) and have each professional authority return completed form to applicant in sealed envelope with professional authority’s signature across the seal. *Professional authority reference forms must be returned to San Francisco Opera Center by applicant with application material; not sent directly by professional authority.*
- 3a. 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. 3b. Photograph: enclose a recent 8x10 photograph labeled with the applicant’s name; *photograph cannot be returned.* (Professional black & white headshot preferred, but not required.)
4. Applicant must include a brief statement describing their interest in being an apprentice stage director and current resume. Do not include additional material not requested with application packet. Only requested material will be taken into consideration for an interview; *any additional material will be discarded.*
5. A photocopy of the entire completed application should be kept for personal reference; *application material cannot be returned.*
6. 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.
7. Application must be postmarked *no later than* the deadline date for the region where you are applying to interview. **An incomplete or late application will not be considered. Do not send application without enclosing completed professional authority reference forms in sealed envelopes.**
8. 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 interview approximately three weeks after the deadline date. All applications are considered confidential.
9. Applicant may take part in San Francisco Opera Center auditions/interviews up to three times. Applicant unable to appear for scheduled interview may be eliminated from consideration. Failure to call in advance of the interview to cancel will constitute one of the three possible interview times.
10. San Francisco Opera Center expects that entrance into this interview process indicates availability for the Merola Opera Program.
11. Judge’s forms and comments are the sole property of San Francisco Opera Center and are typically not made available to applicants/interviewees. Requested feedback may be made available to director interviewees at the discretion of the audition committee.
12. 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 interview and all aspects of the interview process. Decisions of the audition committee are final.
13. 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 work 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 DIRECTOR 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Interview Region: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred interview date (if any): \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred time of day (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

*Interviews are scheduled in the order in which the applications are received; preferences are not guaranteed. Apprentice stage director candidates will be scheduled for one interview on the preliminary audition dates only. New York Region Applicants: Apprentice stage director interviews 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

### OPERATIC SCENES:

Please list six contrasting operatic scenes that you are prepared to discuss in your interview. Please be prepared to remark on how you would balance the dramatic, musical, and technical elements to best illuminate the scene.

Scene	Opera	Composer	Language
1.	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____
6.	_____	_____	_____

**PROFESSIONAL AUTHORITY REFERENCES:**

Please list three professional 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: \_\_\_\_\_

3. 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 interview. 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/interviews 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 6*)

\_\_\_\_\_ Three professional authority reference forms in signed and sealed envelopes (*see Condition 2*)

\_\_\_\_\_ Brief statement and current resume per “Interview Process” section on second page (*see Condition 4*)

\_\_\_\_\_ Photocopy of valid passport or birth certificate (*see Condition 3a*)

\_\_\_\_\_ 8x10 photograph (labeled with applicant’s name) (*see Condition 3b*)

\_\_\_\_\_ Two self-addressed \$.42 U.S. stamped envelopes (International applicants: no postage needed; must include two self-addressed 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  
PROFESSIONAL AUTHORITY REFERENCE**

**APPLICANT:** *Please complete this section only. Remainder of form is to be completed by professional authority and returned directly to you in a signed and sealed envelope. Be sure to provide professional 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: \_\_\_\_\_ Interview Region: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Professional Authority: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation of Professional Authority: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Number of years you have worked with this stage director: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE RATE THIS STAGE DIRECTOR IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:**

MOTIVATION: \_\_\_\_\_

CAREER POTENTIAL: \_\_\_\_\_

COMMAND OF LANGUAGES: \_\_\_\_\_

MUSICALITY: \_\_\_\_\_

LEARNING SPEED: \_\_\_\_\_

RELIABILITY: \_\_\_\_\_

WORKING RELATIONSHIPS WITH COLLEAGUES: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE WHY THIS CANDIDATE IS UNIQUELY QUALIFIED TO BE A STAGE DIRECTOR: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

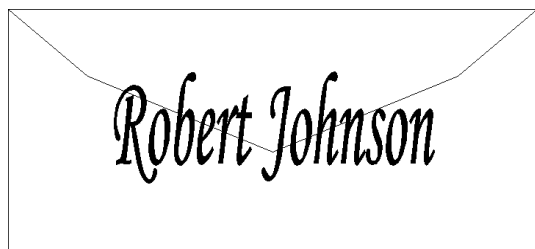
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Printed Name**

**Signature**

**Date**



**PROFESSIONAL AUTHORITY INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Place this completed professional 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.

SAN FRANCISCO OPERA CENTER AUDITIONS  
PROFESSIONAL AUTHORITY REFERENCE

**APPLICANT:** Please complete this section only. Remainder of form is to be completed by professional authority and returned directly to you in a signed and sealed envelope. Be sure to provide professional 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: \_\_\_\_\_ Interview Region: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Professional Authority: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation of Professional Authority: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Number of years you have worked with this stage director: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE RATE THIS STAGE DIRECTOR IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:**

MOTIVATION: \_\_\_\_\_

CAREER POTENTIAL: \_\_\_\_\_

COMMAND OF LANGUAGES: \_\_\_\_\_

MUSICALITY: \_\_\_\_\_

LEARNING SPEED: \_\_\_\_\_

RELIABILITY: \_\_\_\_\_

WORKING RELATIONSHIPS WITH COLLEAGUES: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE WHY THIS CANDIDATE IS UNIQUELY QUALIFIED TO BE A STAGE DIRECTOR: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

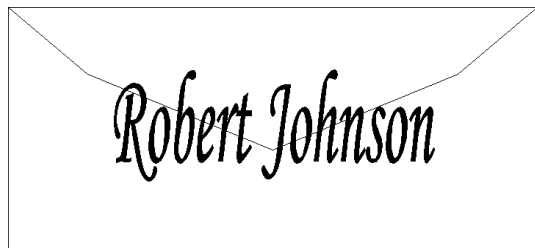
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name

Signature

Date



**PROFESSIONAL AUTHORITY INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. Place this completed professional 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.

SAN FRANCISCO OPERA CENTER AUDITIONS
PROFESSIONAL AUTHORITY REFERENCE

APPLICANT: Please complete this section only. Remainder of form is to be completed by professional authority and returned directly to you in a signed and sealed envelope. Be sure to provide professional 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: \_\_\_\_\_ Interview Region: \_\_\_\_\_
Address: \_\_\_\_\_
Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_
Name of Professional Authority: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_
Affiliation of Professional Authority: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Number of years you have worked with this stage director: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE RATE THIS STAGE DIRECTOR IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

MOTIVATION: \_\_\_\_\_
CAREER POTENTIAL: \_\_\_\_\_
COMMAND OF LANGUAGES: \_\_\_\_\_
MUSICALITY: \_\_\_\_\_
LEARNING SPEED: \_\_\_\_\_
RELIABILITY: \_\_\_\_\_
WORKING RELATIONSHIPS WITH COLLEAGUES: \_\_\_\_\_

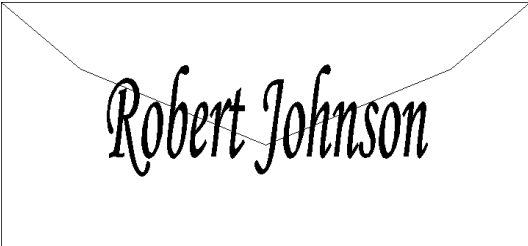
STATE WHY THIS CANDIDATE IS UNIQUELY QUALIFIED TO BE A STAGE DIRECTOR: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name

Signature

Date



PROFESSIONAL AUTHORITY INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. Place this completed professional 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.