



SAN FRANCISCO
OPERA

SAN FRANCISCO OPERA GENERAL DIRECTOR MATTHEW SHILVOCK
ANNOUNCES 2020–21 SEASON REPERTORY AND CASTING

MUSIC DIRECTOR DESIGNATE EUN SUN KIM OPENS COMPANY'S 98TH SEASON
WITH GALA CONCERT FEATURING ALBINA SHAGIMURATOVA AND PENE PATI
ON SEPTEMBER 11 AND LEADS NEW PRODUCTION OF
BEETHOVEN'S *FIDELIO* OPENING SEPTEMBER 12

SEASON INCLUDES WEST COAST PREMIERE OF POUL RUDERS' *THE HANDMAID'S
TALE* AND COMPANY PREMIERE OF ALEXANDER ZEMLINSKY'S *DER ZWERG*;
MOZART-DA PONTE PRODUCTION TRILOGY CONTINUES WITH *COSÌ FAN TUTTE*;
AND REPERTORY FAVORITES *RIGOLETTO*, *LA BOHÈME*, *THE BARBER OF SEVILLE*

COMPANY PRESENTS SOPRANOS LIANNA HAROUTOUNIAN AND IRÈNE THEORIN
IN CONCERT WITH THE SAN FRANCISCO OPERA ORCHESTRA; FREE
OPERA IN THE PARK CONCERT HEADLINED BY SONDRÁ RADVANOVSKY
AND NEW OPENING NIGHT GALA CELEBRATIONS

Subscriptions on Sale Wednesday, January 22, at 1 pm PST
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Fidelio creative team with Matthew Shilvock (photo: Matthew Washburn);
Così fan tutte continues Mozart-Da Ponte Trilogy; Set model for Poul Rouders' *The Handmaid's Tale*

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (January 22, 2020) — San Francisco Opera General Director Matthew Shilvock today announced the Company's 98th season, which opens on September 11, 2020 with

an Opening Night Celebration featuring soprano Albina Shagimuratova and tenor Pene Pati in concert with the San Francisco Opera Orchestra conducted by Music Director Designate Eun Sun Kim. Opening Night festivities include San Francisco Opera Guild's Opera Ball, BRAVO! CLUB's annual Opening Night Gala and two new events: the Opera Supper in the Veterans Building's elegant Green Room and, for the entire audience, a celebratory, post-concert toast to the season.

Highlights of the 2020–21 Season include: a new production of Beethoven's *Fidelio* conducted by Eun Sun Kim and directed by Matthew Ozawa taking place in the 250th anniversary year of the composer's birth; a new production of *Così fan tutte*, featuring a brilliant ensemble cast in director Michael Cavanagh's Mozart–Da Ponte trilogy; the West Coast premiere of Poul Ruders' *The Handmaid's Tale* starring Sasha Cooke in an English-language new co-production between San Francisco Opera and the Royal Danish Opera; Alexander Zemlinsky's rarely-staged *Der Zwerg* with Henrik Nánási on the podium and revivals of Giuseppe Verdi's *Rigoletto*, Giacomo Puccini's *La Bohème* with two casts and Gioachino Rossini's *The Barber of Seville*.

A special October presentation of *Opera in the Park*, the annual free concert in Golden Gate Park, will be headlined by soprano Sondra Radvanovsky, and a May concert will feature sopranos Lianna Haroutounian and Iréne Theorin performing selections by Verdi and Wagner with the San Francisco Opera Orchestra led by Henrik Nánási at the War Memorial Opera House.

Due to the replacement of seats in the Orchestra, Grand Tier and Dress Circle sections of the War Memorial Opera House—a collaboration between San Francisco Opera, San Francisco Ballet and San Francisco War Memorial and Performing Arts Center to improve patron comfort, sightlines and accessibility in the historic theater—the typically bifurcated fall and summer schedule will be adjusted in 2021 only, with performances taking place in April and May, rather than June and July. As a result, the Company will present seven mainstage operas along with several concerts from September 11–December 6, 2020 and from April 25–May 16, 2021. Installation of the new seats will begin in May 2021 and conclude in August. The opening gala performance of San Francisco Opera's subsequent 2021–22 Season on September 10, 2021 will be the first public opportunity for audiences to experience these seating upgrades.

General Director Matthew Shilvock said: "This is a season of thrilling story-telling on the War Memorial stage, and a season of some very special one-time events. In new productions of *Fidelio*, *Così fan tutte* and *The Handmaid's Tale* as well as the company premiere of *Der Zwerg*, we will experience people striving to overcome obstacles of society, yearning for the triumph of hope. As we prepare to replace the seats in the Opera House and introduce a new-format opening night, we are using this opportunity to showcase some extraordinary artists in concert, including a very special *Opera in the Park*. I am so excited for our first opening weekend with our new Music Director, Eun Sun Kim, with whom we are turning the Company's pages to a

particularly amazing new chapter. This is a season of bold stories that reflect our world, of beautiful music making, and of human emotions writ large."

In what the *New York Times* called a "pathbreaking" appointment, Eun Sun Kim was named San Francisco Opera's Caroline H. Hume Music Director Designate last December. She formally assumes the role of Music Director on August 1, 2021. Kim made "a company debut of astonishing vibrancy and assurance" (*San Francisco Chronicle*) conducting Antonin Dvořák's *Rusalka* in June 2019.

2020-21 SEASON

FIDELIO by Ludwig van Beethoven September 12–October 1, 2020



van den Heever



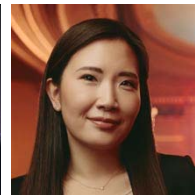
O'Neill



Struckmann



Owens



Kim



Ozawa

San Francisco Opera joins the global celebrations of Beethoven's 250th anniversary with a new production of the composer's only opera, *Fidelio*. Last presented by the Company in 2005, this monumental work of love and liberty triumphing over corruption returns in an insightful new staging by **Matthew Ozawa**. The American director, whose father was born in a Japanese American internment camp in Wyoming during World War II, places Beethoven's inspiring ode to freedom within a government holding facility.

Ozawa said, "*Fidelio*, Beethoven's only opera, is a shockingly relevant work that has served as a symbol of hope for generations of people afflicted by oppression and tyranny. At the heart of our story is a woman, a vision for the modern age, whose personal sacrifice to free her husband results in the liberation of all those imprisoned. What better way to embrace the opera's revolutionary history than to view the story through a modern lens, highlighting both our heroine as well as the global detention crisis through this production. My hope is that experiencing this opera not only helps us shine a light on injustice but reminds us that we too have the power to be agents of change."

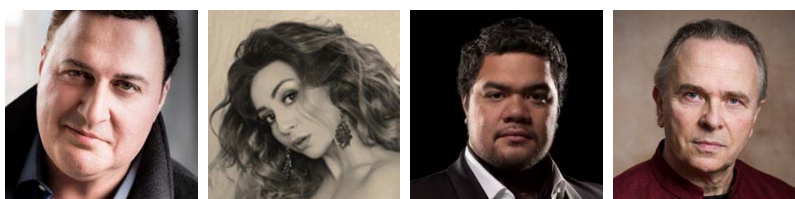
Music Director Designate **Eun Sun Kim** conducts the San Francisco Opera Orchestra and Chorus. Kim said: "*Fidelio* is a key work in operatic history, like Monteverdi's *Poppea*, Mozart's *Figaro* and Wagner's *Tristan*. I'm so looking forward to working with all the forces of the house and a sensational, international cast to bring this new production to life."

Elza van den Heever heads the cast as Leonora, the hero who, disguised as a man in order to find her wrongfully imprisoned husband, infiltrates the detention facility. Since her 2007 San Francisco Opera debut as Donna Anna in Mozart's *Don Giovanni* while still a San Francisco Opera Adler Fellow, van den Heever has emerged as "one of the most important dramatic sopranos in the opera world" who is "justly celebrated for her fierce commitment to her characters, as well as for her gleaming, surpassingly flexible voice" (*Opera News*).

Tenor **Simon O'Neill** sings the role of Leonora's husband, Florestan. A noted interpreter of heroic roles, *The Guardian* said O'Neill's "vocal and physical presence never waivers" while *The Baltimore Sun* praised his Florestan with the National Symphony Orchestra for the artist's "affecting passion, not to mention laser-like articulation and a bright, theater-filling tone." Taking on the low-voiced roles in Beethoven's opera are a trio of extraordinary bass-baritones: **Falk Struckmann** is the corrupt Pizarro; **Eric Owens** portrays the head of the facility Rocco and **Alfred Walker** is Fernando, a government leader.

Built entirely in the Company's Bay Area scenery, costume and wig shops, the production features a rotating cube of cells, interrogation rooms and offices with video surveillance feeds showing the activities of detainees in all areas of the facility. The sets and projections are designed by **Alexander V. Nichols**, costumes are designed by **Jessica Jahn** and lighting design is by **JAX Messenger**. San Francisco Opera Chorus Director **Ian Robertson** leads the Opera Chorus for the work's famous Act I "Prisoner's Chorus" and the opera's final scene, two exhilarating moments comparable in hope and energy to the "Ode to Joy" in Beethoven's 9th Symphony.

RIGOLETTO by Giuseppe Verdi September 13–October 4, 2020



Gagnidze

Minasyan

Pati

Elder

An immediate success at its 1851 premiere in Venice, *Rigoletto* remains one of Giuseppe Verdi's most beloved and popular works for its memorable arias ("Caro nome" and "La donna è mobile"), multi-layered ensembles and turbulent intensity. **Sir Mark Elder** conducts this Italian classic of seduction, betrayal and vengeance in his first engagement with San Francisco Opera since making a triumphant 2015 Company debut leading Richard Wagner's *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*.

Georgian baritone **George Gagnidze**, who was applauded by the *Financial Times* for his “finely nuanced performance in the title role” at the Metropolitan Opera, heads an international cast. **Pene Pati** reprises the Duke of Mantua, a breakout role in 2017 for the Samoan-born tenor. Earlier this season, the *San Francisco Chronicle* praised Pati’s “gleaming, sensuous stream of sound” and “magical, indescribable charisma that radiates beyond the footlights and compels you to pay attention to everything he does.”

Armenian soprano **Nina Minasyan** makes her American operatic debut as Rigoletto’s daughter, Gilda, a role she has performed at Moscow’s Bolshoi Theatre, Opera Cologne, Opéra de Lyon and the Welsh National Opera. Bass-baritone **Alfred Walker** brings his “muscular, resonant voice” (*San Francisco Examiner*) to the role of the assassin Sparafucile, mezzo-soprano and former Adler Fellow **Zanda Švēde** reprises Maddalena and baritone **Reginald Smith, Jr.** is Monterone, whose curse on Rigoletto sets the tragedy in motion.

COSÌ FAN TUTTE by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart October 6–28, 2020



Davis

Chest

Roberts

Antoun

Furlanetto

Park

Scappucci

Così fan tutte follows two pairs of lovers whose affections become entangled as a playful bet becomes a crisis where the limits of loyalty and forgiveness are tested. Mozart’s glorious score and Lorenzo Da Ponte’s incisive libretto bring to life this experiment in love with striking intimacy.

San Francisco Opera’s new production by director **Michael Cavanagh** is the second installment in the Company’s trilogy set in the “Great American House of Mozart and Da Ponte.” Part one of the trilogy, *The Marriage of Figaro*, was unveiled in 2019 and proclaimed by the *San Francisco Chronicle* “a splendid demonstration of how to present one of the funniest, sweetest, sexiest and most emotionally probing works in the operatic repertoire with all its treasures intact.” *Così fan tutte* reunites the creative team of Cavanagh, set designer **Erhard Rom**, costume designer **Constance Hoffman** and lighting designer **Jane Cox** for an updated staging that brings the house forward in time to mid-1930s America. The structure has now become a country club at a time when the nation is struggling with economic strife and the winds of war are beginning to stir. A new production of *Don Giovanni* will complete the trilogy in the 2021–22 Season.

Italian conductor and music director of Liège’s Royal Opéra de Wallonie **Speranza Scappucci** joins the Company to conduct this new production. Scappucci—who was the subject of *Conducting a REVOLUTION*, a 2018 documentary which premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival—has won

extensive praise for her work as both a conductor and a pianist, including numerous engagements at the Vienna State Opera.

Soprano **Jennifer Davis** makes her American debut as Fiordiligi and baritone **John Chest**, the acclaimed Billy Budd in Britten's opera with San Francisco Opera in 2019, portrays her lover, Guglielmo. Following performances in the Company's 2016 productions of Bizet's *Carmen* and Bright Sheng's *Dream of the Red Chamber*, mezzo-soprano **Irene Roberts** returns as Dorabella. Her beau, Ferrando, will be performed by Canadian tenor **Frédéric Antoun**, making his Company debut. Celebrated Italian bass **Ferruccio Furlanetto** instigates the lovers' wager as Don Alfonso, and Korean soprano **Hera Hyesang Park** debuts with the Company as the witty instigator, Despina.

THE HANDMAID'S TALE by Poul Ruders October 29–November 22, 2020



Grammy-nominated Danish composer **Poul Ruders'** powerful adaptation of Margaret Atwood's landmark literary work *The Handmaid's Tale* receives its West Coast premiere in a new co-production with the Royal Danish Opera. The searingly dramatic two-act work, performed in librettist **Paul Bently's** English-language version, takes place in a dystopian American future where fertile women are forced into child-bearing servitude by a theocratic regime. Atwood's provocative vision of America in a post-democratic reign of terror has been a best-seller since its 1984 publication and, in recent years, its red-caped, white-hooded handmaids have become a symbol of resistance. *The Testaments*, Atwood's 2019 sequel to *The Handmaid's Tale*, was a winner of last year's Booker Prize.

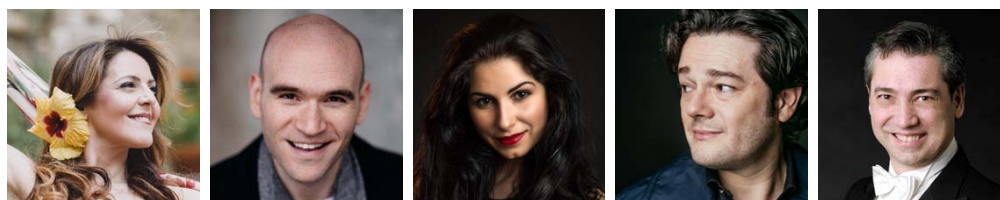
Ruders' opera, which premiered in Copenhagen in 2000, followed a 1990 film adaptation and presaged by 15 years the current Emmy and Golden Globe award-winning Hulu TV series starring Elisabeth Moss. Hailed by *Gramophone* as "vividly imaginative" and conveying "a disturbing story with great drama and stylistic flair," the *New York Times* proclaimed Ruders' work "a brilliant, brutal opera, one that should be taken up widely."

Royal Danish Opera Artistic Director **John Fulljames** directs this new staging, which will be unveiled in Copenhagen in May 2020 before opening in San Francisco on October 29. Fulljames' creative team features set designer **Chloe Lamford**, costume designer **Christina Cunningham**, lighting designer **Fabiana Piccioli** and projection designer **Will Duke**, all making their San

Francisco Opera debuts. Danish conductor **Thomas Søndergård** also makes his Company debut leading the San Francisco Opera Orchestra and Chorus in Ruders' spectacular score, which is punctuated by haunting references to the hymn "Amazing Grace."

Sasha Cooke stars as the handmaid Offred, who navigates her existence with determination and courage. The American mezzo-soprano has earned extensive praise for her artistic versatility. At the 2017 world premiere of Mason Bates and Mark Campbell's *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs*, the *New York Times* observed, "As always, the mezzo-soprano Sasha Cooke is a beating heart onstage, a warm and sympathetic presence as Laurene." Cooke will be joined in this contemporary masterwork by mezzo-soprano **Michaela Martens** as Serena Joy, soprano **Sarah Cambridge** as Aunt Lydia and bass-baritone **James Creswell** as Offred's Commander.

LA BOHÈME by Giacomo Puccini November 15–December 6, 2020



Agresta

Fabiano

Florian

Chacón-Cruz

Luisotti

Puccini's popular work of love and loss among a group of bohemian artists in mid-19th-century Paris will be presented in director **John Caird** and designers **David Farley** and **Michael James Clark**'s beloved 2014 production. The "elegant staging" (*Mercury News*) of this deeply moving story will be directed in revival by **Shawna Lucey** and feature two impressive casts under the musical leadership of former San Francisco Opera Music Director **Nicola Luisotti**.

Italian soprano **Maria Agresta**, whose performance as Mimi in Chicago last season was hailed by the *Chicago Tribune* as "radiant" and "whose sight and sound will not soon be forgotten," makes her San Francisco Opera debut in the same role. Tenor **Michael Fabiano**, who has portrayed the title role of Verdi's *Don Carlo* and Des Grieux in Massenet's *Manon* on the War Memorial Opera House stage, reprises Rodolfo. They will be joined by soprano **Amina Edris** as Musetta and baritone **Artur Ruciński** as Marcello.

The second cast of Bohemians in Puccini's opera is headed by Romanian soprano **Aurelia Florian** as Mimi and Mexican tenor **Arturo Chacón-Cruz** reprising the role Rodolfo which he performed with the Company in 2017. American soprano **Janai Brugger** makes her debut with San Francisco Opera as Musetta and **Anthony Clark Evans** is Marcello. Bass **Soloman Howard** portrays Colline in all performances and bass-baritone **Dale Travis** plays the dual roles of Benoit and Alcindoro.

THE BARBER OF SEVILLE (IL BARBIERE DI SIVIGLIA) by Gioachino Rossini
April 25–May 16, 2021



Meachem



Sekgapane



Mack



Brownlee



Lauricella



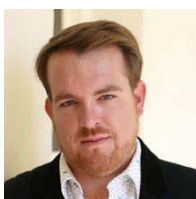
Cox

Rossini's timeless lyric comedy returns to the War Memorial Opera House stage in **Emilio Sagi's** buoyant, Spanish-themed production which the *San Francisco Chronicle* called "a winner" when it was first unveiled here in 2013. The sparkling coloratura, hilarious comedy and exuberant action of this bel canto classic will be helmed by conductor **Roderick Cox** in his Company debut.

Known for his onstage charisma and mellifluous baritone voice, **Lucas Meachem** reprises Figaro, the quick-witted jack of all trades whose entrance aria, "Largo al factotum," is one of opera's most recognizable for its humor and rapid-fire, tongue-twisting patter. Mezzo-soprano **Daniela Mack** returns to the role of Rosina, for which the *Guardian* praised her "dark tone and formidable coloratura" at her Covent Garden debut. **Stephanie Lauricella**, who made an acclaimed debut with San Francisco Opera in 2019 as Stéphano in *Roméo et Juliette*, sings Rosina in the final three performances.

Making his debut with the Company as Count Almaviva, South African tenor **Levy Sekgapane** brings his "ability not only to deliver both fiendish coloratura and stratospheric high notes flawlessly but also to give every appearance of enjoying himself in the process" (*Financial Times*). For the final three performances, Almaviva will be performed by star tenor **Lawrence Brownlee** in his long-awaited return to San Francisco Opera after making a sensational Company debut as Ernesto in Donizetti's *Don Pasquale* in 2016. Italian bass **Maurizio Muraro** is Doctor Bartolo, Korean bass **Simon Lim** joins the Company as Don Basilio and **Catherine Cook** reprises Berta.

DER ZWERG by Alexander Zemlinsky
April 27–May 15, 2021



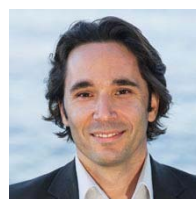
Hilley



Stober



Cambridge



Nánási

Alexander Zemlinsky's rarely performed operatic adaptation of Oscar Wilde's "The Birthday of the Infanta" follows an outsider whose earnest affection for a princess leads to a heartbreaking

rejection. Featuring a brilliant score that shimmers with sensuous and poignant musical textures and harmonies, an all-female chorus and a small cast of soloists, *Der Zwerg* is one of the Austrian composer's most extraordinary works. Premiered in 1922 in Cologne, the one-act opera was suppressed by German authorities before World War II and rescued from obscurity in recent times by musicians who believed in its beauty and powerful story.

For the Company premiere of this compelling work, Yugoslavian-born director **Darko Tresnjak** makes his Company debut directing his opulent production inspired by the paintings of Diego Velázquez. First unveiled at LA Opera in 2008 as part of the "Recovered Voices" initiative to reintroduce works by Jewish composers that were silenced by the Nazis, *Opera News* praised Tresnjak's staging for its "interpretive clarity, sureness of touch and eye for detail [which] made for an intensely exhilarating evening."

Hungarian conductor **Henrik Nánási**, whose previous San Francisco Opera engagements include critically acclaimed performances of Strauss' *Elektra* and Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*, takes to the podium to lead Zemlinsky's moving work. Heading the cast in the title role is rising American heldentenor **Clay Hilley**. *OperaWire* called Hilley "a heldentenor to keep an eye and ear out for" and Parterre Box praised his "secure, golden, seemingly effortless tone." Soprano **Heidi Stober** brings her "rock-solid security and diamantine sparkle" (*The Telegraph*) to the part of the Infanta. Canadian soprano and former San Francisco Opera Adler Fellow **Sarah Cambidge**, who "showed the outlines of a promising Wagnerian career to come in her fine, muscular performance" last season as the Foreign Princess in *Rusalka*, makes her role debut as Ghita.

Lianna Haroutounian and Iréne Theorin in Concert: A Celebration of Verdi and Wagner May 2, 6 and 8, 2021



Haroutounian

Theorin

Nánási

The spring season will be capped by a celebration of the music of Puccini, Verdi, Strauss and Wagner with two sensational vocal artists. Sopranos **Lianna Haroutounian** and **Iréne Theorin**, acclaimed interpreters of the great heroines of the Italian and German repertoires, will command the stage in a special concert program on three nights. These dynamic artists will perform thrilling operatic highlights with the San Francisco Opera Orchestra conducted by Henrik Nánási.

Haroutounian first appeared on the War Memorial Opera House stage in 2014 in the title role of Puccini's *Tosca*. The Armenian soprano returned two years later as a "Butterfly for the ages"

(*Mercury News*) and, in 2019, brought “expressive urgency” (*San Francisco Chronicle*) to her role debut as Manon Lescaut. Following a recent recital, the *Chronicle* said: “Haroutounian wasted little time in demonstrating that the same qualities that had made her appearances at the War Memorial Opera House so memorable – rich-hued vocal tone, expansive breath control, a knack for shaping a melodic phrase into something at once grand and intimate – were in play here as well.”

Theorin also made her San Francisco Opera debut in one of Puccini’s Italian masterpieces, portraying Turandot in 2011. She returned to the Company in 2018 in dramatic fashion, stepping in on short notice as Brünnhilde in acclaimed presentations of Wagner’s *Ring*. *Opera News* observed Theorin’s “vividly focused, articulate instrument was impressive throughout, and her portrayal was thrillingly heroic, melding emotional fragility, athletic grace, searing dramatic intelligence and unflagging stamina.” The *Chronicle* called her performances throughout the cycle “vivid and indefatigable.”

Opening Night Celebration Concert, Opera Ball, Opera Supper, BRAVO! CLUB Gala September 11, 2020



Shagimuratova

Pati

Kim

The 2020–21 Season kicks off with a spectacular gala concert conducted by Music Director Designate **Eun Sun Kim**, featuring soprano **Albina Shagimuratova** and tenor **Pene Pati**. Hailed for their emotionally thrilling artistry and stratospheric high notes, these sensational artists will dazzle in an 80-minute program of virtuosic arias and passionate love duets spanning from Bellini to Broadway. There will be a celebratory post-concert toast to the season for the entire audience in the Opera House.

San Francisco’s most glamorous party of the year, **Opera Ball**, will inaugurate the Company’s 98th season. Presented by San Francisco Opera Guild and hosted by co-chairs **Kim Dempster** and **Nafiseh Lindberg**, the evening begins with cocktails in the Beaux-Arts lobby of the historic War Memorial Opera House followed by a sumptuous dinner, the opening night concert and the Opera Ball after-party.

New this year is the **Opera Supper**, where opening night audiences can celebrate in an intimate, black-tie-optional setting and enjoy cocktails on the balcony of the Veterans Building with sweeping views of City Hall before an opulent, seated dinner in the Green Room. Supper

attendees then head next door to the Opera House for the concert followed by the Opera Ball after-party.

The **BRAVO! CLUB**'s annual black-tie gala will toast the new opera season with pre-performance cocktails, the opening night concert and late-night dancing at the Opera Ball after-party. BRAVO! CLUB members meet other opera-loving, young professionals and enjoy ticket discounts throughout the year along with invitations to educational and social events.

The September 11 Opening Night Celebration concert is included in Full Series A and Out of Town Series 1 subscription packages. The concert may be added to other series packages. Tickets for Opera Ball, Opera Supper and the BRAVO! CLUB Gala include seating for the opening night concert. Proceeds from these events support education programs of San Francisco Opera and San Francisco Opera Guild.

Opera in the Park with Sondra Radvanovsky
October 18, 2020



Radvanovsky

The annual, free *Opera in the Park* concert will take place at Robin Williams Meadow in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park on Sunday, October 18 at 1:30 pm. Usually a part of opening weekend, this special October presentation of the popular event which draws thousands of music lovers will feature star soprano **Sondra Radvanovsky** and the San Francisco Opera Orchestra performing a series of electrifying arias and musical favorites.

TICKETS AND INFORMATION

2020–21 Season subscriptions go on sale to new and renewing subscribers on January 22 at 1 pm PST at the San Francisco Opera Box Office (301 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco), by calling (415) 864-3330 and online at sfopera.com. San Francisco Opera Box Office hours are Monday 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m.–6 p.m. (Saturdays phone only except during performance season).

Subscriptions for San Francisco Opera's 2020–21 Season are priced from \$147 to \$2,921 for Full Series (7 or 8 performances) and \$63 to \$1,697 for Half Series (3 to 5 performances). A Design Your Own package is available for subscribers to curate their own series (minimum four

performances). A \$2 per-ticket facility fee is included in Balcony 1, 2 and 3 zone prices; all other zones include a \$3 per-ticket facility fee. Prices are valid through March 16, 2020.

The September 11 Opening Night Celebration Concert is included in Full Series A and Out of Town Series 1 packages. The concert may be added to other series by purchasing at the subscriber price of \$55 to \$163 or by purchasing Opera Ball, Opera Supper, BRAVO! CLUB Gala tickets.

The Lianna Haroutounian/Irène Theorin concert in May is included on select Full and Half Series packages. The concert may be added to other series by purchasing at the subscriber price of \$27 to \$195.

Tickets for Opera Ball start at \$2,000 (includes concert). For more information and to purchase tickets, contact the Opera Guild at (415) 565-3204 or visit sfopera.com/operaball2020. Tickets for Opera Supper are \$900 (includes concert) and go on sale in March 2020; to inquire about purchasing tickets, please email supper@sfopera.com. BRAVO! CLUB Gala tickets (includes concert) are available to BRAVO! Club members only; become a member at sfopera.com/bravo.

For information about subscriber benefits and special series subscriptions, including the Out of Town Series offering two or three performances over a 2–3 day period; the Teacher & Student Series offering 50% off select packages and the Rainbow Series for the LGBTQIA community, visit sfopera.com/subscribe.

Single (non-subscription) tickets for the 2020–21 Season will go on sale June 2020.

All War Memorial Opera House performances (except the September 11 season-opening night performance and May 2021 concerts) feature an informative 25-minute Pre-Opera Talk beginning 55 minutes prior to curtain. Pre-Opera Talks are free of charge to patrons with tickets for the corresponding performance. Visit sfopera.com/learn for information about Pre-Opera Talks, preview events and enrichment programs.

The War Memorial Opera House is located at 301 Van Ness Avenue. 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/Muni Station and near numerous bus lines, including 5, 21, 47, 49 and F Market Street. For further public transportation, direction and parking information, visit sfopera.com/directions.

For details of past San Francisco Opera presentations of *Fidelio*, *Rigoletto*, *Così fan tutte*, *La Bohème* and *The Barber of Seville*, visit the online performance archive at archive.sfopera.com.

All casting, programs, schedules and ticket prices are subject to change. For further information about San Francisco Opera's 2020–21 Season, visit sfopera.com.

2020–21 SEASON CASTING AND CALENDAR

*San Francisco Opera Debut **American Opera Debut †Role Debut ‡Current Adler Fellow

All performances take place at the War Memorial Opera House (301 Van Ness Avenue), unless noted.

FALL 2020

OPENING NIGHT CELEBRATION CONCERT

September 11, 2020 (8 pm)

Approximate running time: 80 minutes

Albina Shagimuratova, soprano

Pene Pati, tenor

Eun Sun Kim, conductor

San Francisco Opera Orchestra

San Francisco Opera's 98th season opens with a spectacular concert conducted by Music Director Designate Eun Sun Kim and featuring soprano Albina Shagimuratova and tenor Pene Pati in a program of virtuosic arias and passionate love duets spanning from Bellini to Broadway.

FIDELIO by Ludwig van Beethoven

NEW SAN FRANCISCO OPERA PRODUCTION

September 12 (7:30 pm), **15** (7:30 pm), **18** (7:30 pm), **23** (7:30 pm), **27** (2 pm), **October 1** (7:30 pm), **2020**

Libretto by Josef Sonnleithner and Georg Friedrich Treitschke

Approximate running time: 2 hours, 30 minutes including one intermission

Sung in German with English supertitles

World Premiere: Vienna; November 20, 1805
First SFO performance: November 8, 1937
Most recent: November 2005 (2005–06 Season)

Cast:

<i>Leonora</i>	Elza van den Heever
<i>Florestan</i>	Simon O'Neill
<i>Don Pizarro</i>	Falk Struckmann
<i>Rocco</i>	Eric Owens
<i>Don Fernando</i>	Alfred Walker †

Creative Team:

<i>Conductor</i>	Eun Sun Kim
<i>Director</i>	Matthew Ozawa
<i>Set & Projection Designer</i>	Alexander V. Nichols
<i>Costume Designer</i>	Jessica Jahn

Lighting Designer
Chorus Director

JAX Messenger
Ian Robertson

San Francisco Opera Orchestra and San Francisco Opera Chorus

RIGOLETTO by Giuseppe Verdi

September 13 (2 pm), **16** (7:30 pm), **19** (7:30 pm), **22** (7:30 pm), **26** (7:30 pm), **October 2** (7:30 pm), **4** (2 pm), **2020**

San Francisco Opera production

Libretto by Francesco Maria Piave

Approximate running time: 2 hours, 30 minutes including two intermissions

Sung in Italian with English supertitles

World Premiere: Venice; March 11, 1851
First SFO performance: October 8, 1923
Most recent: May–July 2017 (2016–17 Season)

Cast:

<i>Rigoletto</i>	George Gagnidze
<i>Gilda</i>	Nina Minasyan**
<i>Duke of Mantua</i>	Pene Pati
<i>Maddalena</i>	Zanda Švēde
<i>Sparafucile</i>	Alfred Walker
<i>Count Monterone</i>	Reginald Smith, Jr.

Creative Team:

<i>Conductor</i>	Sir Mark Elder
<i>Production</i>	Mark Lamos
<i>Stage Director</i>	Jose Maria Condemi
<i>Set Designer</i>	Michael Yeargan
<i>Costume Designer</i>	Constance Hoffman
<i>Lighting Designer</i>	Justin A. Partier
<i>Choreographer</i>	Lawrence Pech
<i>Chorus Director</i>	Ian Robertson

San Francisco Opera Orchestra, San Francisco Opera Chorus and San Francisco Opera Dance Corps

COSÌ FAN TUTTE by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

NEW SAN FRANCISCO OPERA PRODUCTION

October 6 (7:30 pm), **11** (2 pm), **14** (7:30 pm), **17** (7:30 pm), **23** (7:30 pm), **28** (7:30 pm), **2020**

Libretto by Lorenzo Da Ponte

Approximate running time: 3 hours, 20 minutes including one intermission
Sung in Italian with English supertitles

World Premiere: Vienna; January 26, 1790
First SFO performance: October 2, 1956
Most recent: June–July 2013 (2012–13 Season)

Cast:

<i>Fiordiligi</i>	Jennifer Davis**
<i>Dorabella</i>	Irene Roberts
<i>Ferrando</i>	Frédéric Antoun*
<i>Guglielmo</i>	John Chest
<i>Don Alfonso</i>	Ferruccio Furlanetto
<i>Despina</i>	Hera Hyesang Park*

Creative Team:

<i>Conductor</i>	Speranza Scappucci*
<i>Director</i>	Michael Cavanagh
<i>Set Designer</i>	Erhard Rom
<i>Costume Designer</i>	Constance Hoffman
<i>Lighting Designer</i>	Jane Cox
<i>Chorus Director</i>	Ian Robertson

San Francisco Opera Orchestra and San Francisco Opera Chorus

OPERA IN THE PARK WITH SONDRA RADVANOVSKY

Sunday, October 18, 2020 at 1:30 pm

Robin Williams Meadow in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco

Sondra Radvanovsky, soprano
Additional artists TBA
Conductor TBA
San Francisco Opera Orchestra

This special October edition of the popular event, which draws thousands of music lovers, will feature soprano Sondra Radvanovsky and the San Francisco Opera Orchestra performing a series of show-stopping arias and musical favorites. This concert is free; no tickets required.

THE HANDMAID'S TALE by Poul Ruders

WEST COAST PREMIERE
NEW SAN FRANCISCO OPERA AND ROYAL DANISH OPERA CO-PRODUCTION

October 29 (7:30 pm), November 1 (2 pm), 11 (7:30 pm), 14 (7:30 pm), 17 (7:30 pm), 20 (7:30 pm), 22 (2 pm),
2020

Libretto by Paul Bentley

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

Sung in English with English supertitles

World Premiere: Copenhagen; March 6, 2000

Cast:

<i>Offred</i>	Sasha Cooke♪
<i>Serena Joy</i>	Michaela Martens♪
<i>Aunt Lydia</i>	Sarah Cambridge♪
<i>Offred's Commander</i>	James Creswell♪
<i>Offred Double</i>	Abigail Levis*♪
<i>Janine/Ofwarren</i>	Katrina Galka*♪
<i>Ofglen</i>	Rhoslyn Jones♪
<i>Offred's Mother</i>	Nicole Birkland♪
<i>Rita</i>	Sara Couden*♪
<i>Nick</i>	Brenton Ryan♪
<i>Doctor</i>	Matthew DiBattista*

Creative Team:

<i>Conductor</i>	Thomas Søndergård*
<i>Production</i>	John Fulljames*
<i>Set Designer</i>	Chloe Lamford*
<i>Costume Designer</i>	Christina Cunningham*
<i>Lighting Designer</i>	Fabiana Piccioli*
<i>Projection Designer</i>	Will Duke*
<i>Chorus Director</i>	Ian Robertson

San Francisco Opera Orchestra and San Francisco Opera Chorus

LA BOHÈME by Giacomo Puccini

November 15 (2 pm), **18** (7:30 pm), **21** (7:30 pm), **24** (7:30 pm), **28** (7:30 pm), **29** (2 pm), **December 2** (7:30 pm), **3** (7:30 pm), **4** (7:30 pm), **5** (7:30 pm), **6** (2 pm), **2020**

San Francisco Opera co-production with Houston Grand Opera and Canadian Opera Company

Libretto by Giuseppe Giacosa and Luigi Illica

Approximate running time: 2 hours, 12 minutes including one intermission

Sung in Italian with English supertitles

World Premiere: Turin; February 1, 1896
First SFO performance: September 26, 1923
Most recent: June–July 2017 (2016–17 Season)

Cast:

<i>Mimi</i>	Maria Agresta*
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Rodolfo Aurelia Florian (Nov. 28; Dec. 2, 4, 6)
Michael Fabiano
Musetta Arturo Chacón-Cruz (Nov. 28; Dec. 2, 4, 6)
Amina Edris
Marcello Janai Brugger* (Nov. 28; Dec. 2, 4, 6)
Artur Ruciński
Colline Anthony Clark Evans (Nov. 28; Dec. 2, 4, 6)
Soloman Howard
Benoit/Alcindoro Dale Travis

Creative Team:

Conductor Nicola Luisotti
Production John Caird
Revival Director Shawna Lucey
Production Designer David Farley
Lighting Designer Michael James Clark
Chorus Director Ian Robertson

San Francisco Opera Orchestra and San Francisco Opera Chorus

THE FUTURE IS NOW: ADLER FELLOWS CONCERT

Friday, November 27, 2020 (7:30 p.m.)

Herbst Theatre

Veterans Building, 401 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco

San Francisco Opera Center's 2020 class of Adler Fellowship recipients will be showcased in their final concert of the year performing arias and opera scenes accompanied by the San Francisco Opera Orchestra. Complete program and ticket information will be announced at a later date.

SPRING 2021

THE BARBER OF SEVILLE (IL BARBIERE DI SIVIGLIA) by Gioachino Rossini

April 25 (2 pm), 28 (7:30 pm); May 1 (7:30 pm), 4 (7:30 pm), 7 (7:30 pm), 11 (7:30 pm), 14 (7:30 pm), 16 (2 pm), 2021

San Francisco Opera co-production with the Lithuanian National Opera and Ballet Theatre

Libretto by Cesare Sterbini

Approximate running time: 3 hours, 9 minutes including one intermission

Sung in Italian with English supertitles

World Premiere: Rome; February 20, 1816
First SFO performance: September 24, 1925
Most recent: November–December 2015 (2015–16 Season)

Cast:

<i>Figaro</i>	Lucas Meachem
<i>Rosina</i>	Daniela Mack
	Stephanie Lauricella (May 11, 14, 16)
<i>Count Almaviva</i>	Levy Sekgapane*
	Lawrence Brownlee (May 11, 14, 16)
<i>Doctor Bartolo</i>	Maurizio Muraro
<i>Don Basilio</i>	Simon Lim*
<i>Berta</i>	Catherine Cook

Creative Team:

<i>Conductor</i>	Roderick Cox*
<i>Director</i>	Emilio Sagi
<i>Set Designer</i>	Llorenç Corbella
<i>Costume Designer</i>	Pepa Ojanguren
<i>Original Lighting Designer</i>	Gary Marder
<i>Chorus Director</i>	Ian Robertson

San Francisco Opera Orchestra, San Francisco Opera Chorus and San Francisco Opera Dance Corps

DER ZWERG by Alexander Zemlinsky

COMPANY PREMIERE

April 27 (7:30 pm), **30** (7:30 pm), **May 5** (7:30 pm), **9** (2 pm), **15** (7:30 pm), **2021**

LA Opera production

Libretto by Georg Klaren based on the Oscar Wilde short story "The Birthday of the Infanta"

Approximate running time: 1 hour, 30 minutes without intermission

Sung in German with English supertitles

World Premiere: Cologne; May 22, 1922

Cast:

<i>Der Zwerg</i>	Clay Hilley* ♪
<i>Donna Clara, Infanta of Spain</i>	Heidi Stober ♪
<i>Ghita</i>	Sarah Cambidge ♪

Creative Team:

<i>Conductor</i>	Henrik Nánási
<i>Director</i>	Darko Tresnjak*
<i>Set Designer</i>	Ralph Funicello*
<i>Costume Designer</i>	Linda Cho*
<i>Original Lighting Designer</i>	David Weiner*
<i>Chorus Director</i>	Ian Robertson

San Francisco Opera Orchestra, San Francisco Opera Chorus and San Francisco Opera Dance Corps

LIANNA HAROUTOUNIAN & IRÉNE THEORIN IN CONCERT

May 2 (2 pm), 6 (7:30 pm), 8 (7:30 pm), 2021

Approximate running time: 2 hours, 30 minutes including one intermission

Lianna Haroutounian, soprano
Irène Theorin, soprano
Henrik Nánási, conductor
San Francisco Opera Orchestra

Two dynamic singers will perform operatic highlights from the works of Puccini, Verdi, Strauss and Wagner; complete program information will be announced at a later date.

San Francisco Opera is sponsored, in part, by The Dolby Family; Bertie Bialek Elliott; Keith and Priscilla Geeslin; Ann and Gordon Getty; John A. and Cynthia Fry Gunn; Burgess and Elizabeth Jamieson; Franklin and Catherine Johnson; Edmund W. and Jeannik Méquet Littlefield Fund; Steven M. Menzies; Bernard and Barbro Osher; Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem; Dianne and Tad Taube; Phyllis C. Wattis Endowment Funds; Diane B. Wilsey; and Barbara A. Wolfe.

The Opening Night Celebration is made possible, in part, by: Opening Weekend Grand Sponsor, Diane B. Wilsey. Additional support is provided by John A. and Cynthia Fry Gunn; Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem; and Joan and David Traitel.

Fidelio is made possible, in part, by: Opening Weekend Grand Sponsor, Diane B. Wilsey. Additional support is provided by John A. and Cynthia Fry Gunn; Edmund W. and Jeannik Méquet Littlefield Fund; Bernard and Barbro Osher; and Joan and David Traitel.

Rigoletto is made possible, in part, by: Opening Weekend Grand Sponsor, Diane B. Wilsey. Additional support is provided by Edmund W. and Jeannik Méquet Littlefield Fund; Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem; and Joan and David Traitel.

Opera in the Park is made possible, in part, by: Diane B. Wilsey; and the William and Gretchen Kimball Fund.

Così fan tutte is made possible, in part, by: John A. and Cynthia Fry Gunn; Koret Foundation; Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem; and Joan and David Traitel.

The Handmaid's Tale is made possible, in part, by: The Phyllis C. Wattis Fund for New Productions; Joan and David Traitel; and an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.

La Bohème is made possible, in part, by: John A. and Cynthia Fry Gunn; Burgess and Elizabeth Jamieson; San Francisco Opera Guild; Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem; and Joan and David Traitel.

The Barber of Seville is made possible, in part, by: Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem; and Joan and David Traitel.

Der Zwerg is made possible, in part, by: Bernard and Barbro Osher; Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem; and Joan and David Traitel.

Lianna Haroutounian & Irène Theorin in Concert is made possible, in part, by: Bernard and Barbro Osher; Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem; and Joan and David Traitel.

Yamaha is the official piano of San Francisco Opera.

OFFICIAL WINE SPONSOR



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High-resolution, downloadable photographs of 2020–21 Season productions and artists are available at sfopera.com/press. For cast biographies, visit sfopera.com.

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