SINGLE TICKETS FOR SAN FRANCISCO OPERA'S 2019 FALL SEASON NOW ON SALE

Acclaimed Stagings of Gounod's *Romeo and Juliet*, Britten's *Billy Budd* and Puccini's *Manon Lescaut*, New Productions of Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* and Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel*

Tickets available at [sfopera.com](http://sfopera.com) and (415) 864-3330

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (June 24, 2019; updated September 3) — Single (non-subscription) tickets for San Francisco Opera's 2019 Fall Season at the War Memorial Opera House are now available for purchase online at [sfopera.com](http://sfopera.com), in-person at the San Francisco Opera Box Office and by phone at (415) 864-3330. Tickets are also available for Full, Half and Design Your Own Flexible Series subscription packages, special events such as *Opera Ball 2019*, the San Francisco Opera Chorus in concert at the Dianne and Tad Taube Atrium Theater and *The Future Is Now: Adler Fellows Concert* at Herbst Theatre.

The 2019 Fall Season opens with Charles Gounod's romantic *Romeo and Juliet* (*Roméo et Juliette*; September 6–October 1) starring tenor Pene Pati and soprano Nadine Sierra as the title roles in a new-to-San Francisco Opera production by Opéra de Monte-Carlo Director Jean-Louis Grinda and conducted by Yves Abel. Tickets for the September 6 opening night gala, *Opera Ball 2019: The Capulets' Masked Ball*, are available at the Box Office and online at [sfopera.com/operaball2019](http://sfopera.com/operaball2019).
The season continues with the West Coast premiere of Michael Grandage’s “powerful” (New York Times) production of Billy Budd (September 7–22) by English composer Benjamin Britten. Featuring an all-male cast headed by William Burden as Captain Vere, John Chest in his Company debut as the title role and bass-baritone Christian Van Horn as Claggart and conducted by Lawrence Renes, the performances of this 20th-century masterpiece coincide with the 100th anniversary of the discovery of the manuscript of Herman Melville’s posthumous seafaring novella.

Mozart’s The Marriage of Figaro (Le Nozze di Figaro; October 11–November 1) takes to the stage in a new production by Michael Cavanagh with sets designed by Erhard Rom, costumes designed by Constance Hoffman and lighting designed by Jane Cox. Cavanagh’s staging is the first installment of a multi-season project by this creative team to unveil Mozart’s three operatic collaborations with librettist Lorenzo da Ponte as a trilogy of productions set in an American house over three time periods. The Marriage of Figaro, set during the post-Revolutionary War period, features an ensemble cast of bass-baritone Michael Sumuel as Figaro with four artists making Company debuts: soprano Jeanine De Bique as Susanna, baritone Levente Molnár as the Count, soprano Jennifer Davis as Countess Almaviva and mezzo-soprano Serena Malfi as Cherubino, with Hungarian conductor Henrik Nánási, who made his acclaimed Company debut in 2017 leading Richard Strauss’ Elektra, on the podium.

San Francisco Opera presents Giacomo Puccini’s first triumph as an opera composer, Manon Lescaut (November 8–26), for the first time in 13 years in Olivier Tambosi’s “stunning” (Musical World) production. Soprano Lianna Haroutounian and tenor Brian Jagde make role debuts as Manon Lescaut and Chevalier des Grieux, respectively, and former Company Music Director Nicola Luisotti returns to the podium in this powerful work of Italian verismo.

A new San Francisco Opera co-production with London’s Royal Opera of Engelbert Humperdinck’s Hansel and Gretel (November 15–December 7) closes the fall season presentations. Conducted by Christopher Franklin, the cast features mezzo-soprano Sasha Cooke (Hansel) and soprano Heidi Stober (Gretel) as the impoverished siblings who, alone in the woods, must face a witch, portrayed by tenor Robert Brubaker, who has sinister plans for them. Featuring storybook sets by Antony McDonald which The Times (UK) called “enchanting,” cameos by familiar fairy tale figures and Humperdinck’s romantic, sweeping score, this family-friendly production offers a rich musical and theatrical experience where children are the heroes.

The 2019 Fall Season will feature several special events along with the mainstage opera presentations. The San Francisco Opera Chorus, under the direction of Chorus Director Ian Robertson, will present an all-choral program on November 22 in the Dianne and Tad Taube Atrium Theater. The 2019 San Francisco Opera Adler Fellows take center stage on
December 6 for The Future Is Now concert accompanied by the San Francisco Opera Orchestra conducted by Eun Sun Kim, who made a “company debut of astonishing vibrancy and assurance” (San Francisco Chronicle) this month leading Dvořák’s Rusalka.

San Francisco Chronicle Presents Opera in the Park, an opening weekend tradition, returns Sunday, September 8. This free, al fresco event features vocal soloists and conductors from the fall season in concert with the San Francisco Opera Orchestra at Robin Williams Meadow in San Francisco’s Golden Gate Park.

Please note: single tickets for 2020 Summer performances of Giuseppe Verdi’s Ernani, George Frideric Handel’s Partenope and Mason Bates and Mark Campbell’s The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs go on sale in October.

2019–20 SEASON SPECIAL EVENTS AND CONCERTS

OPERABALL 2019: THE CAPULETS’ MASKED BALL
War Memorial Opera House, 301 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco
Friday, September 6, 2019 at 5 p.m.

San Francisco Opera Guild’s signature gala, Opera Ball, celebrates the opening of San Francisco Opera’s 97th season with cocktails, a sumptuous dinner, Gounod’s Romeo and Juliet, dancing and masquerade. Elizabeth Birka-White and Jane Mudge co-chair Opera Ball 2019, which will also commemorate the 80th anniversary of the San Francisco Opera Guild. For tickets and more information, contact San Francisco Opera Guild at (415) 565-3204 or visit sfopera.com/operaball2019.

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE PRESENTS OPERA IN THE PARK
Robin Williams Meadow, Golden Gate Park
Sunday, September 8, 2019 at 1:30 p.m.

Opera in the Park features the stars of the Company’s 2019 Fall Season in concert with the San Francisco Opera Orchestra. This al fresco event held at Robin Williams Meadow in San Francisco’s Golden Gate Park is a beloved opening weekend tradition that is free and open to the public.

SAN FRANCISCO OPERA CHORUS CONCERT
Dianne and Tad Taube Atrium Theater
Diane B. Wilsey Center for Opera; Veterans Building, 401 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco
Friday, November 22 at 7:30 p.m.

Under the baton of Chorus Director Ian Robertson and accompanied by Associate Chorus Master Fabrizio Corona at the piano, the San Francisco Opera Chorus will perform an all-choral program, including works by J.S. Bach, Rossini, Verdi, Puccini, Tchaikovsky and living composers Ola Gjeilo and Dan Forrest. For tickets, visit sfopera.com

THE FUTURE IS NOW: ADLER FELLOWS CONCERT
Herbst Theatre, Veterans Building, 401 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco
Friday, December 6, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

San Francisco Opera 2019 Adler Fellows will be showcased in their final concert of the year performing arias and opera scenes accompanied by the San Francisco Opera Orchestra under the baton of maestro Eun Sun Kim.

**TICKETS AND INFORMATION**

Single (non-subscription) tickets for San Francisco Opera’s 2019 Fall Season are now available and priced from $26 to $398. Subscriptions to the 2019–20 Season are also available and priced from $160 to $3,024 for Full Series (8 productions) and $77 to $1,512 for Half Series (3–4 productions). 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. Tickets for the San Francisco Opera Chorus Concert are $35 general admission and prices for The Future Is Now: Adler Fellows Concert range from $30 to $65. Tickets may be purchased online at sfopera.com, at the San Francisco Opera Box Office (301 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco) and by calling (415) 864-3330. The San Francisco Opera Box Office hours are Monday 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Tuesday through Friday 10 a.m.–6 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m.–6 p.m. (Saturdays phone only).

All casting, programs, schedules and ticket prices are subject to change. For further information about San Francisco Opera’s 2019–20 Season, visit sfopera.com.

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**2019 FALL SEASON CASTING AND CALENDAR**

*San Francisco Opera Debut   **American Staged Opera Debut   ♪Role Debut   †Current Adler Fellow

All performances take place at the War Memorial Opera House
301 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco CA 94102

**ROMEO AND JULIET** (Roméo et Juliette) by Charles Gounod
Production New to San Francisco Opera

**September 6** (8 p.m.), **13** (7:30 p.m.), **18** (7:30 p.m.), **21** (7:30 p.m.), **24** (7:30 p.m.), **29** (2 p.m); **October 1** (7:30 p.m., 2019)

Opéra de Monte-Carlo and Teatro Carlo Felice co-production
Libretto by Jules Barbier and Michel Carré
Sung in French with English supertitles
Approximate running time: 3 hours including one intermission

First Performance: Paris, April 27, 1867
First SFO performance: October 4, 1923
Most recent SFO performance: 1987–88 Season
Cast:
Romeo  Pene Pati
Juliet  Nadine Sierra / Amina Edris (Oct 1)
Mercutio  Lucas Meachem
Friar Lawrence  James Creswell
Capulet  Timothy Mix
Tybalt  Daniel Montenegro
Duke of Verona  Philip Skinner
Stéphano  Stephanie Lauricella
Gertrude  Eve Gigliotti
Gregorio  SeokJong Baek
Benvolio  Christopher Oglesby
Paris  Hadleigh Adams

Creative Team:
Conductor  Yves Abel
Director  Jean-Louis Grinda
Associate Director  Vanessa d’Ayral de Serignac
Set Designer  Eric Chevalier
Costume Designer  Carola Volles
Lighting Designer  Roberto Venturi
Fight Director  Dave Maier
Choreographer  Lawrence Pech
Chorus Director  Ian Robertson

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

BILLY BUDD by Benjamin Britten
Production New to San Francisco Opera

September 7 (7:30 p.m.), 12 (7:30 p.m.), 15 (2 p.m.), 17 (7:30 p.m.), 20 (7:30 p.m.), 22 (2 p.m.) 2019

A Glyndebourne production, originally performed in the Glyndebourne Festival 2010
Libretto by E.M. Forster and Eric Crozier; based on the novella by Herman Melville
By arrangement with Boosey & Hawkes, Inc., publisher and copyright holder
Sung in English with English supertitles
Approximate running time: 3 hours, including one intermission

First Performance:  London, December 1, 1951; revised London, November 13, 1960
First SFO performance:  September 16, 1978
Most recent SFO performance:  2004–05 Season

Cast:
Captain Vere  William Burden
Billy Budd  John Chest
John Claggart  Christian Van Horn
Mr. Redburn  Philip Horst
Mr. Flint  Wayne Tigges

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The Marriage of Figaro (Le Nozze di Figaro) by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Production Premiere

October 11 (7:30 p.m.), 13 (2 p.m.), 16 (7:30 p.m.), 19 (7:30 p.m.), 22 (7:30 p.m.), 25 (7:30 p.m.), 27 (2 p.m.); November 1 (7:30 p.m.), 2019

San Francisco Opera production
Libretto by Lorenzo Da Ponte
Sung in Italian with English supertitles
Approximate running time: 3 hours, 40 minutes including two intermissions

First Performance: Vienna, May 1, 1786
First SFO performance: November 9, 1936
Most recent SFO performance: 2014–15 Season

Cast:
Figaro
Susanna
Count Almaviva
Countess Almaviva
Cherubino
Dr. Bartolo
Marcellina
Don Basilio

Michael Sumuel
Jeanine De Bique
Levente Molnár
Jennifer Davis
Serena Malfi
James Creswell
Catherine Cook
Greg Fedderly

Creative Team:
Conductor
Production
Revival Director
Production Designer
Original Lighting Designer
Revival Lighting Designer
Fight Director
Chorus Director

Lawrence Renes
Michael Grandage
Ian Rutherford
Christopher Oram
Paule Constable
David Manion
Dave Maier
Ian Robertson

San Francisco Opera Orchestra, the San Francisco Opera Chorus and San Francisco Opera Dance Corps
MANON LESCAUT by Giacomo Puccini

November 8 (7:30 p.m.), 13 (7:30 p.m.), 16 (7:30 p.m.), 20 (7:30 p.m.), 24 (2 p.m.), 26 (7:30 p.m.), 2019

Lyric Opera of Chicago production
Libretto by Ruggero Leoncavallo, Marco Praga, Giuseppe Giacosa, Domenico Oliva and Luigi Illica; based on the 1731 novel L’histoire du chevalier des Grieux et de Manon Lescaut by Abbé Prévost
Sung in Italian with English supertitles
Approximate running time: 3 hours including two intermissions

First Performance: Turin, February 1, 1893
First SFO performance: September 28, 1926
Most recent SFO performance: 2006–07 Season

Cast:

Manon Lescaut
Chevalier des Grieux
Lescaut
Geronte
Edmondo
Singer
Dancing Master
Innkeeper
Lamp-Lighter
Naval Captain
Sergeant of Archers
Madrigal Singers
Sergeant

Lianna Haroutounian
Brian Jagde / Rafael Davila* (Nov 26)
Anthony Clark Evans
Eric Halfvarson
Christopher Oglesby
Ashley Dixon
Zhengyi Bai
SeokJong Baek
Zhengyi Bai
SeokJong Baek
Christian Pursell
Angela Eden Moser, Jesslyn Thomas, Laurel Cameron Porter, Sally Mouzon
William Bryan

Creative Team:

Conductor
Director
Production Designer

Nicola Luisotti
Olivier Tambosi
Frank Philipp Schlössmann
Lighting Designer: Duane Schuler
Fight Director: Dave Maier
Chorus Director: Ian Robertson

San Francisco Opera Orchestra and San Francisco Opera Chorus

**HANSEL AND GRETEL** (Hänsel und Gretel) by Engelbert Humperdinck
NEW CO-PRODUCTION

**November 15** (7:30 p.m.), **17** (2 p.m.), **21** (7:30 p.m.), **23** (7:30 p.m.), **30** (2 p.m); **December 1** (2 p.m.), **3** (7:30 p.m.), **7** (7:30 p.m.), **2019**

Co-production with Royal Opera, Covent Garden
Libretto by Adelheid Wette
Sung in English with English supertitles
Approximate running time: 2 hours, 15 minutes including one intermission

First Performance: Weimar, December 23, 1893
First SFO performance: September 14, 1929
Most recent SFO performance: 2002–03 Season

**Cast:**
Hansel: Sasha Cooke
Gretel: Heidi Stober
The Witch: Robert Brubaker
Gertrude: Michaela Martens
Peter: Alfred Walker†
Sandman: Ashley Dixon†
Dew Fairy: Natalie Image†

**Creative Team:**
Conductor: Christopher Franklin
Director & Production Designer: Antony McDonald†
Associate Stage Director: Danielle Urbas†
Associate Designer: Ricardo Pardo†
Lighting Designer: Lucy Carter†
Revival Lighting Designer: Neill Brinkworth†
Choreographer: Lucy Burge†
Chorus Director: Ian Robertson

San Francisco Opera Orchestra and the San Francisco Opera Chorus

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*Romeo and Juliet* is made possible, in part, by Opening Weekend Grand Sponsor, Diane B. Wilsey. Additional support is provided by John A. & Cynthia Fry Gunn; the Edmund W. & Jeannik Méquet Littlefield Fund; Jan Shrem & Maria Manetti Shrem and Joan & David Traitel.

*Billy Budd* is made possible, in part, by: John A. & Cynthia Fry Gunn; Bernard & Barbro Osher; Jan Shrem & Maria Manetti Shrem and Joan & David Traitel.

*Opera in the Park* is made possible, in part, by Opening Weekend Grand Sponsor Diane B. Wilsey.

*The Marriage of Figaro* is made possible, in part, by: John A. & Cynthia Fry Gunn; the Koret Foundation; Jan Shrem & Maria Manetti Shrem and the Phyllis C. Wattis Fund for New Productions.

*Manon Lescaut* is made possible, in part, by: John A. & Cynthia Fry Gunn; Burgess & Elizabeth Jamieson; the Edmund W. & Jeannik Méquet Littlefield Fund; Bernard & Barbro Osher; Jan Shrem & Maria Manetti Shrem and Joan & David Traitel.

*Hansel and Gretel* is made possible, in part, by: San Francisco Opera Guild and the Phyllis C. Wattis Fund for New Productions.

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High resolution downloadable photographs of the 2019 Fall Season productions and artists are available at [sfopera.com/press](http://sfopera.com/press). For cast biographies, visit [sfopera.com](http://sfopera.com).

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