



SAN FRANCISCO  
OPERA

**SAN FRANCISCO OPERA PRESENTS MOZART'S *DON GIOVANNI*  
WAR MEMORIAL OPERA HOUSE; JUNE 4–JUNE 30**

**CAST CHANGE ANNOUNCEMENT:  
ERWIN SCHROTT AND ERIK ANSTINE MAKE COMPANY DEBUTS AS LEPORELLO**

**MARC MINKOWSKI CONDUCTS AN INTERNATIONAL CAST HEADED BY  
ITALIAN BASS-BARITONE ILDEBRANDO D'ARCANGELO IN THE TITLE ROLE  
AND FEATURING ERIN WALL, ANA MARÍA MARTÍNEZ, SARAH SHAFER,  
STANISLAS DE BARBEYRAC, MICHAEL SUMUEL AND ANDREA SILVESTRELLI  
IN A REVISED PRODUCTION DIRECTED BY JACOPO SPIREI AND FEATURING  
PROJECTIONS AND SCENIC ADAPTATIONS BY VISUAL ARTIST TOMMI BREM**

**FREE LIVE SIMULCAST OF *DON GIOVANNI* AT AT&T PARK, JUNE 30**

**TICKETS AVAILABLE AT [SFOPERA.COM](http://SFOPERA.COM) AND (415) 864-3330**



Ildebrando D'Arcangelo (Don Giovanni); Erwin Schrott (Leporello); Erin Wall (Donna Anna); Mozart's *Don Giovanni* [photo: Cory Weaver]

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (May 12, 2017) — San Francisco Opera's 2017 Summer Season will include Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's *Don Giovanni* at the War Memorial Opera House beginning Sunday, June 4 through Friday, June 30 for eight performances. In a cast change announced today, Uruguayan bass-baritone Erwin Schrott and American bass Erik Anstine will sing the role of Leporello. Both artists are making their first appearances with San Francisco Opera and stepping in for previously scheduled bass Marco Vinco, who has withdrawn from the production for health reasons. Schrott is scheduled to sing the first six performances and Anstine the last two.

The production will feature Company debuts by a host of artists including conductor Marc Minkowski, bass-baritone Ildebrando D'Arcangelo, soprano Erin Wall, tenor Stanislas de Barbeyrac, director Jacopo

Spirei and designer Tommi Brem. Completing this international ensemble are soprano Ana María Martínez, soprano Sarah Shafer, bass-baritone Michael Sumuel and bass Andrea Silvestrelli.

**Ildebrando D’Arcangelo**, whose “swaggering confidence and dangerous sex appeal act like a powerful audience magnet” (*Los Angeles Times*), stars in the title role. Regularly appearing at the world’s leading opera houses, Don Giovanni is central to the Italian artist’s repertory today; in recent seasons, he has performed the role at the Deutsche Oper Berlin, Vienna State Opera, La Scala, Salzburg Festival and Royal Opera, Covent Garden. It should be noted that D’Arcangelo and Schrott are both distinguished interpreters of both Don Giovanni and Leporello. When the artists performed in the same *Don Giovanni* cast at the Metropolitan Opera in 2008, Schrott was the Don and D’Arcangelo was Leporello; at San Francisco Opera in 2017 their roles are reversed.

A native of Montevideo, **Erwin Schrott** joins the Company in the pivotal role of Don Giovanni’s clever servant, Leporello. World renowned as an interpreter of the title role of *Don Giovanni*, Schrott has also earned considerable acclaim for his Leporello in leading opera houses, especially the Metropolitan Opera (where he performed the role in April–May 2017) and the Vienna State Opera. American bass **Erik Anstine** has performed Leporello with Seattle Opera, appeared at the Salzburg Festival, and recently completed a four-year tenure with the ensemble of Zürich Opera.

Distinguished Mozartian **Erin Wall** makes her first appearance with the Company as Donna Anna, a role she has also performed with the Bavarian State Opera and Metropolitan Opera. The Canadian soprano was recently praised for her performance of the title role in Samuel Barber’s *Vanessa* at Santa Fe Opera, which *The Huffington Post* reported, “Her character was so utterly sympathetic and three dimensional. And boy, can she sing! Her soprano was fluid and versatile, completely at ease.”

Following her triumphant appearances at San Francisco Opera in summer 2016 as Elisabetta in Verdi’s *Don Carlo*, Puerto Rican soprano **Ana María Martínez** returns to perform Donna Elvira. French tenor **Stanislas de Barbeyrac** joins the ensemble in his premiere engagement in the United States as Don Ottavio. Soprano **Sarah Shafer**, who created the role of Rosetta in the Company’s world premiere of Marco Tutino’s *Two Women* in 2015, will sing Zerlina. Bass-baritone **Michael Sumuel** performs as Masetto and Italian bass **Andrea Silvestrelli** sings the role of the Commendatore.

Acclaimed French maestro and General Manager of Opéra National de Bordeaux, **Marc Minkowski** takes the podium in his highly anticipated San Francisco Opera debut. Renowned for his Baroque recordings with his orchestra, Les Musiciens du Louvre, Minkowski’s operatic repertory is far-reaching and expansive, and the conductor has earned praise for his performances of works by Meyerbeer, Mozart, Offenbach, Ravel, Verdi and Wagner. Of his Mozart–Da Ponte cycle (*Le Nozze di Figaro*, *Don Giovanni* and *Così fan tutte*) at the Drottningholm Opera in Sweden, the *Financial Times* praised the Maestro’s “control over the pacing and texture, suddenly zooming in on an emotion or subtly changing the atmosphere.”

Mozart’s vital work of music and theater will be staged by Italian director **Jacopo Spirei** in his first engagement with the Company. Spirei remarked: “*Don Giovanni* is an opera from the past that challenges our modern times with questions and provocations. We are creating a show that establishes a direct dialogue between the past and the present, the 18th with the 21st centuries. We explore the world and themes of the opera with contemporary eyes, in search of Don Giovanni, a man always on the run and who can never be pinned down.”

This reboot of the *Don Giovanni* production that premiered at San Francisco Opera in 2011 will feature new projections and scenic adaptations by **Tommi Brem**, a German visual artist whose work includes innovative projections and design work at the annual Burning Man festival. “Reimagining this production of *Don Giovanni* is an interesting task, especially since it contains a very strong visual element: mirrors,” said Brem. “We use the mirrors not only to structure the space and create different locations, but also in telling the story through movement and using them as projection surfaces. While we are using the elements we inherited from the original production, we are creating a new *Don Giovanni* that will look and feel decidedly different.”

Mozart's *Don Giovanni* entered the repertory of San Francisco Opera in 1938, fifteen seasons after the Company's inaugural season. Fritz Reiner conducted the premiere, which featured renowned Italian bass and iconic interpreter of the title role, Ezio Pinza, as Don Giovanni and other legendary vocal artists such as Elisabeth Rethberg as Donna Anna and buffo basso Salvatore Baccaloni as Leporello.

Sung in Italian with English supertitles, the eight performances of *Don Giovanni* are scheduled for June 4 (2 p.m.), 8 (7:30 p.m.), 11 (2 p.m.), 13 (7:30 p.m.), 16 (7:30 p.m.), 21 (7:30 p.m.), 24 (7:30 p.m.) and 30 (7:30 p.m.), 2017.

For artist biographies, please visit [sfopera.com/giovanni](http://sfopera.com/giovanni).

### **FREE LIVE OPERA AT THE BALLPARK SIMULCAST OF DON GIOVANNI, AT&T PARK / JUNE 30**

Continuing what has become a Bay Area tradition, San Francisco Opera partners with the San Francisco Giants for *Opera at the Ballpark*—a free live simulcast of Mozart's *Don Giovanni* at AT&T Park on Friday, June 30 at 7:30 p.m. Through state-of-the-art technology, the performance of *Don Giovanni* will be transmitted live from the stage of the War Memorial Opera House to AT&T Park's high-definition scoreboard. AT&T Park concessions will be open for the simulcast, providing audiences the rare opportunity to pair hot dogs, nachos and garlic fries with world-class opera. Last year's *Opera at the Ballpark* drew an audience of more than 28,000 to AT&T Park for Bizet's *Carmen*. The June 30 *Don Giovanni* simulcast marks the 15th free simulcast presented by San Francisco Opera and the 11th at AT&T Park. *Opera at the Ballpark* is made possible by Presenting Sponsor Taube Philanthropies; Gold Sponsors Charles Schwab, Chevron, United Airlines and PG&E; and the extraordinary technology of the Koret/Taube Media Suite. Free registration for early admission/best seating and entry into a special prize drawing is available at [sfopera.com/simulcast](http://sfopera.com/simulcast).

### **TICKETS AND INFORMATION**

Tickets for *Don Giovanni* are priced from \$27 to \$398 (subject to change) and may be purchased at [sfopera.com](http://sfopera.com) or through the San Francisco Opera Box Office at 301 Van Ness Avenue or by phone at (415) 864-3330. Standing Room tickets go on sale at 10 a.m. on the day of each performance; tickets are \$10 each, cash only and limited to two tickets per person.

Before every opera performance, listen to charismatic music scholars present a 25-minute Opera Talk including an overview of the opera, with insights on the music, composer and historical background. Talks begin 55 minutes before each performance in the orchestra section of the War

Memorial Opera House and are presented free of charge to patrons with tickets for the corresponding performance.

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

Casting, programs, schedules and ticket prices are subject to change. For further information about San Francisco Opera's 2017 Summer Season, please visit [sfopera.com](http://sfopera.com).

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### ***DON GIOVANNI* CASTING AND CALENDAR**

\*San Francisco Opera Debut \*\*U.S. Debut †Current Adler Fellow ‡Role Debut ● OperaVision Performance  
All performances take place at the War Memorial Opera House unless noted.

***DON GIOVANNI*** by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

**June 4<sup>●</sup>** (2 p.m.), **8<sup>●</sup>** (7:30 p.m.), **11<sup>●</sup>** (2 p.m.), **13** (7:30 p.m.), **16** (7:30 p.m.), **21<sup>●</sup>** (7:30 p.m.), **24** (7:30 p.m.), **30** (7:30 p.m.), **2017**

San Francisco Opera production

Libretto by Lorenzo Da Ponte

Approximate running time: 3 hours, 20 minutes including one intermission

Sung in Italian with English supertitles

First performance: Prague; October 29, 1787  
First SFO performance: October 10, 1938  
Most recent SFO Performances: 2011–12 Season

#### **Cast:**

<i>Don Giovanni</i>	<b>Ildebrando D'Arcangelo*</b>
<i>Donna Anna</i>	<b>Erin Wall*</b>
<i>Donna Elvira</i>	<b>Ana María Martínez</b>
<i>Leporello</i>	<b>Erwin Schrott* (6/4, 6/8, 6/11, 6/13, 6/16, 6/21)</b>
<i>Leporello</i>	<b>Erik Anstine* (6/24, 6/30)</b>
<i>Don Ottavio</i>	<b>Stanislas de Barbeyrac**</b>
<i>Zerlina</i>	<b>Sarah Shafer‡</b>
<i>Masetto</i>	<b>Michael Sumuel</b>
<i>The Commendatore</i>	<b>Andrea Silvestrelli</b>

#### **Creative Team:**

<i>Conductor</i>	<b>Marc Minkowski*</b>
<i>Director</i>	<b>Jacopo Spirei*</b>
<i>Projections and Scenic Adaptations</i>	<b>Tommi Brem*</b>

Costume Designer  
Lighting Designer  
Original Set Designer  
Chorus Director

Andrea Viotti  
Gary Marder  
Alessandro Camera  
Ian Robertson

**San Francisco Opera Orchestra and San Francisco Opera Chorus**

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**TAUBE PHILANTHROPIES PRESENTS OPERA AT THE BALLPARK**  
**Free Live Simulcast of Mozart's *Don Giovanni* at AT&T Park**

**Friday, June 30, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.**  
**AT&T Park, 24 Willie Mays Plaza in San Francisco**

Baseball and opera fans alike can experience the live performance of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's brilliant and thrilling opera—simulcast live from the stage of the War Memorial Opera House—in the beautiful, under-the-stars setting of San Francisco's AT&T Park with seating both on the field and in the stands.

This event is free and open to the public; however, advance online registration assures early entrance into the ballpark for preferred seating and entry into a special prize drawing. Registration is available at [sfopera.com/simulcast](http://sfopera.com/simulcast).

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***DON GIOVANNI* ANCILLARY EVENT**

**Overture Workshop: Drinks & Drama – A Taste of *Don Giovanni*, June 3, 2:30 p.m.**  
**The Sea Star, 2289 3rd Street in San Francisco**

Explore the characters of Mozart's *Don Giovanni* with opera buffs from the San Francisco Opera Archives who will pair recordings, film and photos from the Archives with a flight of craft cocktails created by the expert mixologists at The Sea Star in San Francisco's Dogpatch neighborhood. A special performance by baritone Hadleigh Adams will be included. Must be 21 years of age or older to attend. Admission is \$35, but the event is SOLD OUT. To be added to the wait list, please contact Alyssa Stone: [astone@sfopera.com](mailto:astone@sfopera.com) or call (415) 551-6294.

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*Don Giovanni* is made possible, in part, by: John A. & Cynthia Fry Gunn; and Joseph E. Padula. Additional support is provided by Jan Shrem & Maria Manetti Shrem through the Great Interpreters of Italian Opera Fund, and through the Emerging Stars Fund, for Ms. Shafer's and Mr. Sumuel's

appearances. Ms. Martinez's and Mr. D'Arcangelo's appearances are made possible by a gift to the Great Singers Fund from Joan & David Traitel.

*Opera in the Ballpark* is supported by Presenting Sponsor Taube Philanthropies and Gold Sponsors Charles Schwab, Chevron, United Airlines and PG&E. San Francisco Opera simulcasts are made possible through the extraordinary technology of the Company's Koret/Taube Media Suite. Media sponsors include the San Francisco Examiner, Classical KDFC 90.3, 89.9, 104.9, 92.5, 95.9, 103.9 FM, KPIX/CBS 5 and KBCW, Clear Channel Outdoor and San Francisco Classical Voice.

OperaVision, high-definition projection screens featured in the Balcony level, is made possible by the Koret/Taube Media Suite. Yamaha is the official piano of San Francisco Opera. Pianos provided by Piedmont Piano Company.



2016–17 Season Sponsor

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To obtain further press information, including artist headshots and *Don Giovanni* and *Opera at the Ballpark* photographs, please visit [sfopera.com/press](http://sfopera.com/press) or contact San Francisco Opera Communications:

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