



SAN FRANCISCO
OPERA

SAN FRANCISCO OPERA'S 99TH SEASON CONTINUES AT THE
WAR MEMORIAL OPERA HOUSE, JUNE 4–JULY 3

Mozart-Da Ponte Trilogy Concludes with New Production of *Don Giovanni*;
Bright Sheng and David Henry Hwang's *Dream of the Red Chamber* Returns;
All-Verdi Concert Led by Music Director Eun Sun Kim



Don Giovanni (credit: Erhard Rom); *Dream of the Red Chamber*, 2016 (photo: Cory Weaver); Eun Sun Kim (photo: Sasha Arutyunova)

CASTING UPDATE:

Tenor Konu Kim Will Make Company Debut as Bao Yu in
Dream of the Red Chamber, Replacing Yijie Shi

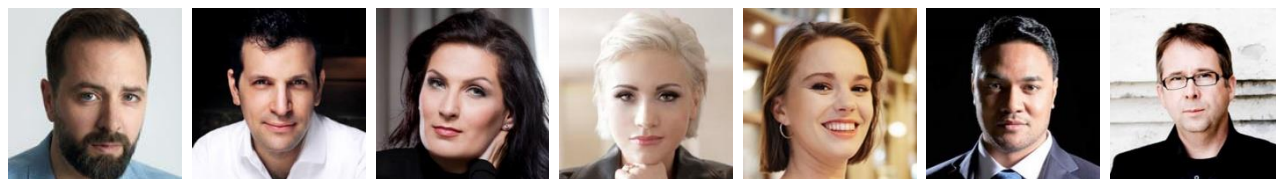
Tickets Available [sfopera.com](https://www.sfopera.com) and (415) 864-3330

San Francisco, CA (February 7, 2021) — San Francisco Opera's 99th Season continues June 4–July 3 at the War Memorial Opera House. The 2022 Summer Season includes a new production of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's *Don Giovanni*; a return engagement of Bright Sheng and David Henry Hwang's *Dream of the Red Chamber*; and Caroline H. Hume Music Director Eun Sun Kim leads the San Francisco Opera Orchestra, Chorus and soloists in a one-night-only concert featuring the music of Giuseppe Verdi.

In a casting update, tenor Konu Kim will make his Company and role debuts as Bao Yu in *Dream of the Red Chamber*, replacing Yijie Shi who has withdrawn for personal reasons.

Kim hails from South Korea and is a recent graduate of the young artist program at London's Royal Opera, Covent Garden. He has emerged on the international stage with performances at the Donizetti Festival in Bergamo and the Glyndebourne Festival. With Glyndebourne in 2021, Kim portrayed Ferrando in Nicholas Hytner's production of *Così fan tutte* and was Ernesto in *Don Pasquale* at Glyndebourne and on tour throughout England. Kim made his acclaimed debut at the 2019 Donizetti Festival as Leone de Casaldi in the premiere of an early version of the composer's *La Favorita* titled *L'Ange de Nisida*. OperaWire praised the tenor's performance in the Bergamo production as "revelatory ... this is a tenor to look out for."

Mozart's *DON GIOVANNI* (June 4–July 2)



Etienne Dupuis; Luca Pisaroni; Adela Zaharia; Carmen Giannattasio; Christina Gansch; Amitai Pati; Bertrand de Billy

San Francisco Opera's summer season begins with the third and final chapter of the Company's multi-year staging of the operatic collaborations by Mozart and librettist Lorenzo Da Ponte. The Mozart-Da Ponte Trilogy, directed by Michael Cavanagh and featuring sets and projections by Erhard Rom, costumes by Constance Hoffman and lighting by Jane Cox, sets the duo's three stage works in an American house across a 300-year span.

The trilogy launched in 2019 with the popular and critically praised production of *The Marriage of Figaro* set in colonial times just as the American manor house is completed. *Così fan tutte* continued the narrative arc last fall with Cavanagh's "richly inventive touch" (*San Francisco Chronicle*) featuring the house at its zenith and converted into a posh, 1930s country club where Mozart and Da Ponte's characters face consequential decisions at a moral crossroads.

This summer, Cavanagh and his collaborators conclude the trilogy in their new staging of *Don Giovanni*, which sets the opera in a post-apocalyptic future where the house is in ruins. Mozart's immortal score, filled with propulsive energy, wit, humor and some of the composer's greatest melodic creations, will be conducted by internationally heralded conductor Bertrand de Billy in his Company debut. San Francisco Opera's new Chorus

Director, John Keene, prepares the artists of the Chorus for his first series of performances since joining the Company last month.

Canadian baritone Etienne Dupuis and Romanian soprano Adela Zaharia both make highly anticipated debuts with the Company as Don Giovanni and Donna Anna, respectively. Bass-baritone Luca Pisaroni adds his celebrated portrayal of Leporello to his Mozartian credits with San Francisco Opera, while soprano Carmen Giannattasio, who made a sensational debut as Tosca in 2018, returns as Donna Elvira.

Samoan-born tenor and former San Francisco Opera Adler Fellow Amitai Pati is Don Ottavio, soprano Christina Gansch is Zerlina and former Merola Opera Program participant and bass-baritone Cody Quattlebaum is Masetto. Bass Soloman Howard, who appeared earlier this season with San Francisco Opera in Beethoven's *Fidelio* and Puccini's *Tosca*, including getting engaged on the War Memorial Opera House stage after a performance of *Tosca*, will portray the Commendatore.

Sheng and Hwang's *DREAM OF THE RED CHAMBER* (June 14–July 3)



Meigui Zhang; Konu Kim; Hongni Wu; Hyona Kim; Darrell Ang; Stan Lai

This summer, audiences get another chance to experience Bright Sheng and David Henry Hwang's *Dream of the Red Chamber*, which sold-out in its 2016 world premiere run in San Francisco. The work, which was commissioned by San Francisco Opera and has since toured China and Hong Kong, garnered international acclaim for its musical retelling of Cao Xuequin's 18th-century novel, one of China's greatest literary masterworks.

Taking on the roles Bao Yu and Dai Yu, the spiritual soulmates at the center of Sheng's richly melodic opera, are South Korean tenor Konu Kim and Chinese soprano Meigui Zhang in their Company debuts. As a 2018 Merola Opera Program participant, Zhang appeared in *The Rake's Progress* for which the *San Francisco Chronicle* observed, "The evening's true star ... was soprano Meigui Zhang, who brought both tonal bloom and alert precision to the role of Anne Truelove." Chinese mezzo-soprano Hongni Wu will

make her San Francisco Opera debut as the beautiful and wealthy Bao Chai who is to marry Bao Yu, creating a love triangle that threatens the illustrious Jia family.

Soprano Karen Chia-ling Ho and mezzo-soprano Hyona Kim, who both appeared in the world premiere cast, reprise their roles as Princess Jia and Lady Wang, respectively. Completing the vocal ensemble cast are mezzo-soprano Sabina Kim in her debut as Granny Jia and mezzo-soprano Guang Yang, who first appeared with San Francisco Opera in 2010 as Amneris in Verdi's *Aida*, returns as Aunt Xue.

Singaporean maestro Darrell Ang makes his Company debut leading the San Francisco Opera Orchestra and Chorus in Stan Lai's "magnificent production" designed by Academy Award-winner Tim Yip with lighting by Gary Marder that "bedecks the stage in vivid ornament while maintaining a suitably dreamlike atmosphere" (*San Francisco Chronicle*).

EUN SUN KIM CONDUCTS VERDI (June 30)



Eun Sun Kim; Nicole Car; Arturo Chacón-Cruz; Etienne Dupuis; Soloman Howard

To conclude the Company's summer season, Music Director Eun Sun Kim leads the San Francisco Opera Orchestra and Chorus in an all-Giuseppe Verdi extravaganza. The evening will spotlight extended scenes from three of the composer's masterpieces from different periods of his momentous career. Part I features Verdi's early and middle periods with selections from *Luisa Miller* (1849) and *Il Trovatore* (1853). The concentration for Part II will be on Verdi's late period masterwork *Don Carlo* (1867), including its dramatic Auto-da-fé scene and rarely performed ballet music.

Kim and San Francisco Opera's assembled forces will be augmented on the stage by a group of outstanding soloists. Australian soprano Nicole Car, who has performed with the Vienna State Opera, the Metropolitan Opera, the Paris Opera and was an acclaimed Elisabetta in *Don Carlo* at Berlin's Deutsche Opera, makes her first appearance with the Company in this concert. Mexican tenor Arturo Chacón-Cruz will perform the music of Verdian heroes Rodolfo, Manrico and Don Carlo on the program. Chacón-Cruz made his

Company debut in 2012 as the Duke of Mantua in *Rigoletto* and was most recently presented by San Francisco Opera in the digital portrait series [In Song](#) performing Spanish and Italian music and coaching youth at a Mariachi camp. Baritone Etienne Dupuis and bass Soloman Howard from the cast of *Don Giovanni* will also join the program.

A special celebration event honoring Eun Sun Kim will follow the concert. Information about tickets and other details will be announced.

TICKETS AND INFORMATION

Tickets for San Francisco Opera's 2022 Summer Season are now available and range from \$26 to \$398. 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 may be purchased online at sfopera.com, 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).

As of February 1, San Francisco Opera requires all patrons aged 12 and older, who are eligible, to show proof of COVID-19 booster shot received at least 7 days prior to the event or performance, in addition to proof of full vaccination (defined as two weeks after your final shot), along with a matching photo ID. In addition, starting February 1, we will now require all children ages 5 to 11 to show proof of full vaccination (defined as two weeks after their final shot). Unvaccinated children are not permitted.

All patrons must wear well-fitted masks that cover their nose, mouth and chin when inside the War Memorial Opera House unless they are actively eating or drinking. For complete information about the Company's health and safety protocols, visit sfopera.com/safetyfirst.

All casting, programs, schedules and ticket prices are subject to change. For further information about San Francisco Opera's 2021–22 Season, visit sfopera.com/onstage.

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SUMMER 2022 CALENDAR

**American Debut *San Francisco Opera Debut †Role Debut

‡Current Adler Fellow +Merola Opera Program Graduate ++Merola and Adler Fellowship Graduate

All performances take place at the War Memorial Opera House (301 Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco).

SUMMER 2022

NEW PRODUCTION

DON GIOVANNI by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

June 4 (7:30 pm), 10 (7:30 pm), 12 (2 pm), 15 (7:30 pm), 18 (7:30 pm), 21 (7:30 pm), 26 (2 pm), July 2 (7:30 pm), 2022

Libretto by Lorenzo Da Ponte

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

Sung in Italian with English supertitles

World premiere: Prague; October 29, 1787
First SFO performance: October 10, 1938
Most recent SFO Performances: 2016–17 Season

Cast:

<i>Don Giovanni</i>	Etienne Dupuis *
<i>Donna Anna</i>	Adela Zaharia *
<i>Donna Elvira</i>	Carmen Giannattasio
<i>Don Ottavio</i>	Amitai Pati ++
<i>Leporello</i>	Luca Pisaroni
<i>Zerlina</i>	Christina Gansch
<i>Masetto</i>	Cody Quattlebaum *+
<i>Commendatore</i>	Soloman Howard

Creative Team:

<i>Conductor</i>	Bertrand de Billy *
<i>Director</i>	Michael Cavanagh
<i>Set and Projection Designer</i>	Erhard Rom
<i>Costume Designer</i>	Constance Hoffman
<i>Lighting Designer</i>	Jane Cox
<i>Chorus Director</i>	John Keene *

San Francisco Opera Orchestra and San Francisco Opera Chorus

Tickets: \$26 to \$398 (Reserved Seating at the War Memorial Opera House)

DREAM OF THE RED CHAMBER by Bright Sheng and David Henry Hwang

June 14 (7:30 pm), 17 (7:30 pm), 19 (2 pm), 23 (7:30 pm), 25 (7:30 pm); July 1 (7:30 pm), 3 (2 pm), 2022

San Francisco Opera Production

Libretto by David Henry Hwang and Bright Sheng

Based on the book by Cao Xueqin

Commissioned by San Francisco Opera

Co-Production with the Hong Kong Arts Festival

Approximate running time: 3 hours including one intermission

Sung in English with English and Chinese supertitles

World premiere: San Francisco; September 10, 2016

First SFO performance: September 10, 2016

Most recent SFO performances: 2016–17 Season

Cast:

<i>Dai Yu</i>	Meigui Zhang *♪+
<i>Bao Yu</i>	Konu Kim *♪
<i>Lady Wang</i>	Hyona Kim
<i>Princess Jia</i>	Karen Chia-ling Ho +
<i>Bao Chai</i>	Hongni Wu *♪
<i>Granny Jia</i>	Sabina Kim *♪
<i>Aunt Xue</i>	Guang Yang ♪

Production Team:

<i>Conductor</i>	Darrell Ang *
<i>Director</i>	Stan Lai
<i>Production Designer</i>	Tim Yip
<i>Lighting Designer</i>	Gary Marder
<i>Chorus Director</i>	John Keene

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

Tickets: \$26 to \$398 (Reserved Seating at the War Memorial Opera House)

EUN SUN KIM CONDUCTS VERDI

June 30, 2022 (7:30 pm)

110 minutes, including one intermission

Nicole Car, soprano *

Arturo Chacón-Cruz, tenor +

Etienne Dupuis, baritone

Soloman Howard, bass

Eun Sun Kim, conductor

Morgan Robinson, director

John Keene, chorus director

San Francisco Opera Orchestra

San Francisco Opera Chorus

Musical extravaganza featuring Eun Sun Kim conducting the San Francisco Opera Orchestra, Chorus, and soloists in selections from Giuseppe Verdi's operas *Luisa Miller*, *Il Trovatore* and *Don Carlo*. Details for a post-performance celebration honoring Eun Sun Kim will be announced at a later date.

Tickets: \$29 to \$249 (Reserved Seating at the War Memorial Opera House)

San Francisco Opera is sponsored, in part, by The Dolby Family, Carol and Dixon Doll, Bertie Bialek Elliott, Peter Fenton and Kate Greer, Keith and Priscilla Geeslin, 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.

Dream of the Red Chamber is made possible, in part, by John A. and Cynthia Fry Gunn; Edmund W. and Jeannik Méquet Littlefield Fund; Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem; and Joan and David Traitel. The commission of the 2016 world premiere of *The Dream of the Red Chamber* was initiated and funded by the Chinese Heritage Foundation Friends of Minnesota.

Don Giovanni is made possible, in part, by John A. and Cynthia Fry Gunn; Phyllis C. Wattis Fund for New Productions; Bernard and Barbro Osher; Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem; and Joan and David Traitel

Yamaha is the official piano of San Francisco Opera.

San Francisco Opera would like to acknowledge the team of UCSF doctors who have provided guidance in planning the Company's safe return to the stage. Thank you to Drs. George Rutherford, Mark Almond, Robert Harrison, Sânziana Roman and Clark Rosen.

San Francisco Opera is supported, in part, by a grant from Grants for the Arts.



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PRESS PHOTOS: High-resolution, downloadable photographs, including artist headshots, for San Francisco Opera's 2021–22 Season are available at sfopera.com/press

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