



## SAN FRANCISCO OPERA

*CELEBRATING THE VOICES OF SAN FRANCISCO OPERA*  
PREMIERES DECEMBER 4, 7:30 PM PACIFIC

New Virtual Event Co-Hosted by Matthew Shilvock and Eun Sun Kim  
Showcases the Artists, Artisans and Company of San Francisco Opera in  
Performances and Conversations

Guests Include Janai Brugger, Ashley Dixon, Amina Edris,  
Sondra Radvanovsky, Michael Fabiano, Pene Pati, Artur Ruciński,  
Alfred Walker, Nicola Luisotti, and Members of the Company



*Scenes from Celebrating the Voices of San Francisco Opera*

Additional Fall Programming Includes Screenings of Puccini's *La Bohème*  
and *Tosca* at Fort Mason Drive-In and Ongoing Free Opera Streaming

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (November 10, 2020) — The artists and artistry of San Francisco Opera will be on full display in *Celebrating the Voices of San Francisco Opera*, a virtual event that will be unveiled at [sfopera.com](https://sfopera.com), [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com) and [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com) on Friday, December 4 at 7:30 pm Pacific. The 90-minute program features newly recorded performances by some of opera's greatest singers and instrumentalists along with conversations about pivotal works slated for future San Francisco Opera seasons. The free event will stream from December 4 through 11:59 pm on Sunday, December 6.

San Francisco Opera Tad and Dianne Taube General Director Matthew Shilvock and Caroline H. Hume Music Director Designate Eun Sun Kim co-host *Celebrating the Voices of San Francisco Opera* and highlight the Company's creative forces and the resilience and energy of its artists.

Shilvock said: "Since the pandemic began, San Francisco Opera has been working hard to keep our incredible Opera family together and keep opera alive in our community in ways that are safe and creative. This concert is a celebration of the amazingly talented people whose artistry defines us. Our concert is a reminder of how moving it is when artists make music together in the same venue — the intimate intensity of song. We will explore the behind-the-scenes work underway to prepare sets and costumes that will shape our return to live performance. I am so grateful to all those whose talents are coming together to bring opera alive in this program and to our passionately supportive community whose belief in us is ensuring a thrilling future for San Francisco Opera under the baton of Eun Sun Kim."

*Celebrating the Voices of San Francisco Opera* showcases the Company's artists performing in a variety of musical spaces and configurations. Soprano Sondra Radvanovsky, tenor Michael Fabiano and baritone Artur Ruciński, with former San Francisco Opera music director Nicola Luisotti at the piano, perform Italian repertory favorites from the stage of Madrid's Teatro Real, recorded exclusively for San Francisco Opera. Additional arias were captured for the event at the Berlin State Opera and in Auckland, Chicago, New York and in San Francisco Opera's digital hub in the Dianne and Tad Taube Atrium Theater in the Diane B. Wilsey Center for Opera. Performing artists include sopranos Janai Brugger and Amina Edris, mezzo-soprano Ashley Dixon, tenor Pene Pati, bass-baritone Alfred Walker, instrumentalists from the San Francisco Opera Orchestra and others. Performances captured in the Wilsey Center for Opera include lighting designed by Justin A. Partier and projections by Bay Area artist Alexander V. Nichols who also designed the rotating-cube set for San Francisco Opera's new production of Beethoven's *Fidelio*.

*Fidelio* is the subject of a conversation between Eun Sun Kim and director Matthew Ozawa. Though their collaboration on the opera was postponed by the pandemic, their discussion will explore the creative process, the production's setting in a modern-day detention facility and the ongoing relevance of Beethoven's only opera. *Fidelio* costume designer Jessica Jahn and former Secretary of Homeland Security and newly elected member of San Francisco Opera's board of directors Janet Napolitano continue the in-depth look at *Fidelio*. Scenic designer Chloe Lamford will talk about Poul Ruders' *The Handmaid's Tale*, a shattering twentieth-century work that was to have its Company premiere this fall, and director Michael Cavanagh will discuss the continuation of the Mozart–Da Ponte trilogy that began with the acclaimed production of *The Marriage of Figaro* in 2019.

*Celebrating the Voices of San Francisco Opera* is streamed free as part of *Opera is ON*, the Company's digital initiative to share great artistry worldwide. Archival access to *Celebrating the Voices of San Francisco Opera* and previously streamed opera titles is available for donors of \$75 and up and to all San Francisco Opera subscribers and members. For more information and program updates for this event, visit [sfopera.com/celebration](https://sfopera.com/celebration). Follow San Francisco Opera on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [Spotify](#).

## SF Opera at Fort Mason Drive-In Screenings of *La Bohème* (2008) on Nov. 20 & 22 and *Tosca* (2009) Dec. 11 & 12



Puccini's *La Bohème* with Piotr Beczala as Rodolfo and Angela Gheorghiu as Mimi.  
*Tosca* featuring Adrienne Pieczonka in the title role. SF Opera at Fort Mason Drive-In.  
Photos: Terrence McCarthy (left), Cory Weaver (center), Kristen Loken (right)

Following a sold-out presentation of *Lucia di Lammermoor* in October, San Francisco Opera returns to Fort Mason Flix Drive-In with screenings of two popular operas by Giacomo Puccini: *La Bohème* at 5 pm and 8:30 pm on Friday, November 20 and Sunday, November 22; and *Tosca* at 5 pm and 8:30 pm on Friday, December 11 and 6 pm and 9:30 pm on Saturday, December 12. *La Bohème* features Piotr Beczala as Rodolfo and Angela Gheorghiu as Mimì conducted by Nicola Luisotti. *Tosca* stars Adrienne Pieczonka in the title role with Carlo Ventre as Cavaradossi and Lado Ataneli as Scarpia under the baton of Marco Armiliato. Each opera will be projected on the 40' X 20' LED screen at the picturesque Marina District drive-in with views across the Bay and onsite concessions and Off the Grid food trucks.

San Francisco Opera and Fort Mason are committed to a safe moviegoing experience for all drive-in attendees and staff. Beginning one hour prior to each screening, a maximum of 98 cars with pre-purchased tickets will be admitted and spaced at 6 feet between vehicles with an 18-foot drive lane every two rows. Guests must remain in their cars during the opera and wear a mask when leaving to visit concessions or the restrooms inside the Fort Mason buildings.

Drive-In Tickets and Information

Tickets are \$49 per car (plus a \$5 handling fee) and are available online at [sfopera.com/fortmason](https://sfopera.com/fortmason) or by calling the San Francisco Opera Box Office at (415) 864-3330. Note: Attendees must purchase tickets ahead of time; tickets will not be sold at the drive-in.

Masks are required of all attendees over the age of 2 when outside of their vehicles (masks with exhalation valves are not allowed). Indoor restroom facilities are available and will be cleaned and sanitized regularly throughout the events. Socially distant spacing will be enforced for those waiting for concessions. Congregating outside of vehicles is not permitted.

The Fort Mason Center for the Arts & Culture is located at 2 Marina Boulevard, San Francisco, CA 94123. Vehicles will be admitted to the drive-in area beginning one hour prior to the screening. In order to ensure all patrons have an enjoyable experience, please arrive early. Any late arrivals, 20 minutes after the show has begun, will not be permitted into the event. Tickets are non-refundable or exchangeable. *La Bohème* and *Tosca* are each performed in Italian with English subtitles and last approximately 2 hours without intermission.

### Streaming Continues in November

San Francisco Opera continues to offer free streamed performances from its archives each weekend in November as part of its *Opera is ON* initiative. Upcoming streams include Mussorgsky's *Boris Godunov* (November 14–15), Verdi's *Rigoletto* (November 21–22) and Donizetti's *The Elixir of Love (L'Elisir d'Amore)* (November 28–29). For more information, visit [sfopera.com](https://sfopera.com), and follow San Francisco Opera on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [Spotify](#). *Opera is ON* is made possible by an OPERA America Innovation Grant, supported by the Ann and Gordon Getty Foundation.

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### NOVEMBER & DECEMBER CALENDAR

SF OPERA AT FORT MASON DRIVE-IN  
2 Marina Boulevard, San Francisco, CA 94123

Tickets: \$49 per vehicle (plus a \$5 handling fee); purchase in advance at [sfopera.com/fortmason](https://sfopera.com/fortmason) or call (415) 864-3330

Friday, November 20 at 5 pm and 8:30 pm  
Sunday, November 22 at 5 pm and 8:30 pm  
*LA BOHÈME* by Giacomo Puccini

Set in mid-19th-century Paris, the 2008 production of *La Bohème* stars Polish tenor Piotr Beczala and Romanian soprano Angela Gheorghiu as one of the most iconic couples in the Italian operatic repertoire, Rodolfo and Mimì. From their love-at-first-sight meeting to the opera's tragic climax, Puccini's score evokes the lovers' emotions through memorable, heartfelt melodies. Former

music director Nicola Luisotti conducts the San Francisco Opera Orchestra with an "invigorating" (*San Francisco Chronicle*) reading of Puccini's 1896 score. Harry Silverstein directs Mark Lamos' production and Chorus Director Ian Robertson prepares the San Francisco Chorus for the teeming Act II Latin Quarter scene. "This is a 'Bohème' to cherish" (*The Mercury News*). *La Bohème* is performed in Italian with English subtitles and has a running time of approximately 2 hours.

Friday, December 11 at 5 pm and 8:30 pm  
Saturday, December 12 at 6 pm and 9:30 pm  
*TOSCA* by Giacomo Puccini

Canadian soprano Adrienne Pieczonka makes her San Francisco Opera debut in this 2009 performance of Puccini's *Tosca*. The staging features the set and costume designs of Belgian artist Thierry Bosquet which are based on the Company's 1932 production which opened the War Memorial Opera House and served in revivals over four decades. Pieczonka, who returned to the Company in 2017 in a critically acclaimed production of Strauss' *Elektra*, is joined by Italian tenor Carlo Ventre as Tosca's lover Mario Cavaradossi and Georgian baritone Lado Ataneli as Baron Scarpia. Jose Maria Condemi directs and Italian maestro Marco Armiliato conducts. *Tosca* is performed in Italian with English subtitles and has an approximate running time of 2 hours.

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*CELEBRATING THE VOICES OF SAN FRANCISCO OPERA*  
Free live stream at [sfopera.com](http://sfopera.com), Facebook and YouTube

Premiere: Friday, December 4 at 7:30 pm (PST)  
Program will be available on demand until Sunday, December 6 at 11:59 pm PST

San Francisco Opera General Director Matthew Shilvock and Music Director Designate Eun Sun Kim host this 90-minute virtual event featuring vocal soloists, instrumentalists and members of the San Francisco Opera Company in performances and conversations. Guests include:

Janai Brugger, soprano  
Amina Edris, soprano  
Sondra Radvanovsky, soprano  
Ashley Dixon, mezzo-soprano  
Michael Fabiano, tenor  
Pene Pati, tenor  
Artur Ruciński, baritone  
Alfred Walker, bass-baritone  
John Churchwell, piano  
Lorenzo di Toro, piano  
Dennis Giaque, piano  
Somi Kim, piano  
Nicola Luisotti, piano  
Pedro Yanez, piano

Matthew Ozawa, director  
Michael Cavanagh, director  
Jessica Jahn, costume designer  
Chloe Lamford, set designer  
Janet Napolitano, San Francisco Opera Board of Directors  
Members of the San Francisco Opera Orchestra

Featured Musical Selections to include (subject to change)

Farandole from *L'Arlesienne* (Georges Bizet)  
"Zeffiretti lusinghieri" from *Idomeneo* (Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart)  
"E lucevan le stelle" from *Tosca* (Giacomo Puccini)  
"Vissi d'arte" from *Tosca* (Giacomo Puccini)  
Meditation from *Thaïs* (Jules Massenet)  
Act II trio from *Un Ballo in Maschera* (Giuseppe Verdi)  
"O, Mimi tu più non torni" from *La Bohème* (Giacomo Puccini)  
"Deserto in terra" from *Don Sebastiano* (Gaetano Donizetti)  
"Chère Nuit" (Alfred Bachelet)  
"Abendlich strahlt der Sonne Auge" from *Das Rheingold* (Richard Wagner)  
"Dopo notte" from *Ariodante* (George Frideric Handel)

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OPERA IS ON STREAMING  
[sfopera.com/streaming](https://sfopera.com/streaming)

Free with registration

November 14 at 10 am–November 15 at 11:59 pm (PST)  
*Boris Godunov* by Modest Mussorgsky

Presented in the composer's original 1869 version, this 2008 performance of Mussorgsky's *Boris Godunov* stars renowned American bass Samuel Ramey as the titular Russian tsar who is haunted by a heinous act that elevated him to power. Julia Pevzner directs Stein Winge's production, and Russian conductor Vassily Sinaisky leads the San Francisco Opera Orchestra and Chorus. *Boris Godunov* is performed in Russian with English subtitles and has an approximate running time of 2 hours and 20 minutes.

November 21 at 10 am–November 22 at 11:59 pm (PST)  
*Rigoletto* by Giuseppe Verdi

San Francisco Opera's 2012 presentation of Verdi's *Rigoletto* features Željko Lučić's "majestic" portrayal of the hunchbacked court jester Rigoletto, Aleksandra Kurzak as his daughter, Gilda, and Francesco Demuro as the rakish Duke of Mantua. Harry Silverstein directs this revival featuring Michael Yeargan's de Chirico-evoking sets, costumes by Constance Hoffman and lighting by

Christopher Maravich. The San Francisco Opera Orchestra and Chorus are conducted by Nicola Luisotti. *Rigoletto* is performed in Italian with English subtitles and has an approximate running time of 2 hours and 7 minutes,

November 28 at 10am–November 29 at 11:59 pm (PST)  
*The Elixir of Love (L'Elisir d'Amore)* by Gaetano Donizetti

San Francisco Opera's 2008 production of Donizetti's tender comedy updates the work's original setting of 18th-century Basque Country to the eve of World War I in Northern California's Napa Valley. The cast features Ramón Vargas as the naive Nemorino and Inva Mula as Adina who Nemorino tries to win using a "love potion" provided by the clever Dr. Dulcamara of Alessandro Corbelli. James Robinson directs and Bel Canto expert Bruno Campanella conducts. *The Elixir of Love* is performed in Italian with English subtitles and has an approximate running time of 2 hours and 17 minutes.

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Yamaha is the official piano of the San Francisco Opera.

OFFICIAL WINE SPONSOR



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High-resolution, downloadable photographs of *Celebrating the Voices of San Francisco Opera*, *SF Opera at Fort Mason Drive-In* and opera productions are available at [sfopera.com/press](http://sfopera.com/press).

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