SINGLE TICKETS FOR SAN FRANCISCO OPERA'S 2017 FALL SEASON ON SALE MONDAY, JUNE 26

World Premiere of *Girls of the Golden West* by Composer John Adams
Libretto by Director Peter Sellars

Season-Opening Production of Puccini's *Turandot*, New Productions of Strauss' *Elektra* and Massenet's *Manon*, Revival of Verdi's *La Traviata*

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

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (June 21, 2017) — Single (non-subscription) tickets for San Francisco Opera's 2017 Fall Season at the War Memorial Opera House go on sale Monday, June 26, 2017, at 10 a.m. Tickets may be purchased online at [sfopera.com](http://sfopera.com); in-person at the San Francisco Opera Box Office, located at 301 Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco and open Mondays from 10 a.m.–5 p.m. and Tuesday–Saturday from 10 a.m.–6 p.m.; and by phone at (415) 864-3330 during Box Office hours. Full and Half Series subscription packages are also available. Tickets for the three cycles of Wagner’s *Ring* during the summer of 2018 are available as complete, four-opera cycles only.

San Francisco Opera General Director Matthew Shilvock said: “It is my pleasure to announce that single tickets for our fall season are now on sale. Join us as we present a wonderfully balanced quintet of works in repertory, each presenting the passion, artistry and imaginative storytelling that make the art form of opera so compelling. Five incredible journeys will offer transformative experiences that delve into the truths of the human condition, including a visceral production of Richard Strauss’ *Elektra*, Jules
Massenet’s enchanting Manon, the world premiere of John Adams and Peter Sellars’ Girls of the Golden West, and powerful repertory favorites Puccini’s Turandot and Verdi’s La Traviata.”

The 2017 Fall Season opens with Giacomo Puccini’s Turandot (September 8–30) in David Hockney’s exuberant production. San Francisco Opera Music Director Nicola Luisotti conducts an international cast featuring Martina Serafin, Maria Agresta, Toni Marie Palmertree (September 24 and 30 only) and Brian Jagde. Tickets for the September 8 opening night gala, Opera Ball 2017 at The Imperial Palace, are available at the Box Office and online at sfopera.com/operaball2017. Richard Strauss’ Elektra (September 9–27) opens the following day with the trio of Christine Goerke, Adrianne Pieczonca and Stephanie Blythe starring in a new production by acclaimed English director Keith Warner. On Sunday, September 10, the popular Opera in the Park will feature Luisotti conducting the San Francisco Opera Orchestra and vocal soloists from the new season in a free concert in Sharon Meadow at Golden Gate Park.

Maestro Luisotti, who made his San Francisco Opera debut in 2005 conducting Verdi’s La Forza del Destino, was appointed music director in 2009 and has led over 40 opera productions and concerts with the Company. He will formally step down from his post at the conclusion of the 2017–18 Season. As an expression of appreciation for his artistic contributions, San Francisco Opera Guild designated the Italian maestro as the honoree for Opera Ball 2017, the first celebration during the season to honor Luisotti for his distinguished San Francisco Opera tenure.

Along with Turandot (September 8–30) and Opera in the Park, Luisotti will also conduct the revival of John Copley’s lavish production of Giuseppe Verdi’s La Traviata (September 23–October 17) featuring three internationally acclaimed artists making their San Francisco Opera debuts: Aurelia Florian, Atalla Ayan and Artur Ruciński.

After an absence of nearly two decades, Massenet’s romantic Belle Époque gem, Manon (November 4–22), returns to the War Memorial Opera House stage with a dynamic cast headed by Nadine Sierra and Michael Fabiano, conducted by Massenet specialist Patrick Fournillier and staged in a new production by Vincent Boussard. Turandot returns in November (November 18–December 9) with several notable new members of the cast, including Nina Stemme and Leah Crocetto, and conducted by Christopher Franklin in his Company debut.

From the composer of Nixon in China, The Death of Klinghoffer and Doctor Atomic, comes one of the musical season’s most eagerly-anticipated events: the world premiere of Girls of the Golden West (November 21–December 10), the latest opera by composer and Bay Area resident John Adams. With a libretto by director Peter Sellars, Girls of the Golden West explores the dramatic and often brutal stories of pioneers on California’s Gold Rush frontier during the 1850s. Created expressly for San Francisco Opera, the opera is presented by arrangement with Hendon Music, Inc., a Boosey & Hawkes company, publisher and copyright owner.
Set in historic mining sites within the Sierra Nevada Mountains, a mere 200 miles away from San Francisco, the new work will premiere in the city which owes much of its early growth and enterprising spirit to the Gold Rush, an unprecedented, global event that attracted multitudes from around the world to the original “bubble economy.” Sellars’ libretto for *Girls of the Golden West* draws from period sources including *The Shirley Letters*, vivid accounts of life at Rich Bar written by Louise Amelia Knapp Smith Clappe, using her pen name “Dame Shirley”; speeches by abolitionist Frederick Douglass; poetry of Argentinian, Chilean and Chinese miners; songs of the period; and excerpts from Mark Twain’s *Roughing It*.

Conductor and frequent Adams collaborator Grant Gershon leads a diverse and exciting cast in all eight performances, including Julia Bullock, Hye Jung Lee, J’Nai Bridges, Paul Appleby, Davóne Tines, Elliot Madore, Ryan McKinny and dancer Lorena Feijoo. Sellars anchors a production team that is drawn from the worlds of opera, theater and cinema, including set designer David Gropman, costume designer Rita Ryack, lighting designer James F. Ingalls, sound designer Mark Grey and choreographer John Heginbotham.

All performances feature the San Francisco Opera Orchestra and Chorus at the historic War Memorial Opera House.

Please note that all evening performances during the 2017 Fall Season have a curtain time of 7:30 p.m., with the exception of the September 8 season opening night performance of *Turandot*, which will start at 8 p.m. Matinee performances begin at 2 p.m.

**TICKETS AND INFORMATION**

Single tickets for San Francisco Opera’s Fall 2017 Season are priced from $26 to $398. A $2 facility fee is included in Balcony Side, Rear and Front sections. All other sections include a $3 per ticket facility fee. Please visit [sfopera.com](http://sfopera.com) for further details or call the Opera Box Office at (415) 864-3330. San Francisco Opera Box Office hours: Monday 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Tuesday through Friday 10 a.m.–6 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m.–6 p.m. during performance season. Casts, programs, prices and schedules are subject to change.

All War Memorial Opera House performances (except the September 8 season opening) feature an informative 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](http://sfopera.com/learn) for information about all of our opera talks, preview events and enrichment programs.

OperaVision screens, suspended from the ceiling of the balcony section at selected performances, provide close-up and mid-range ensemble shots in high-definition video; English subtitles appear at the bottom of each screen. OperaVision is made possible by the Koret-Taube Media Suite. Visit [sfopera.com](http://sfopera.com) for OperaVision dates.
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 Station and near numerous bus lines, including 5, 21, 47, 49 and the F Market Street. For further public transportation information, visit bart.gov and sfmta.com.

### FALL 2017 SPECIAL EVENTS

**OPERA BALL 2017 AT THE IMPERIAL PALACE**
Friday, September 8, 2017
San Francisco Opera Guild’s annual gala to celebrate the opening of the San Francisco Opera season, Opera Ball is one of the premier philanthropic evenings on the West Coast. Courtney Labe and Maryam Muduroglu co-chair this year’s event which is inspired by the fairytale setting of Giacomo Puccini’s *Turandot*. Pre-performance cocktails and dinner are followed by a gala performance of *Turandot*. Dancing and further celebration follows the performance. *Opera Ball 2017* will honor Company Music Director Nicola Luisotti. For tickets and more information, contact the San Francisco Opera Guild at (415) 565-3204 or visit sfopera.com/operaball2017.

**BRAVO! CLUB OPENING NIGHT GALA**
Friday, September 8, 2017
The BRAVO! CLUB’s annual black-tie gala will celebrate the opening of San Francisco Opera’s 95th Season with pre-performance cocktails and late night dancing following the opening night performance of Puccini’s *Turandot*. The gala will be hosted by event co-chairs Alex Petalas and Victoria Weatherford. A group for opera-loving professionals ages 21–40, BRAVO! CLUB members enjoy ticket discounts throughout the year, as well as educational and social events. For tickets and membership information, visit sfopera.com/bravo.

**OPERA IN THE PARK**
Sunday, September 10, 2017 at 1:30 p.m.
*San Francisco Opera in the Park* features artists from the Company’s 2017 Fall Season in concert with the San Francisco Opera Orchestra conducted by Music Director Nicola Luisotti. This annual concert, held at Sharon Meadow in Golden Gate Park, is free and open to the public; no tickets required.

**EXPLORATION WORKSHOP: ALL ABOUT TURANDOT**
Sunday, September 24, 2017 at 11 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.
Experience Puccini’s *Turandot* in two interactive, multi-generational workshops based on the themes, story, characters and music of the opera. Designed for families by San Francisco Opera’s Education Department, the workshop is led by Teaching Artists and recommended for families with children ages 8 and older. Children should be accompanied by at least one parent or guardian. Tickets are $10 (scholarships available) and will be available this summer. For more information, visit sfopera.com/education or call (415) 551-6294.

**AN EVENING ON THE STAGE**
Monday, December 4, 2017 at 6 p.m.
San Francisco Opera Guild presents the fifth annual gala dinner on the stage of the War Memorial Opera House honoring a community leader for their exemplary and extraordinary advocacy for San Francisco Opera. For more information, visit sfoperaguild.com.

THE FUTURE IS NOW: ADLER FELLOWS GALA CONCERT
Friday, December 8, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.
This annual concert showcases the artists from San Francisco Opera Center’s young artist training program in a gala performance of opera scenes and arias with the San Francisco Opera Orchestra. For more information, visit sfopera.com/operacenter.

SAN FRANCISCO OPERA GUILD INSIGHT PANELS
Thursday, September 7, 2017 6:30 p.m. – Elektra
Wednesday, November 1, 2017 6:30 p.m. – Manon
Thursday, November 9, 2017 6:30 p.m. – Girls of the Golden West
San Francisco Opera Guild presents moderated panel discussions with cast and creative team members from Richard Strauss’ Elektra, Jules Massenet’s Manon, and John Adams’ Girls of the Golden West. Hear directly from the artists as they share insights about bringing these operas to life. Insight Panels are free to Opera Guild members, San Francisco Opera subscribers and students; $5 for general public admission. The Insight Panels will take place in the Dianne and Tad Taube Atrium Theater at the Diane B. Wilsey Center for Opera. Visit sfopera.com/insights for more information.

2017 FALL OPERA SEASON CASTING AND CALENDAR
*San Francisco Opera Debut  **United States Debut  †Role Debut  ‡Current Adler Fellow  *OperaVision Performance
All performances take place at the War Memorial Opera House.

TURANDOT by Giacomo Puccini
(Last duet and finale by Franco Alfano)
September 8 (8 p.m.), 12* (7:30 p.m.), 15 (7:30 p.m.), 21 (7:30 p.m.), 24* (2 p.m.), 30 (7:30 p.m.);
November 18 (7:30 p.m.), 25 (7:30 p.m.), 28 (7:30 p.m.); December 3 (2 p.m.), 6* (7:30 p.m.), 9* (7:30 p.m.), 2017

Co-production with Lyric Opera of Chicago
Libretto by Giuseppe Adami and Renato Simoni
Based on Friedrich Schiller’s version of a play by Carlo Gozzi
Approximate running time: 3 hours including two intermissions
Sung in Italian with English supertitles

First performance: Milan; April 25, 1926
First SFO performance: September 19, 1927
Most recent SFO performances: November 2011

Cast:
Turandot  Martina Serafin (Sep.)
           Nina Stemme (Nov./Dec.)
Calaf
Brian Jagde,*

Liù
Maria Agresta* (Sep. 8, 12, 15, 21)
Toni Marie Palmertree† (Sep. 24, 30)
Leah Crocetto (Nov./Dec.)

Timur
Raymond Aceto (Sep.)
Soloman Howard*† (Nov./Dec.)

Ping
Joo Won Kang,*

Pang
Julius Ahn

Pong
Joel Sorensen

A Mandarin
Brad Walker†

Emperor Altoum
Robert Brubaker*†

Creative Team:
Conductor
Nicola Luisotti (Sep.)
Conductor
Christopher Franklin* (Nov./Dec.)
Production and Design
David Hockney
Director
Garnett Bruce
Costume Designer
Ian Falconer
Original Lighting Designer
Thomas J. Munn
Lighting Designer
Gary Marder
Chorus Director
Ian Robertson
Choreographer
Lawrence Pech
Fight Director
Dave Maier

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

**ELEKTRA** by Richard Strauss
NEW PRODUCTION
**September 9** (7:30 p.m.), **13** (7:30 p.m.), **17** (2 p.m.), **19** (7:30 p.m.), **22** (7:30 p.m.), **27** (7:30 p.m.), 2017

Co-production with National Theatre in Prague and Badisches Staatstheater Karlsruhe
Libretto by Hugo von Hofmannsthal after Sophocles' *Electra*
Approximate running time: 1 hour, 40 minutes with no intermission
Sung in German with English supertitles

First performance: Dresden; January 25, 1909
First SFO performance: October 24, 1938
Most recent SFO performances: November 1997

Cast:
Elektra
Christine Goerke
Klytemnestra
Stephanie Blythe,*
Chrysothemis
Adrianne Pieczonka
Orest
Alfred Walker*
Aegisth
Robert Brubaker
Tutor of Orest
Anthony Reed†
The Overseer
Alexandra Loutsion*
Fifth Maidservant
Rhoslyn Jones
Maidservant 1  Jill Grove
Maidservant 2  Laura Krumm
Maidservant 3  Nicole Birkland
Maidservant 4  Sarah Cambidge
Trainbearer  Amina Edris
Young Servant  Kyle van Schoonhoven
Old Servant  Bojan Knezevic
Confidante  Erin Neff

Creative Team:
Conductor  Henrik Nánási*
Original Director  Keith Warner*
Revival Director  Anja Kühnhold*
Set Designer  Boris Kudlička*
Costume Designer  Kaspar Glarner*
Lighting Designer  John Bishop*
Video Designer  Bartek Macias*
Chorus Director  Ian Robertson

San Francisco Opera Orchestra and San Francisco Opera Chorus

LA TRAVIATA by Giuseppe Verdi
September 23 (7:30 p.m.), 26 (7:30 p.m.), 28* (7:30 p.m.); October 1* (2 p.m.), 3 (7:30 p.m.), 6 (7:30 p.m.), 8 (2 p.m.), 11* (7:30 p.m.), 14 (7:30 p.m.), 17 (7:30 p.m.), 2017

San Francisco Opera production
Libretto by Francesco Maria Piave after the play La dame aux camellias by Alexander Dumas, fils
Approximate running time: 3 hours including two intermissions
Sung in Italian with English supertitles

First performance: Venice; March 6, 1853
First SFO performance: October 4, 1924
Most recent SFO performances: July 2014

Cast:
Violetta Valéry  Aurelia Florian**
Alfredo Germont  Atalla Ayan*
Giorgio Germont  Artur Ruciński*
Flora Bervoix  Renée Rapier
Gastone  Amitai Pati†
Baron Douphol  Philip Skinner
Doctor Grenvil  Anthony Reed†
Marquis d’Obigny  Andrew G. Manea†
Annina  Amina Edris†

Creative Team:
Conductor  Nicola Luisotti
Production  John Copley
Revival Director: Shawna Lucey
Set Designer: John Conklin
Costume Designer: David Walker
Lighting Designer: Gary Marder
Chorus Director: Ian Robertson
Choreographer: Carola Zertuche*
Fight Director: Dave Maier

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

MANON by Jules Massenet
NEW PRODUCTION
November 4 (7:30 p.m.), 7 (7:30 p.m.), 10 (7:30 p.m.), 16* (7:30 p.m.), 19* (2 p.m.), 22* (7:30 p.m.), 2017

Co-production with Lithuanian National Opera and Ballet Theatre and the Israeli Opera
Libretto by Henri Meilhac and Philippe Gille after Antoine-François Prévost’s novel L’histoire du chevalier des Grieks en de Manon Lescaut
Approximate running time: 3 hours, 15 minutes including two intermissions
Sung in French with English supertitles

First performance: Paris; January 19, 1884
First SFO performance: September 29, 1924
Most recent SFO performances: November 1998

Cast:
Manon: Nadine Sierra ♪
Chevalier des Grieux: Michael Fabiano ♪
Lescaut: David Pershall ♪
Comte des Grieux: James Creswell ♪
De Brétigny: Timothy Mix ♪
Guillot de Morfontaine: Robert Brubaker ♪
Javotte: Laura Krumm ♪
Rosette: Renée Rapier ♪
Pousette: Monica Dewey *
Innkeeper: Anders Fröhlich

Creative Team:
Conductor: Patrick Fournillier
Director: Vincent Boussard
Set Designer: Vincent Lemaire
Costume Designer: Vincent Boussard
Lighting Designer: Gary Marder
Chorus Director: Ian Robertson

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

GIRLS OF THE GOLDEN WEST by John Adams
WORLD PREMIERE
November 21 (7:30 p.m.), 24 (7:30 p.m.), 26* (2 p.m.), 29 (7:30 p.m.); December 2 (7:30 p.m.), 5* (7:30 p.m.), 7* (7:30 p.m.), 10 (2 p.m.), 2017

A co-commission and co-production between San Francisco Opera, The Dallas Opera and Dutch National Opera, Amsterdam
The opera is presented by arrangement with Hendon Music, Inc., a Boosey & Hawkes company, publisher and copyright owner.
Libretto by Peter Sellars, drawn from original sources
Approximate running time: 3 hours including one intermission
Sung in English with English supertitles

Cast:
Dame Shirley
Ned Peters
Josefa Segovia
Clarence
Joe Cannon
Ah Sing
Ramón
Lola Montez

Julia Bullock*♫
Davóne Tines*♫
J’Nai Bridges♫
Ryan McKinny*♫
Paul Appleby♫
Hye Jung Lee♫
Elliot Madore♫
Lorena Feijoo*♫

Production Team:
Conductor
Director
Set Designer
Costume Designer
Lighting Designer
Sound Designer
Chorus Director
Choreographer

Grant Gershon*
Peter Sellars
David Gropman*
Rita Ryack*
James F. Ingalls
Mark Grey
Ian Robertson
John Heginbotham*

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

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OperaVision, high-definition projection screens featured in the upper Balcony level, is made possible by the Koret/Taube Media Suite.

Yamaha is the official piano of San Francisco Opera. Pianos generously provided by Piedmont Piano Company.

Turandot is made possible, in part, by Opening Weekend Grand Sponsor Diane B. Wilsey. Additional support is provided by John A. & Cynthia Fry Gunn; Bernard & Barbro Osher; The Burgess & Elizabeth Jamieson
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La Traviata is made possible, in part, by: Chevron; and Jan Shrem & Maria Manetti Shrem, through the Conductors Fund and the Great Interpreters of Italian Opera Fund.

Manon is made possible, in part, by: John A. & Cynthia Fry Gunn; and Jan Shrem & Maria Manetti Shrem.

Girls of the Golden West is made possible, in part, by: John A. & Cynthia Fry Gunn; Jane Bernstein & Bob Ellis; Jan Shrem & Maria Manetti Shrem, through the Emerging Stars Fund; and an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.

2017–18 Season Sponsor

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San Francisco Opera Communications
Jon Finck (415) 565-6472 / jfinck@sfopera.com
Julia Inouye (415) 565-6430 / jinouye@sfopera.com
Jeffery McMillan (415) 565-6451 / jmcmillan@sfopera.com

San Francisco Opera national press representation –
Shuman Associates (212) 315-1300 / shumanpr@shumanassociates.net