SAN FRANCISCO, CA (January 31, 2018) — San Francisco Opera presents Richard Wagner’s Der Ring des Nibelungen (The Ring of the Nibelung) in three complete cycles, each presented over the course of one week as the composer originally intended, from June 12 through July 1 at the War Memorial Opera House. Encompassing four operas—Das Rheingold, Die Walküre, Siegfried and Götterdämmerung—and more than 17 hours, the story and music of Wagner’s Ring are the acme of the operatic artform and one of the most ambitious works of music, theater and stagecraft ever created. In anticipation of the performances, San Francisco Opera today announced a schedule for its Ring Festival events designed to provide the public, from first-timers to experienced Ring-goers, with enriching activities including lectures, symposia, film screenings, musical programs, public discussions and a Ring Community Day for families.

An internationally-renowned cast of Wagnerian artists has been assembled for San Francisco Opera’s performances of Wagner’s epic, including Evelyn Herlitzius (Brünnhilde), Greer Grimsley (Wotan), Daniel Brenna (Siegfried), Karita Mattila (Sieglinde), Brandon Jovanovich (Froh and Siegmund), Falk Struckmann (Alberich), Jamie Barton (Fricka) and many others, directed by Francesca Zambello and under the baton of esteemed Wagnerian conductor Donald Runnicles. All artists will perform their roles in each of the three cycles, which are scheduled for June 12–17, June 19–24 and June 26–July 1,
2018. Ring cycle performances take place on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays. Ring Festival events begin in February and extend through June with events taking place during each cycle on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

San Francisco Opera General Director Matthew Shilvock said: “If there is one artistic undertaking that demonstrates the complete mettle of an opera company it is Wagner’s Ring. San Francisco Opera has a storied history with this life-affirming work, and it is a great privilege for all of us to bring it to the stage once again. It will take us all on a powerful journey, deep into the very understanding of what it means to be human. There are no bounds to how far one can explore this monumental artwork and we are so happy to be presenting a number of engaging Ring Festival events around the cycles. This is a unique opportunity to get immersed in one unbelievably powerful event. I can’t wait!”

RING FESTIVAL, FEBRUARY–JUNE

In partnership with Bay Area cultural institutions, San Francisco Opera has curated a Ring Festival offering a multitude of public events that explore Wagner’s Der Ring des Nibelungen saga and offer deeper engagement with the tetralogy’s themes, characters and musical storytelling. Ring Festival activities leading up to the June performances include an April 26 lecture and exhibition tour in the popular Thursday Nights at the Asian Art Museum series; a May 21 public discussion about the work at the Commonwealth Club featuring director Francesca Zambello and special guests; and a Ring Community Day on June 9 offering interactive Ring-related activities for all ages.

Festival events held at the Diane B. Wilsey Center for Opera punctuate each of the three Ring cycle weeks. On Tuesdays, before each evening performance of Das Rheingold, a three-part Ring 101 overview will be presented. Ring 101 begins with an introduction to Wagner’s masterpiece by San Francisco Opera Dramaturg Dr. Clifford “Kip” Cranna, followed by a presentation from the San Francisco Opera Archives about the history of the Ring in San Francisco from 1900–2018 and concludes with interviews with guest artists from the Ring production.

Each Thursday, between performances of Die Walküre and Siegfried, activities are available throughout the day beginning with a Ring Symposium featuring panel discussions with artists and other Ring colleagues. Midday, the 2000 film Sing Faster–The Stagehands’ Ring Cycle by Academy Award-nominated director Jon Else will be screened, followed by a hosted Q&A. In the evenings, the San Francisco Opera Chorus will be featured in Wagner Chorus Concerts showcasing the choral music from the works of Richard Wagner.

On each Saturday, between performances of Siegfried and Götterdämmerung, San Francisco Opera in collaboration with the Wagner Society of Northern California will present a series of Ring Forums. These day-long events offer in-depth explorations of the Ring by distinguished Wagner experts. Each Ring Forum will feature different speakers presenting on a variety of topics relating to the Ring.
San Francisco Opera presents three complete cycles of Wagner’s tetralogy—Das Rheingold, Die Walküre, Siegfried and Götterdämmerung—in the acclaimed production by American director Francesca Zambello. Utilizing visuals from the American landscape, Zambello’s interpretation, which the New York Times called “boldly contemporary” at its San Francisco Opera unveiling in 2011, will include new features, including technologically advanced projections, new imagery and restudied stage action. Zambello commented: “Since directing the Ring here in 2011 and again in 2016 in Washington, D.C., I found the power of the work seems even more contemporary. The great overarching themes of the Ring—nature, love, power and corruption—resound through America's past and haunt our present. As I have worked on it I find I have placed more emphasis on the role of the family and the power of redemption through all the female characters.”

Donald Runnicles conducts the San Francisco Opera Orchestra and a roster of some of the world’s leading Wagnerians that includes a trio of exceptional artists who are new to the Company: German soprano Evelyn Herlitzius will portray Brünnhilde; American tenor Daniel Brenna bows as the hero, Siegfried; and German bass-baritone Falk Struckmann, who has performed many of the low-voiced roles in the Ring, makes both his Company and role debuts as Alberich.

The cast also features American bass-baritone Greer Grimsley bringing his celebrated portrayal of Wotan to the War Memorial Opera House stage for the first time; Finnish soprano Karita Mattila as Sieglinde; American tenor Brandon Jovanovich reprising the roles of Froh and Siegmund; American mezzo-soprano Jamie Barton as Fricka, Waltraute and the Second Norn; Štefan Margita and David Cangelosi reprising their acclaimed portrayals of Loge and Mime; bass Raymond Aceto as Fafner and Hunding; baritone Brian Mulligan performs Donner and Gunther; bass Andrea Silvestrelli is Fasolt and Hagen; and soprano Melissa Citro is Gutrune. Soprano Julie Adams sings Freia and Gerhilde; mezzo-soprano Ronnita Miller is Erda and joins soprano Sarah Cambidge and Jamie Barton to comprise the three Norns; The Valkyries will be performed by Adams, Nicole Birkland, Cambidge, Citro, Laura Krumm, Lauren McNeese, Renée Rapier and Renée Tatum. The Rheinmaidens will be performed by Stacey Tappan (Woglinde), Lauren McNeese (Wellgunde) and Tatum (Flosshilde).

Reunited with Zambello for these presentations are the production’s creative team of set designer Michael Yeargan, costume designer Catherine Zuber, lighting designer Mark McCullough, and projection designers S. Katy Tucker and Jan Hartley. Laurie Feldman is associate director and Denni Sayers is associate director and movement. Company Chorus Director Ian Robertson prepares the San Francisco Opera Chorus.

Regarded as one of the world's leading companies in presenting the Ring, San Francisco Opera first produced Wagner's masterwork in 1935 with Kirsten Flagstad (Brünnhilde), Lauritz Melchior (Siegmund/Siegfried), Elisabeth Rethberg (Sieglinde) and Friedrich Schorr (Wotan), with Artur Bodanzky conducting. In 1972, the Company mounted a new staging as part of its 50th anniversary celebrations. A new production by Nikolaus Lehnhoff and conducted by San Francisco Symphony Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas.
Director Edo De Waart was unveiled in 1985. Maestro Runnicles led presentations of the *Ring* at San Francisco Opera in 1990, 1999 and the premiere of the new production by Francesca Zambello in 2011.

For full details of past San Francisco Opera presentations of the *Ring*, visit the online performance archive at [archive.sfopera.com](http://archive.sfopera.com).

**TICKETS AND INFORMATION**

**Ticket packages for Wagner’s *Ring* cycle** (complete four-opera cycles only) range from $400 to $2,000 in select sections with limited availability. Current pricing is valid until March 1 and subject to change after this date. Please visit [sfopera.com/ring](http://sfopera.com/ring) for further details or call the Opera Box Office at (415) 864-3330. 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. *Ring* Festival events are open to the general public; for tickets and more information, please visit [sfopera.com/ringfestival](http://sfopera.com/ringfestival).

OperaVision screens are suspended from the ceiling of the balcony section for each *Ring* Cycle performance and show close-ups of the action on stage in high-definition video. English subtitles appear at the bottom of each screen. OperaVision is made possible by the Koret/Taube Media Suite.

The **War Memorial Opera House** is located at 301 Van Ness Avenue. The **Dianne and Tad Taube Atrium Theater** and **John M. Bryan Education Studio** are in the **Diane B. Wilsey Center for Opera** on the fourth floor of the Veterans Building at 401 Van Ness Avenue. Patrons are encouraged to use public transportation to attend San Francisco Opera performances and *Ring* Festival events. The War Memorial Opera House and Veterans Building are 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](http://bart.gov) and [sfmta.com](http://sfmta.com).

All casting, programs, schedules and ticket prices are subject to change. For further information about San Francisco Opera’s performances of Wagner’s *Ring*, visit [sfopera.com/ring](http://sfopera.com/ring).

**2018 RING FESTIVAL SCHEDULE**

**PRE-CYCLE EVENTS**

**WAGNER SOCIETY OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA**

February 3–April 7 from 1 p.m.–3:30 p.m.

Jewish Community Center of San Francisco, 3200 California Street, San Francisco

Monthly meetings of the Wagner Society of Northern California feature lectures by musicians and Wagnerian scholars on a variety of topics relating to the composer and his works. Lectures are free to Wagner Society members; a $10 donation is suggested for guests. For more information, visit [wagnersf.org](http://wagnersf.org).

February 3: Wagner’s *Ring* in Popular Culture by Adrian Daub
March 17: Kirsten Flagstad and Lauritz Melchior by Jeffery McMillan
April 7: Conducting Wagner by Scott Vogelson

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE AT UC BERKELEY
“I Saw the World End”: Exploring Wagner’s Ring
6 Wednesday Afternoons, April 4–May 9, 2–4 p.m.
Freight and Salvage Coffee House, 2020 Addison Way, Berkeley

As San Francisco Opera prepares to mount Richard Wagner’s monumental four-opera cycle, The Ring of the Nibelung, in June 2018, San Francisco Opera Dramaturg Dr. Clifford “Kip” Cranna explores the myth, music and majesty of this unsurpassed masterpiece in six two-hour lectures. Registration for this course opens February 4. For more information, visit https://olli.berkeley.edu/programs/courses.

ASIAN ART MUSEUM
Thursday, April 26 at 7 p.m.
200 Larkin Street, San Francisco

Join the curators of the Asian Art Museum for a special Thursday Nights at the Asian Art Museum event exploring the themes of Wagner’s Ring and their resonances in the Museum’s collection. Attendees at this free event are encouraged to tour the Museum’s Ring-related exhibitions by following a self-guided map tour. For more information, visit asianart.org or call (415) 581-3500.

COMMONWEALTH CLUB
Wagner’s Ring: In Conversation with Francesca Zambello and Members of the Ring Production
Monday, May 21 at 12 p.m.
110 The Embarcadero, San Francisco

The Commonwealth Club of California’s member led Arts Forum, in association with San Francisco Opera, will host a public conversation about the June 2018 presentations of Wagner’s Ring at the War Memorial Opera House. The Commonwealth Club’s Arts Forum co-chair, Anne Smith, will interview Ring director Francesca Zambello and special guests about the collaborative process of bringing Wagner’s 17-hour, four-opera epic to life. For more information, visit commonwealthclub.org or call (415) 597-6705.

OVERTURE WORKSHOPS FOR ADULTS: DRINKS & DRAMA: EVERYTHING BUT THE RING
Saturday, May 19, 2:30–4 p.m.
The Sea Star, 2289 3rd Street, San Francisco

Raise a glass! San Francisco Opera Education hosts an evening of Wagnerian operas paired with specialty cocktails. Learn about Lohengrin, tangle with Tannhäuser and parse through Parsifal, all while sipping a libation concocted by mixologists from San Francisco’s The Sea Star. Photographs and video clips from the San Francisco Opera Archives and live musical performances by guest artists complete
this fun and tasty overview. Drink samples and light snacks will be provided. Please note: attendees must be over 21 years of age to attend; IDs will be checked at the door. Tickets are $45 and will go on sale at a later date. For more information about San Francisco Opera Education’s Overture programs, please visit sfopera.com/overture.

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SAN FRANCISCO OPERA GUILD PREVIEWS
June 4–6

Simon Williams presents a series of engaging Opera Preview lectures about Der Ring des Nibelungen. An internationally recognized authority on the history of acting and Shakespearean performance, Williams has lectured worldwide on Richard Wagner, including serving as the English-language audience lecturer at the Bayreuth Festspielhaus, Wagner’s theater built for the performance of his works. Presented by Guild Chapters throughout the Bay Area and in partnership with San Jose Opera Guild, each 90-minute presentation examines the structure, story, themes and characters of Wagner’s massive work. Information can be found at sfopera.com/previews.

- San Jose Opera Guild – Monday, June 4, 10 a.m. at Addison-Penzak JCC Silicon Valley, 14855 Oka Road, Suite 201, Los Gatos (Admission: Free to San Jose Opera Guild and JCC members. $10 for general public)
- Marin Chapter – Monday, June 4, 7:30 p.m. at The Redwoods, 40 Camino Alto, Mill Valley (Admission: $10)
- San Francisco Chapter – Tuesday, June 5, 12 p.m. at Koret Auditorium, San Francisco Public Library, 100 Larkin Street (Admission: Free)
- East Bay Chapter – Wednesday, June 6, 8 p.m. at Lafayette Library and Learning Center, 3491 Mount Diablo Boulevard, Lafayette (Admission: $10)

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RING COMMUNITY DAY
Saturday, June 9, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
John M. Bryan Education Studio, Diane B. Wilsey Center for Opera Veterans Building (4th Floor), 401 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco

San Francisco Opera Education and San Francisco Opera Guild host a multigenerational and interactive day of activities exploring Wagner’s spectacular Ring Cycle. Ring Community Day will feature family activities, including the First Act early childhood program “Teething Ring” for families with children 2–5 years old; interactive Exploration Workshop: All About the Ring for children ages 4–12; Sing-A-Story: Das Rheingold, and more.

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MUSIC OF WAGNER & HIS CONTEMPORARIES
Sunday, June 10 at 4 p.m.
St. Mary’s Cathedral, 1111 Gough Street in San Francisco

Bay Area organist James Welch will perform a virtuoso program, including transcriptions from Wagner’s operas, on the 4842-pipe Fratelli Ruffatti organ at St. Mary’s Cathedral. Tickets $10 suggested donation. For tickets and more information, visit eventbrite.
CYCLE 1 EVENTS (June 12–17)

PRE-OPERA TALKS
War Memorial Opera House, 301 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco

Before each performance of Cycle 1, distinguished music scholar Desiree Mays will present a 25-minute overview of the opera, with insights about the music, composer and historical background. Pre-Opera Talks are free to ticketholders and take place in the theater of the War Memorial Opera House, 55 minutes prior to curtain.

June 12, 6:35 p.m. Das Rheingold
June 13, 6:05 p.m. Die Walküre
June 15, 5:35 p.m. Siegfried
June 17, 12:05 p.m. Götterdämmerung

RING 101
Tuesday, June 12, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.
Taube Atrium Theater, Diane B. Wilsey Center for Opera
Veterans Building (4th Floor), 401 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco

New to the Ring? Begin your journey with an illuminating overview of the story, characters, music and history of Wagner’s four-opera epic. Ring 101 begins with an introduction by San Francisco Opera Dramaturg Dr. Clifford “Kip” Cranna. Following a break for lunch, a San Francisco Opera Archives presentation about the history of Wagner’s Ring in San Francisco from 1900–2018 and a conversation with a guest from the production will conclude the activities. Tickets are $50. For tickets and more information, visit sfopera.com/ringfestival or call the San Francisco Opera Box Office at (415) 864-3330.

RING SYMPOSIUM
Thursday, June 14, 11 a.m.—1 p.m.
Taube Atrium Theater, Diane B. Wilsey Center for Opera
Veterans Building (4th Floor), 401 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco

Ready to dive deeper into the Ring? Join author and opera expert Fred Plotkin for a hosted discussion with the artists of the Ring, including singers, creative team members and special guests. Note: Each Ring Symposium will feature different hosts and panelists. Tickets are $40. For tickets and more information, visit sfopera.com/ringfestival or call the San Francisco Opera Box Office at (415) 864-3330.

FILM SCREENING: SING FASTER—THE STAGEHANDS’ RING CYCLE
Thursday, June 14, 2–3:30 p.m.
Taube Atrium Theater, Diane B. Wilsey Center for Opera
Veterans Building (4th Floor), 401 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco

Join Academy Award-nominated filmmaker Jon Else for this screening of Sing Faster—The Stagehands’ Ring Cycle, a behind-the-scenes look at Wagner’s ambitious epic from the point of view of San Francisco Opera’s unsung heroes, the stage crew. Winner of the prestigious Filmmaker’s Trophy at the 2000 at the Sundance Festival, Sing Faster will be followed by a hosted Q&A with the director. Tickets are $5. For tickets and more information, visit sfopera.com/ringfestival or call the San Francisco Opera Box Office at (415) 864-3330.

WAGNER CHORUS CONCERT
Thursday, June 14, 8 p.m.
Taube Atrium Theater, Diane B. Wilsey Center for Opera
Veterans Building (4th Floor), 401 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco

Members of the acclaimed San Francisco Opera Chorus will perform choral music from the operas of Richard Wagner. San Francisco Opera Chorus Director Ian Robertson conducts the singers and Associate Chorus Master Fabrizio Corona accompanies at the piano. Tickets are $30 and will go on sale February 20.

RING FORUM (CYCLE 1)
Saturday, June 16, 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
Taube Atrium Theater, Diane B. Wilsey Center for Opera
Veterans Building (4th Floor), 401 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco

Presented in conjunction with the Wagner Society of Northern California, this day-long forum offers three in-depth explorations of the Ring with Wagner experts Peter Bassett, Desiree Mays and Simon Williams. Tickets are $65; or $55 for Wagner Society members (price includes a box lunch). For tickets and more information, visit sfopera.com/ringfestival or call the San Francisco Opera Box Office at (415) 864-3330.

Wagner’s Theatres
Australian writer, lecturer and broadcaster on opera, particularly the works of Wagner, Peter Bassett dives into the composer’s production inspiration through photos and models of theaters made by Gottfried Semper for Wagner in the 1860s.

Das Ende: The Endings of the Ring
Desiree Mays, resident speaker at Santa Fe Opera and author of the Opera Unveiled book series, discusses and compares the six endings Wagner considered for Götterdämmerung.

The “Deep State” of the Ring
Shakespeare and Wagner scholar Simon Williams explores the themes of tragedy, conflict between past and present and the imminence of death in the Ring.

CYCLE 2 EVENTS (June 19–24)

PRE-OPERA TALKS
War Memorial Opera House, 301 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco

Before each performance of Cycle 2, San Francisco Conservatory of Music faculty member Kayleen Asbo will present a 25-minute overview of the opera, with insights about the music, composer and historical background. Pre-Opera Talks are free to ticketholders and take place in the theater of the War Memorial Opera House, 55 minutes prior to curtain.

June 19, 6:35 p.m. Das Rheingold
June 20, 6:05 p.m. Die Walküre
June 22, 5:35 p.m. Siegfried
June 24, 12:05 p.m. Götterdämmerung

RING 101
Tuesday, June 19, 11 a.m.—3 p.m.
Taube Atrium Theater, Diane B. Wilsey Center for Opera
Veterans Building (4th Floor), 401 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco

New to the Ring? Begin your journey with an illuminating overview of the story, characters, music and history of Wagner’s four-opera epic. Ring 101 begins with an introduction by San Francisco Opera Dramaturg Dr. Clifford “Kip” Cranna. Following a break for lunch, a San Francisco Opera Archives presentation about the history of Wagner’s Ring in San Francisco from 1900–2018 and a conversation with a guest from the production will conclude the activities. Tickets are $50. For tickets and more information, visit sfopera.com/ringfestival or call the San Francisco Opera Box Office at (415) 864-3330.

RING SYMPOSIUM
Thursday, June 21, 11 a.m.—1 p.m.
Taube Atrium Theater, Diane B. Wilsey Center for Opera
Veterans Building (4th Floor), 401 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco

Ready to dive deeper into the Ring? Join artists of the Ring, including singers, creative team members and special guests for an in-depth panel discussion about Wagner’s four-part masterpiece. Note: Each Ring Symposium will feature different hosts and panelists. Tickets are $40. For tickets and more information, visit sfopera.com/ringfestival or call the San Francisco Opera Box Office at (415) 864-3330.

FILM SCREENING: SING FASTER—THE STAGEHANDS’ RING CYCLE
Thursday, June 21, 2–3:30 p.m.
Taube Atrium Theater, Diane B. Wilsey Center for Opera
Veterans Building (4th Floor), 401 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco

Join film producer Richard Berge for this screening of Sing Faster—The Stagehands’ Ring Cycle, a behind-the-scenes look at Wagner’s ambitious epic from the point of view of San Francisco Opera’s unsung heroes, the stage crew. Winner of the prestigious Filmmaker’s Trophy at the 2000 at the Sundance Festival, Sing Faster will be followed by a hosted Q&A. Tickets are $5. For tickets and more information, visit sfopera.com/ringfestival or call the San Francisco Opera Box Office at (415) 864-3330.
WAGNER CHORUS CONCERT
Thursday, June 21, 8 p.m.
Taube Atrium Theater in the Diane B. Wilsey Center for Opera
Veterans Building (4th Floor), 401 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco

Members of the acclaimed San Francisco Opera Chorus will perform choral music from the operas of Richard Wagner. San Francisco Opera Chorus Director Ian Robertson conducts the singers and Associate Chorus Master Fabrizio Corona accompanies at the piano. Tickets are $30 and will go on sale February 20.

RING FORUM (CYCLE 2)
Saturday, June 23, 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
Taube Atrium Theater in the Diane B. Wilsey Center for Opera
Veterans Building (4th Floor), 401 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco

Presented in conjunction with the Wagner Society of Northern California, this day-long forum offers an in-depth exploration of the Ring with Wagner expert and pianist, Heath Lees. Tickets are $65; or $55 for Wagner Society members (price includes a box lunch). For tickets and more information, visit sfopera.com/ringfestival or call the San Francisco Opera Box Office at (415) 864-3330.

Getting to Grips with the Ring
Educator and founder of the Wagner Society of New Zealand Heath Lees illuminates the composer’s ability to weave meaning into music that can last long after the Ring cycle curtain closes.

CYCLE 3 EVENTS (June 26–July 1)

PRE-OPERA TALKS
War Memorial Opera House, 301 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco

Before each performance of Cycle 3, music educator Laura Prichard will present a 25-minute overview of the opera, with insights about the music, composer and historical background. Pre-Opera Talks are free to ticketholders and take place in the theater of the War Memorial Opera House, 55 minutes prior to curtain.

June 26, 6:35 p.m. Das Rheingold
June 27, 6:05 p.m. Die Walküre
June 29, 5:35 p.m. Siegfried
July 1, 12:05 p.m. Götterdämmerung

RING 101
Tuesday, June 26, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.
Taube Atrium Theater, Diane B. Wilsey Center for Opera
Veterans Building (4th Floor), 401 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco

New to the Ring? Begin your journey with an illuminating overview of the story, characters, music and history of Wagner’s four-opera epic. Ring 101 begins with an introduction by San Francisco Opera Dramaturg Dr. Clifford “Kip” Cranna. Following a break for lunch, a San Francisco Opera Archives presentation about the history of Wagner’s Ring in San Francisco from 1900–2018 and a conversation with a guest from the production will conclude the activities. Tickets are $50. For tickets and more information, visit sfopera.com/ringfestival or call the San Francisco Opera Box Office at (415) 864-3330.

RING SYMPOSIUM
Thursday, June 28, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.
Taube Atrium Theater, Diane B. Wilsey Center for Opera
Veterans Building (4th Floor), 401 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco

Ready to dive deeper into the Ring? Join artists of the Ring, including singers, creative team members and special guests for an in-depth panel discussion about Wagner’s four-part masterpiece. Note: Each Ring Symposium will feature different hosts and panelists. Tickets are $40. For tickets and more information, visit sfopera.com/ringfestival or call the San Francisco Opera Box Office at (415) 864-3330.

FILM SCREENING: SING FASTER—THE STAGEHANDS’ RING CYCLE
Thursday, June 28, 2–3:30 p.m.
Taube Atrium Theater, Diane B. Wilsey Center for Opera
Veterans Building (4th Floor), 401 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco

Join Academy Award-nominated filmmaker Jon Else for this screening of Sing Faster—The Stagehands’ Ring Cycle, a behind-the-scenes look at Wagner’s ambitious epic from the point of view of San Francisco Opera’s unsung heroes, the stage crew. Winner of the prestigious Filmmaker’s Trophy at the 2000 at the Sundance Festival, Sing Faster will be followed by a hosted Q&A with the director. Tickets are $5. For tickets and more information, visit sfopera.com/ringfestival or call the San Francisco Opera Box Office at (415) 864-3330.

WAGNER CHORUS CONCERT
Thursday, June 28, 8 p.m.
Taube Atrium Theater in the Diane B. Wilsey Center for Opera
Veterans Building (4th Floor), 401 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco

Members of the acclaimed San Francisco Opera Chorus will perform choral music from the operas of Richard Wagner. San Francisco Opera Chorus Director Ian Robertson conducts the singers and Associate Chorus Master Fabrizio Corona accompanies at the piano. Tickets are $30 and will go on sale February 20.

RING FORUM (CYCLE 3)
Saturday, June 30, 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
Taube Atrium Theater, Diane B. Wilsey Center for Opera
Veterans Building (4th Floor), 401 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco

Presented in conjunction with the Wagner Society of Northern California, this day-long forum offers three in-depth explorations of the Ring with Wagner experts Speight Jenkins, John Mastrogiavanni and Jonathan Khuner. Tickets are $65; or $55 for Wagner Society members (price includes a box lunch). For tickets and more information, visit sfopera.com/ringfestival or call the San Francisco Opera Box Office at (415) 864-3330.

Creating a Ring
Opera educator and former general director of Seattle Opera Speight Jenkins takes you behind the scenes with a discussion about the artistic development, planning and casting of his well-known Ring productions at Seattle Opera.

Brünnhilde: The Liberator Liberated
Author and chairman of the Wagner Society of Southern California Dr. John Mastrogiavanni explores whether Brünnhilde’s journey from the second act of Die Walküre to the conclusion of Götterdämmerung is transformation or an unveiling of her true self.

Wagner’s Mistakes
Conductor Jonathan Khuner reveals how many directors unapologetically ignore Wagner’s musical instructions in order to make the Ring sing.

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DER RING DES NIBELUNGEN (The Ring of the Nibelung) SCHEDULE AND CASTING

*San Francisco Opera Debut  †Role Debut  ‡Current Adler Fellow
All performances take place at the War Memorial Opera House.

CYCLE 1: June 12 (7:30 p.m.); June 13 (7 p.m.); June 15 (6:30 p.m.); June 17 (1 p.m.)
CYCLE 2: June 19 (7:30 p.m.); June 20 (7 p.m.); June 22 (6:30 p.m.); June 24 (1 p.m.)
CYCLE 3: June 26 (7:30 p.m.); June 27 (7 p.m.); June 29 (6:30 p.m.); July 1 (1 p.m.)
All cycle performances are presented on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.

Co-production with Washington National Opera
Libretto by Richard Wagner
Sung in German with English supertitles
All performances of the Ring will feature OperaVision, HD video projection screens in the Balcony.

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DAS RHEINGOLD by Richard Wagner
June 12* (7:30 p.m.), 19* (7:30 p.m.) and 26* (7:30 p.m.), 2018

Approximate running time: 2 hours, 35 minutes with no intermission
First performance: Munich; September 22, 1869
First SFO performance: November 1, 1935
Most recent SFO performance June 2011

Cast:
Wotan
Loge
Alberich
Fricka
Erda
Mime
Fasolt
Fafner
Freia
Woglinde
Wellgunde
Flosshilde
Froh
Donner

Greer Grimsley
Stefan Margita
Falk Struckmann*
Jamie Barton
Ronniita Miller
David Cangelosi
Andrea Silvestrelli
Raymond Aceto
Julie Adams*
Stacey Tappan
Lauren McNeese
Renée Tatum
Brandon Jovanovich
Brian Mulligan*

Creative Team:
Conductor
Donald Runnicles
Director
Francesca Zambello
Associate Director & Choreographer
Denni Sayers
Set Designer
Michael Yeargan
Costume Designer
Catherine Zuber
Lighting Designer
Mark McCullough
Projection Designer
S. Katy Tucker
Original Projection Designer
Jan Hartley

San Francisco Opera Orchestra

DIE WALKÜRE by Richard Wagner
June 13* (7 p.m.), 20* (7 p.m.) and 27* (7 p.m.), 2018

Approximate running time: 4 hours, 30 minutes with two intermissions
First performance
Munich; June 26, 1870
First SFO performance
November 4, 1935
Most recent SFO performance
June 2011

Cast:
Brünnhilde
Wotan
Sieglinde
Siegmund
Fricka
Hunding
Gerhilde
Helmwige
Ortlinde
Waltraute
Rossweisse
Schwertleite
Siegrune
Grimgerde

Evelyn Herlitzius*
Greer Grimsley
Karita Mattila
Brandon Jovanovich
Jamie Barton
Raymond Aceto
Julie Adams*
Melissa Citro*
Sarah Cambidge*
Renée Tatum
Lauren McNeese
Nicole Birkland
Laura Krumm*
Renée Rapier*
Creative Team:
Conductor: Donald Runnicles
Director: Francesca Zambello
Associate Director: Laurie Feldman
Choreographer: Denni Sayers
Set Designer: Michael Yeargan
Costume Designer: Catherine Zuber
Lighting Designer: Mark McCullough
Projection Designer: Jan Hartley
Remounted Projections: S. Katy Tucker

San Francisco Opera Orchestra

SIEGFRIED by Richard Wagner
June 15* (6:30 p.m.), 22* (6:30 p.m.) and 29* (6:30 p.m.), 2018

Approximate running time: 4 hours, 50 minutes with two intermissions
First performance: Bayreuth; August 16, 1876
First SFO performance: November 6, 1935
Most recent SFO performance: July 2011

Cast:
Siegfried: Daniel Brenna*
Brünnhilde: Evelyn Herlitzius
Mime: David Cangelosi
The Wanderer (Wotan): Greer Grimsley
Alberich: Falk Struckmann
Fafner: Raymond Aceto
Erda: Ronnita Miller
Forest Bird: Stacey Tappan

Creative Team:
Conductor: Donald Runnicles
Director: Francesca Zambello
Associate Director: Andrea Dorf McGraw
Associate Director & Choreographer: Denni Sayers
Set Designer: Michael Yeargan
Costume Designer: Catherine Zuber
Lighting Designer: Mark McCullough
Projection Designer: Jan Hartley
Remounted Projections: S. Katy Tucker

San Francisco Opera Orchestra

GÖTTERDÄMMERUNG by Richard Wagner
June 17* (1 p.m.), 24* (1 p.m.) and July 1* (1 p.m.), 2018

Approximate running time: 5 hours, 10 minutes with two intermissions
First performance: Bayreuth; August 17, 1876
First SFO performance: November 9, 1935
Most recent SFO performance: July 2011

**Cast:**
- Brünhilde: Evelyn Herlitzius
- Siegfried: Daniel Brenna
- Gunther: Brian Mulligan
- Hagen: Andrea Silvestrelli
- Waltraute: Jamie Barton
- Gutrune: Melissa Citro
- Alberich: Falk Struckmann
- First Norn: Ronnita Miller
- Second Norn: Jamie Barton
- Third Norn: Sarah Cambidge
- Woglinde: Stacey Tappan
- Wellgunde: Lauren McNeeese
- Flosshilde: Renée Tatum

**Creative Team:**
- Conductor: Donald Runnicles
- Director: Francesca Zambello
- Associate Director: Laurie Feldman
- Choreographer: Denni Sayers
- Set Designer: Michael Yeargan
- Costume Designer: Catherine Zuber
- Lighting Designer: Mark McCullough
- Projection Designer: S. Katy Tucker
- Original Projection Designers: Jan Hartley and S. Katy Tucker
- Chorus Director: Ian Robertson

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

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High resolution downloadable photographs of Francesca Zambello’s production of Wagner’s *Der Ring des Nibelungen* at San Francisco Opera are available at sfopera.com/press. For cast biographies, visit sfopera.com/ring.

Trailer for the 2018 Ring performances at San Francisco Opera: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m2lm2q0v57A

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