



SAN FRANCISCO
OPERA

SAN FRANCISCO OPERA'S 101ST SEASON CONTINUES
MAY 30–JUNE 30, 2024



The late composer Kaija Saariaho. Photo: Andrew Campbell; Scenes from *Innocence*. Photos: Jean-Louis Fernandez

American Premiere of San Francisco Opera Co-Commission *INNOCENCE*, the
Acclaimed Final Operatic Creation of Luminary Composer Kaija Saariaho



San Francisco Opera Music Director Eun Sun Kim (left). Photo: Stefan Cohen;
Scenes from *The Magic Flute* (center) and *Partenope* (right). Photos: Cory Weaver

Music Director Eun Sun Kim Leads Mozart's *THE MAGIC FLUTE* in
Barrie Kosky and Suzanne Andrade's Popular Staging

Handel's *PARTENOPE* Returns in Award-Winning Production
by Christopher Alden

Tickets available at (415) 864-3330 and [sfoopera.com](https://www.sfoopera.com)

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (January 25, 2024; revised April 19, 2024) — San Francisco Opera's 101st season continues May 30–June 30 at the War Memorial Opera House with the highly anticipated American premiere of Kaija Saariaho's final opera, *INNOCENCE*, along with

Mozart's *THE MAGIC FLUTE (DIE ZAUBERFLÖTE)* and Handel's *PARTENOPE*, presented in award-winning productions. The third performance of *Innocence* and *Partenope* will be livestreamed.

NEW-TO-SAN FRANCISCO OPERA PRODUCTION
THE MAGIC FLUTE by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
May 30–June 30, 2024



Amitai Pati; Christina Gansch; Kwangchul Youn; Lauri Vasar; Anna Simińska; Eun Sun Kim

Caroline H. Hume Music Director Eun Sun Kim opens San Francisco Opera's 2024 Summer Season on May 30 with Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's *THE MAGIC FLUTE* in the energetic and visually stunning hit staging from Barrie Kosky and Suzanne Andrade, revived by director Tobias Ribitski. Drawing inspiration from early animation, silent film and 1920s cabaret, the production which showcases the work of designer Esther Bialas and animator Paul Barritt has won plaudits from Berlin to Los Angeles and comes to San Francisco for the first time. The *Los Angeles Times* recently praised Kosky and Andrade's vision as "a wonderful show ... great for opera lovers, newbies and the whole family; great for Mozart; great for reminding us of the wonders of silent cinema."

Mozart's timeless fairy tale work of art features an international cast of New Zealand-Samoan tenor Amitai Pati as Tamino, Austrian soprano Christina Gansch as Pamina and, in a trio of house debuts, Estonian bass-baritone Lauri Vasar as Papageno, South Korean bass Kwangchul Youn as Sarastro and Polish soprano Anna Simińska as the Queen of the Night. Company Chorus Director John Keene prepares the artists of the San Francisco Opera Chorus. The Wednesday, June 26 performance of *The Magic Flute* marks the Company's annual *Pride Night at the Opera* celebration and anticipates Pride weekend in San Francisco, which culminates in the Pride Parade on Sunday, June 30.

AMERICAN PREMIERE

INNOCENCE music by Kaija Saariaho, Finnish libretto by Sofi Oksanen,
Multilingual libretto and dramaturgy by Aleksis Barrière

June 1–21, 2024



Kaija Saariaho; Ruxandra Donose; Lilian Farahani; Miles Mykkanen; Kristinn Sigmundsson; Vilma Jää; Clément Mao-Takacs

Since its world premiere in 2021, *INNOCENCE*, a San Francisco Opera co-commission by luminary Finnish composer Kaija Saariaho, has earned widespread acclaim on the stages of Aix-en-Provence, Helsinki, Amsterdam and London, leading the *New York Times* to proclaim the opera “a masterpiece ... the most powerful work Saariaho has written in a career now in its fifth decade.” This unforgettable work, Saariaho’s final opera (she passed away in June 2023), has its long-awaited American premiere at the War Memorial Opera House on June 1.

Set to a libretto by Finnish novelist Sofi Oksanen and Aleksis Barrière with dramaturgy by Barrière, *Innocence* explores the attempts to heal in the wake of a horrific mass shooting at an international school in Helsinki. Saariaho’s score, rich in translucent textures and intense beauty, is performed by the San Francisco Opera Orchestra under the baton of conductor Clément Mao-Takacs in his Company debut. Acclaimed Australian film and stage director Simon Stone’s original production which takes place on a rotating, two-level cube will be revived by Louise Bakker. The creative team includes set designer Chloe Lamford, costume designer Mel Page, lighting designer James Farncombe, sound designer Timo Kurkikangas and choreography by Arco Renz.

The ensemble cast, who perform in nine different languages, includes mezzo-soprano Ruxandra Donose as the Waitress, Miles Mykkanen as the Groom, soprano Lilian Farahani as the Bride, Claire de Sévigné and Rod Gilfry as the Mother-in-Law and Father-in-Law, respectively, bass Kristinn Sigmundsson as the Priest and Lucy Shelton as the teacher. Multi-genre instrumentalist and vocalist Vilma Jää, whose art spans Finnish folk songs to experimental electronic music, makes her American operatic debut as the student Markéta.

In connection with the production of *Innocence*, San Francisco Opera is working with local and national partner organizations to create opportunities for discourse about the effects of

gun violence on individuals and communities. More information will be announced closer to the performance period.

PARTENOPE by George Frideric Handel

June 15–28, 2024



Julie Fuchs; Carlo Vistoli; Daniela Mack; Nicholas Tamagna; Alek Shrader; Hadleigh Adams; Christopher Moulds

The 2024 Summer Season mainstage presentations also feature George Frideric Handel's *PARTENOPE* in the Olivier Award-winning staging by director Christopher Alden and conducted by early music expert Christopher Moulds. First presented by San Francisco Opera in 2014, Alden's staging moves this tale of a Neapolitan queen and her eccentric suitors to a 1920s Parisian salon where the extraordinary vocalism and wit of Handel's masterpiece meet the twentieth-century art movements of Surrealism and Dada. The production, which "turns the opera's genderbending plot into a nonstop parade of visual and vocal delights" (*Mercury News*), features set designs by Andrew Lieberman, costumes by Jon Morrell, original lighting by Adam Silverman relit by Gary Marder and choreography by Colm Seery.

French soprano Julie Fuchs and countertenor Carlo Vistoli make their house debuts as Partenope and Arsace, respectively. Beloved San Francisco Opera artists mezzo-soprano Daniela Mack, who won acclaim last summer as Frida Kahlo in Gabriela Lena Frank and Nilo Cruz's *El último sueño de Frida y Diego*, and tenor Alek Shrader reprise their roles as Rosmira and Emilio. Baritone Hadleigh Adams is Ormonte, and countertenor Nicholas Tamagna makes his house debut as Armindo.

LIVESTREAM SCHEDULE

The third performance of *Innocence* and *Partenope* will be livestreamed. Tickets for the streams, which include a 48-hour on-demand window to access the performance, are \$27.50 and available now. All times for livestream performances below are Pacific Time (PT). For more information, visit sfopera.com/digital/livestream.

2024

INNOCENCE

Wed., June 12 at 7:30 p.m.

TICKETS AND INFORMATION

Tickets for *The Magic Flute*, *Innocence* and *Partenope* range from \$26 to \$426 and are available at the San Francisco Opera Box Office (301 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco), by calling (415) 864-3330 and online at sfopera.com. 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). 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.

Subscriptions for all three summer operas are priced from \$78 to \$1,245.

Tickets for the June 12 and 23 livestreams are \$27.50 each. For more information, visit sfopera.com/digital/livestream.

Dolby Family's *Opera for the Bay* program provides \$10 tickets to all mainstage performances to Bay Area residents (home address zip code between 94000-95999) who have not purchased tickets in the past three seasons. *Opera for the Bay* tickets go on sale at noon one month prior to the opening of each production and are limited to 2 seats per eligible patron. On sale dates for the Dolby tickets to the three operas are April 30 (*The Magic Flute*), May 1 (*Innocence*) and May 15 (*Partenope*). Visit sfopera.com/dolby for more information.

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/Muni Station and near numerous bus lines, including 5, 21, 47, 49 and F Market Street. For further public transportation information, visit bart.gov and sfmta.com.

Gifts of all sizes help create San Francisco Opera's programs and are appreciated. To donate visit sfopera.com/donate.

Pre-opera talks take place 55 minutes prior to every performance. The 20-minute talks provide an overview of the opera. Speakers are Robert Hartwell (*The Magic Flute*), Alla Gladysheva (*Innocence*) and Cole Thomason-Redus (*Partenope*).

All casting, programs, schedules and ticket prices are subject to change. For further information about San Francisco Opera's 2024 Summer Season, visit sfopera.com.

2024 SUMMER SEASON CASTING AND 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).

THE MAGIC FLUTE (DIE ZAUBERFLÖTE) music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

PRODUCTION NEW TO SAN FRANCISCO OPERA

May 30 (7:30 p.m.); June 2 (2 p.m.), 4 (7:30 p.m.), 8 (7:30 p.m.), 14 (7:30 p.m.), 20 (7:30 p.m.), 22 (7:30 p.m.), 26 (7:30 p.m.), 30 (2 p.m.), 2024

Opera in two acts. Libretto by Emanuel Schikaneder

A production of the Komische Oper Berlin, co-produced by LA Opera and Minnesota Opera

Sung in German with English supertitles

Approximate running time: 3 hours with one intermission

World Premiere: Vienna, September 30, 1791
First SFO Performance: October 11, 1950
Most Recent: October–November 2015

Cast:

<i>Tamino</i>	Amitai Pati ++
<i>Pamina</i>	Christina Gansch
<i>The Queen of the Night</i>	Anna Simińska *
<i>Sarastro</i>	Kwangchul Youn *
<i>Papageno</i>	Lauri Vasar **
<i>Second Lady</i>	Ashley Dixon ++
<i>Third Lady</i>	Maire Therese Carmack *
<i>Monostatos</i>	Zhengyi Bai ++

Creative Team:

<i>Conductor</i>	Eun Sun Kim
<i>Production</i>	Barrie Kosky *, Suzanne Andrade *
<i>Revival Stage Director</i>	Tobias Ribitski *
<i>Production Designer</i>	Esther Bialas *
<i>Animation Designer</i>	Paul Barritt *
<i>Chorus Director</i>	John Keene

San Francisco Opera Orchestra and San Francisco Opera Chorus

INNOCENCE music by Kaija Saariaho, Finnish libretto by Sofi Oksanen, Multilingual libretto and dramaturgy by Aleksis Barrière

AMERICAN PREMIERE

June 1 (7:30 p.m.), 7 (7:30 p.m.), 12 (7:30 p.m.), 16 (2 p.m.) 18 (7:30 p.m.), 21 (7:30 p.m.), 2024

Co-commission and co-production of Festival d'Aix-en-Provence, San Francisco Opera, Dutch National Opera Amsterdam, Royal Opera House-Covent Garden London, and Finnish National Opera and Ballet, Helsinki

In partnership with the Metropolitan Opera

Sung in English, Finnish, Czech, Romanian, French, Swedish, German, Spanish and Greek with English supertitles

Approximate running time: 1 hour and 45 minutes, no intermission

World Premiere: Aix-en-Provence, July 3, 2021

Cast:

<i>The Waitress (Tereza)</i>	Ruxandra Donose ♪
<i>The Bridegroom (Tuomas)</i>	Miles Mykkanen * ♪
<i>The Bride (Stela)</i>	Lilian Farahani *
<i>The Mother-in-Law (Patricia)</i>	Claire de Sévigné * ♪
<i>The Father-in-Law (Henrik)</i>	Rod Gilfry ♪
<i>The Priest</i>	Kristinn Sigmundsson ♪
<i>The Teacher (Cecilia)</i>	Lucy Shelton *
<i>Student 1 (Markéta)</i>	Vilma Jää **
<i>Student 2 (Lilly)</i>	Beate Mordal **
<i>Student 3 (Iris)</i>	Julie Hega **
<i>Student 4 (Anton)</i>	Rowan Kievits **
<i>Student 5 (Jerónimo)</i>	Camilo Delgado Díaz **
<i>Student 6 (Alexia)</i>	Marina Dumont **

Creative Team:

<i>Conductor</i>	Clément Mao-Takacs *
<i>Production</i>	Simon Stone *
<i>Revival Director</i>	Louise Bakker *
<i>Set Designer</i>	Chloe Lamford *
<i>Costume Designer</i>	Mel Page *
<i>Lighting Designer</i>	James Farncombe *
<i>Sound Designer & Mixing Engineer</i>	Timo Kurkikangas *
<i>Choreographer</i>	Arco Renz *
<i>Chorus Director</i>	John Keene

PARTENOPE by George Frideric Handel

June 15 (7:30 p.m.), 19 (7:30 p.m.), 23 (2 p.m.), 25 (7:30 p.m.), 28 (7:30 p.m.), 2024

Opera in three acts. With an anonymous libretto adapted from Silvio Stampiglia's libretto
English National Opera and Opera Australia co-production
Sung in Italian with English supertitles
Approximate running time: 3 hours, 30 minutes including two intermissions

World Premiere: London, February 24, 1730
First SFO performance: October 15, 2014
Most recent: October–November 2014

Cast:

<i>Partenope</i>	Julie Fuchs *
<i>Rosmira</i>	Daniela Mack ++
<i>Arsace</i>	Carlo Vistoli *
<i>Armindo</i>	Nicholas Tamagna *
<i>Emilio</i>	Alek Shrader ++
<i>Ormonte</i>	Hadleigh Adams ♫++

Creative Team:

<i>Conductor</i>	Christopher Moulds
<i>Production</i>	Christopher Alden
<i>Associate Director</i>	Roy Rallo
<i>Set Designer</i>	Andrew Lieberman
<i>Costume Designer</i>	Jon Morrell
<i>Original Lighting Designer</i>	Adam Silverman
<i>Revival Lighting Designer</i>	Gary Marder
<i>Choreographer</i>	Colm Seery

San Francisco Opera Orchestra

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Partenope is made possible, in part, by Barbara A. Wolfe; Bernard and Barbro Osher; and Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem.

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PRESS PHOTOS: High-resolution, downloadable photographs, including artist headshots and production images, for San Francisco Opera's 2023–24 Season are available at sfopera.com/press.

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