



SAN FRANCISCO  
OPERA

SAN FRANCISCO OPERA PRESENTS NEW CO-PRODUCTION OF  
DONIZETTI'S *THE ELIXIR OF LOVE*  
NOVEMBER 19–DECEMBER 9



Scenes from *The Elixir of Love*. Photos: Cory Weaver/Lyric Opera of Chicago

West Coast Premiere of Co-Production with Lyric Opera of Chicago  
Conceived by Director Daniel Slater with Choreographer Tim Claydon



Ramón Tebar (conductor); Slávka Zámečnicková (Adina); Pene Pati (Nemorino);  
David Bizic (Belcore); Renato Girolami (Dulcamara); Arianna Rodriguez (Giannetta)

Conductor Ramón Tebar Makes Company Debut Leading Cast of Pene Pati,  
Slávka Zámečnicková, Renato Girolami, David Bizic, Arianna Rodriguez

November 26 Performance Will Be Livestreamed

One-Night-Only Event *The Elixir of Love Encounter* on December 1

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

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (October 20, 2023) — The final production of San Francisco Opera's  
2023 Fall Season marks the return Gaetano Donizetti's *The Elixir of Love* (*L'Elisir d'Amore*)

for a six-performance run at the War Memorial Opera House opening November 19. Conceived by director Daniel Slater with associate director and choreographer Tim Claydon, the updated setting for this delightful and heart-warming 1832 romance, with a libretto by Felice Romani, takes place on the Italian Riviera during the 1950s.

Samoan tenor Pene Pati, whose fast-rising international career began at San Francisco Opera, notably as the Duke of Mantua in Verdi's *Rigoletto* (2017), bows as the lovable Nemorino, a role he debuted at the Paris Opera in 2021. One of the highlights of Donizetti's opera is Nemorino's famous Act II aria, "Una furtiva lagrima" ("A furtive tear"), which Pati [recorded for his 2022 debut album for Warner Classics](#). Pati's return to San Francisco follows his unforgettable Centennial Season opening night concert appearance last year and his last-minute role debut in 2019 as Roméo in Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette*. About the latter performance, *San Francisco Chronicle* described him as possessing "that magical, indescribable charisma that radiates beyond the footlights and compels you to pay attention to everything he does."

Pati is joined by several exciting artists making their first engagements with the Company. A frequent artist with the Vienna State Opera and Berlin State Opera, Slovak soprano Slávka Zámečniková, in her American debut, is the adorable but aloof Adina. Zámečniková's busy season in Vienna includes engagements as Donna Anna (*Don Giovanni*), Susanna (*Le Nozze di Figaro*), Micaela (*Carmen*), Nannetta (*Falstaff*), Sophie (*Der Rosenkavalier*) and Servilia (*La Clemenza di Tito*).

Serbian baritone David Bizic is the handsome military officer Belcore, with whom Adina flirts to stir Nemorino's jealousy. Dulcamara, the "miracle" worker whose elixir provides the liquid courage Nemorino needs to express his true feelings, is performed by Italian baritone Renato Girolami, who received critical praise for his portrayal of the role earlier this year in Glyndebourne. First-year Adler Fellow soprano Arianna Rodriguez adds the role of Adina's friend Giannetta to her repertoire. American tenor Jonah Hoskins, an ensemble member of the St. Gallen Theater in Switzerland, makes his house debut at the November 29 performance as Nemorino, a role he takes to Santa Fe Opera next year.

When Lyric Opera of Chicago presented this co-production of *The Elixir of Love*, WTTW called it "a delicious confection." Robert Innes Hopkins, who designed San Francisco Opera's new productions of Puccini's *Tosca* and Verdi's *La Traviata*, is the production designer. Simon Mills created the lighting designs, and Spanish conductor Ramón Tebar makes his Company debut leading the San Francisco Opera Orchestra in the same work

that marked his debut with Barcelona's Gran Theatre del Liceu. For that *Elixir* production, Spain's Opera World said Tebar was "capable of sustaining with spirit and precision the tension of the singers and the passionate humor of the characters." San Francisco Opera Chorus Director John Keene prepares the artists of the San Francisco Opera Chorus.

Sung in Italian with English supertitles, the six performances of *The Elixir of Love* are scheduled for November 19 (2 p.m.), 24 (7:30 p.m.), 26 (2 p.m.), 29 (7:30 p.m.); December 5 (7:30 p.m.) and 9 (7:30 p.m.), 2023.

#### FREE FIRST ACT WORKSHOP FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES, Saturday, November 4

Bearitone the Opera Bear invites children and families to meet a real opera singer! Join Bearitone, tenor Edward Graves and friends from San Francisco Opera for a morning of fun at Bayview Opera House Ruth Williams Theater (4703 3rd St., San Francisco) on Saturday, November 4 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. To celebrate the family-friendly opera *The Elixir of Love*, we will sing, dance, play games and make elixir snow cones. Each child will receive a San Francisco Opera goodie bag and an invitation to join Opera Cubs—the official fan club of Bearitone the Opera Bear—and parents will receive a discount code for upcoming San Francisco Opera events. To register for free, visit [sfopera.com/rsvp/dec/elixir-first-act-workshop](https://sfopera.com/rsvp/dec/elixir-first-act-workshop).

#### LIVESTREAM: *The Elixir of Love*, Sunday, November 26

San Francisco Opera offers livestreams for each of its productions during the 2023–24 Season. The Sunday, November 26 performance of *The Elixir of Love* will be livestreamed at 2 p.m. PT. The opera will also be available to watch on demand for 48 hours beginning on Monday, November 27 at 10 a.m. PT. Tickets for the livestream and limited on-demand viewing are \$27.50. For tickets and more information about livestreams, visit [sfopera.com/digital](https://sfopera.com/digital).

#### PRE-OPERA TALKS

Educator Marcia Green will provide a 20-minute overview of the opera 55 minutes prior to each performance in the Opera House auditorium for ticketholders. An audio recording of the talk will be available at [sfopera.com/elixir](https://sfopera.com/elixir).

*THE ELIXIR OF LOVE ENCOUNTER*, Friday, December 1

Building on the popular, half-opera, half-party *Traviata Encounter* in 2022, *The Elixir of Love Encounter* whisks guests away to the glamorous 1950s seaside Hotel Adina to experience the sexy world of Donizetti's Italian comedy *The Elixir of Love*. The *Encounter* begins with act one of the opera, and the night continues in the lobby areas of the Opera House with custom cocktails, marvelous mischief and Instagram-worthy photo ops inspired by the balmy Mediterranean setting of the opera. The one-night-only event is recommended for audiences ages 21 and over. For tickets and more information: [sfopera.com/encounter](https://sfopera.com/encounter).

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TICKETS AND INFORMATION

Tickets for *The Elixir of Love* range from \$26 to \$426 and are available at the San Francisco Opera Box Office at (415) 864-3330 and online at [sfopera.com](https://sfopera.com).

Tickets for *The Elixir of Love Encounter* range from \$39 to \$189 and are available at the San Francisco Opera Box Office at (415) 864-3330 and online at [sfopera.com](https://sfopera.com).

Tickets for the November 26 livestream of *The Elixir of Love* are \$27.50. For more information, visit [sfopera.com/digital](https://sfopera.com/digital).

Subscriptions for the Company's 101st season are available, priced from \$52 to \$796 for a two-opera Half series or a Design Your Own (DYO) option (minimum three operas). 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. For information about subscriber benefits and special series subscriptions, including the Student & Teacher Series offering 50% off select subscription dates, visit [sfopera.com/subscribe](https://sfopera.com/subscribe).

The Dolby Family's *Opera for the Bay* ticket program provides \$10 tickets to every San Francisco Opera mainstage performance throughout the new season to Bay Area residents (home address zip code between 94000-95999) who have not purchased tickets in the past three years. \$10 *Opera For The Bay* tickets go on sale one month prior to the opening of each production and are limited to 2 seats per eligible patron. Inventory is limited and may sell out quickly. *Opera for the Bay* tickets for *The Elixir of Love* went on sale October 19 and *The Elixir of Love Encounter* will be available on November 2. Go to [sfopera.com/dolby](https://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](http://bart.gov) and [sfmta.com](http://sfmta.com).

Gifts of all sizes help create San Francisco Opera's programs and are much appreciated. To donate visit [sfopera.com/donate](http://sfopera.com/donate).

All casting, programs, schedules and ticket prices are subject to change. For further information about San Francisco Opera's 2023–24 Season, visit [sfopera.com](http://sfopera.com).

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### 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), unless noted.

*THE ELIXIR OF LOVE (L'ELISIR D'AMORE)* music by Gaetano Donizetti, libretto Felice Romani

NEW SAN FRANCISCO OPERA CO-PRODUCTION

November 19 (2 p.m.), 24 (7:30 p.m.), 26 (2 p.m.), 29 (7:30 p.m.); December 5 (7:30 p.m.), 9 (7:30 p.m.), 2023

Opera in two acts, based on Eugène Scribe's libretto for Daniel Auber's *Le Philtre*

A co-production of San Francisco Opera and Lyric Opera of Chicago, originally created by Opera North, UK

Sung in Italian with English supertitles

Approximate running time: 2 hours and 40 minutes including one intermission

World Premiere:	Milan, May 12, 1832
First SFO Performance:	September 14, 1929
Most Recent:	October–November 2008

Cast:

<i>Adina</i>	Slávka Zámečnicková **†
<i>Nemorino</i>	Pene Pati ++/Jonah Hoskins * (11/29)
<i>Belcore</i>	David Bizic *
<i>Dulcamara</i>	Renato Girolami *
<i>Giannetta</i>	Arianna Rodriguez †‡+

Creative Team:

<i>Conductor</i>	Ramón Tebar *
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<i>Director</i>	Daniel Slater
<i>Associate Director/Choreographer</i>	Tim Claydon *
<i>Production Designer</i>	Robert Innes Hopkins
<i>Lighting Designer</i>	Simon Mills
<i>Chorus Director</i>	John Keene
<i>Fight Director</i>	Dave Maier

San Francisco Opera Orchestra and San Francisco Opera Chorus

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FIRST ACT WORKSHOP FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES (free)

Saturday, November 4 from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Bayview Opera House Ruth Williams Memorial Theatre, 4703 4rd Street, San Francisco

Bearitone the Opera Bear invites children and families to meet a real opera singer, tenor Edward Graves, for a morning of fun at Ruth Williams Opera House. To celebrate the family-friendly opera *The Elixir of Love*, we will sing, dance, play games and make elixir snow cones. Each child will receive a San Francisco Opera goodie bag and an invitation to join Opera Cubs—the official fan club of Bearitone the Opera Bear—and parents will receive a discount code for upcoming San Francisco Opera events. To register for free, visit [sfopera.com/rsvp/dec/elixir-first-act-workshop](http://sfopera.com/rsvp/dec/elixir-first-act-workshop).

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THE ELIXIR OF LOVE ENCOUNTER

Friday, December 1 at 7:30 p.m.

War Memorial Opera House, 301 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco

Experience the first act of Donizetti's *The Elixir of Love* on stage, and then immerse yourself in the sexy, raucous world of Italian resort Hotel Adina with special cocktails, immersive entertainment and spectacular selfies in a transformed opera house. Recommended for audiences ages 21 and over. For tickets and more information, visit [sfopera.com/encounter](http://sfopera.com/encounter).

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Ramón Tebar's appearance is made possible by the Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem Conductors Fund. Pene Pati and Slávka Zámečnicková's appearances are made possible by the



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PRESS PHOTOS: High-resolution, downloadable artist headshots and production images for *The Elixir of Love* are available at [sfopera.com/press](https://sfopera.com/press).

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