





SAN FRANCISCO OPERA

MAGAZINE

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Jon Finck, Executive Editor Micah Standley, Editor Susan L. Wells, Design Consultant

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On the cover:

Jean-Baptiste Carpeaux (1827-75) Masked Ball at the Tuileries (oil on canvas) Musee des Beaux-Arts, Valenciennes, France / Giraudon / Bridgeman Images

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- **Season Opening Celebrations** Images from the opening festivities of San Francisco Opera's 92nd Season.
- Un Ballo in Maschera: A Political Opera by William Berger The politics embued in Verdi's masterpiece.
- From the San Francisco Opera Archives A look back at past Un Ballo in Maschera casts at San Francisco Opera.

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October 2014 Volume 92, No. 2



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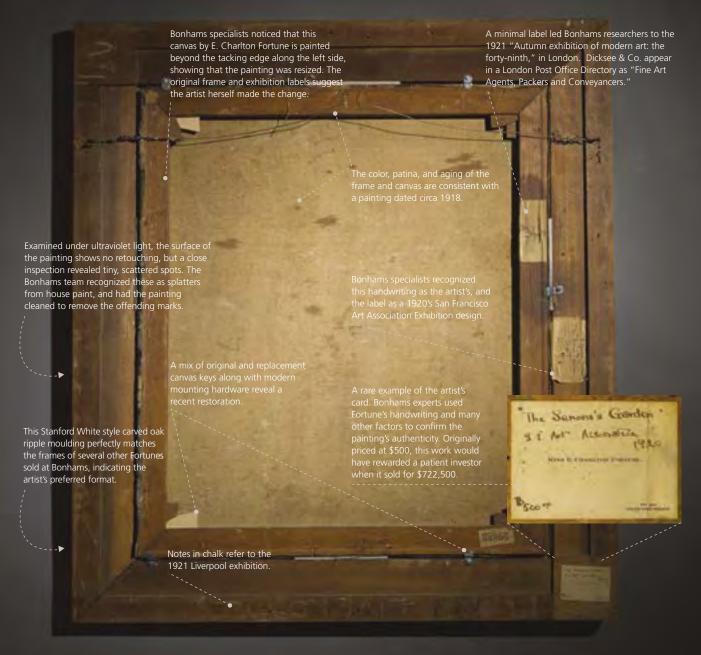
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A Message from the Leaders of San Francisco Opera

Dear opera-goers,

\X/elcome to the continuation of San Francisco Opera's 92nd season! For nearly a century, this Company has distinguished itself by presenting exciting programming and spectacular international artists, proudly standing as one of the leading opera companies in the United States. Our 2014-15 season continues this tradition with Company



From left to right: Keith B. Geeslin, David Gockley, John A. Gunn

premieres of Susannah and

Partenope, the world premiere of Marco Tutino's La Ciociara (Two Women), and the return of Berlioz's epic Les Troyens after more than four decades—a rare, Herculean feat for any opera company.

Your program documents the celebration that began our season last month, featuring exceptional artists in Norma and Susannah and toasting the 75th anniversary of San Francisco Opera Guild, whose efforts bring the opera experience to tens of thousands of children across the Bay Area. October is equally as thrilling, highlighted by the Company premiere of Handel's Partenope as well as Un Ballo in Maschera and Tosca, all in electrifying productions. We're also proud to announce the release of our fourth DVD and Blu ray recording, Mefistofele, and the national broadcast of Porgy and Bess on PBS on October 17.

Producing this complex art form is the very definition of "team effort." Our dedicated orchestra, chorus, dancers, crew, and administration are the foundation of this great company. We also extend heartfelt thanks to our Company sponsors: Norby Anderson, the Ann and Gordon Getty Foundation, John A. and Cynthia Fry Gunn, Franklin and Catherine Johnson, the Edmund W. and Jeannik Méquet Littlefield Fund, Steven M. Menzies, Bernard and Barbro Osher, Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem, Phyllis C. Wattis Endowment Funds, and Diane B. Wilsey. We are grateful to Wells Fargo Bank for its continuing leadership as our corporate season sponsor and express our appreciation to our corporate partners: Chevron and United.

Finally, we thank you, our loyal patrons and donors. Thanks to your support, the Bay Area is one of the most exciting and innovative musical communities in the world, with San Francisco Opera leading the way. Producing world-class opera, which enriches the lives of more than 200,000 patrons each year, takes an immense investment of time, talent and resources. It would not be possible without your continued dedication and support, for which we are deeply grateful.

David Gockley General Director Keith B. Geeslin President

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La Bohème for Families

November 22 & 29

The perfect opera for families and new operagoers of all ages, La Bohème for Families are specially priced matinee performances of this exciting production sung in Italian with English supertitles. A much beloved opera, La Bohème is a fusion of high-spirited fun and poignant tragedy about starving artists falling in and out of love in 19th-century Paris. Recommended for children age 7 and older. Visit **sfopera.com** for more information.

San Francisco Opera's Education Department will offer Family Workshops preceding each performance of La Bohème for Families. For dates, times, and more information, visit sfopera.com/learn.



Porgy and Bess on PBS Fall Arts Festival

On October 17, San Francisco Opera's production of Porgy and Bess will be for complete information. Visit



Mefistofele on DVD and Blu-Ray

San Francisco Opera contin-

ues its partnership with EuroArts Music International, one of the world's leading distributors of classical programming, with the release of Arrigo Boito's Mefistofele. An illustrious international castled by Ildar Abdrazakov, Ramón Vargas Patricia Racette-brings



Boito's retelling of the Faust tale to life in this spectacular production conceived by Robert Carsen and conducted by Music Director Nicola Luisotti. Mefistofele is available at **shop.sfopera.com** and other retailers.

Ramon Vargas: Verdi Lieder **CD** Signing on October 19

Join famed tenor Ramón Vargas on Sunday, October 19 as he autographs CDs from his discography in the Opera Shop (South Mezzanine level) immediately following that day's performance. Vargas is

celebrating the recent release of his latest album, Verdi Lieder.

For Giuseppe Verdi, "the song had about the same significance that the sketch has for the painter." It gave him the opportunity sketch emotions and



characters in a smaller, more improvised form, genre pictures of passions and destinies he otherwise placed in the wide space of the stage." Vargas performs the legendary composer's miniatures with exquisite care in this album from the Capriccio label.



Notes from the General Director

Legacy Giving: Critical Insurance for the Future

For opera to thrive into the future, it will have to be supported by three income sources: ticket sales, annual gifts, and legacy (estate) gifts. Over time the ticket sales portion of the income budget, now approximately 33%, will decrease, while the percentages of annual and legacy giving will have to increase.

Just as there are tax advantages to making annual gifts, there are even more attractive tax incentives to making legacy gifts. The fruits of certain legacy gifts can even be enjoyed in a donor's lifetime! As the old adage goes, "You can't take it with you!" I personally have remembered Houston Grand Opera and San Francisco Opera in my will, in addition to providing the wherewithal for my three children to educate their own children. It is important for me to perpetuate causes that have given me great pleasure and inspiration during my lifetime. My particular interest is to provide permanent funds for the recruitment and training of young singers.

The most valuable legacy gifts to San Francisco Opera are those that are unrestricted and can be used at the discretion of the board for appropriate needs. Some legacy donors prefer to donate to our endowment. These funds, currently valued at more than \$165 million, are invested by an investment committee of the board, earning income that is prudently distributed to the Company every year—either for general or specific purposes. These are the legacy gifts that "keep on giving." There are specific and substantial permanent funds within the endowment to support tickets for the underserved, student subscriptions, San Francisco Opera Center (young artist training), maintaining the War Memorial Opera House, traditional Italian opera productions, and new productions of leading-edge works.

It might surprise you that many of our legacy donors have not supported San Francisco Opera significantly through annual giving. At the end of their lives, they surmise, they can make a difference in providing significant support to a cause they treasure. Their gifts include not only cash and securities, but real estate, art, and jewelry—anything reasonably marketable.

Let me be perfectly clear: institutions like San Francisco Opera, Stanford, University High School, and Grace Cathedral will not continue to exist, let alone thrive, without constantly increasing endowments. One of the primary sources of this endowment growth will be legacy giving.

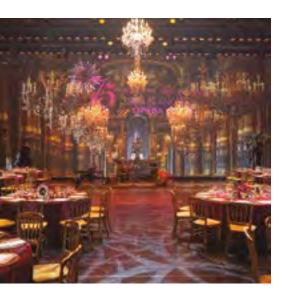
Bel Canto Legacy Society

Established in 1991 during Lotfi Mansouri's general directorship, San Francisco Opera's Bel Canto Legacy Society is a group of opera lovers who have agreed to "go public" with their legacy giving plans. In return, they are invited to an annual "high tea" with entertainment provided by our Adler Fellows, as well as to closed rehearsals and other events with the likes of Bryn Terfel and Susan Graham. There were 60 charter members in the Bel Canto Society 20 years ago. When I arrived in 2006, there were 255. Now there are 500! By the end of my contract in 2016, I have committed to have a whopping 750 **members.** Of course there are those who prefer not to disclose their estate plans, and that is perfectly fine. But I do urge people to "go public," as others are then motivated to follow in their footsteps.

Please refer to our current Bel Canto members at the back of your program. If there is a vibrant San Francisco Opera in 2050, it will be because of these extraordinary people! Contact our Director of Endowment and Legacy Giving, Mark Jones, at (415) 565-3206 or mjones@sfopera.com to find out more about the Bel Canto Society and legacy giving in general.



Legendary mezzo-soprano Marilyn Horne, who sang more than twenty roles with the Company from 1960 to 1992, is honorary chairwoman of San Francisco Opera's Bel Canto Legacy Society.

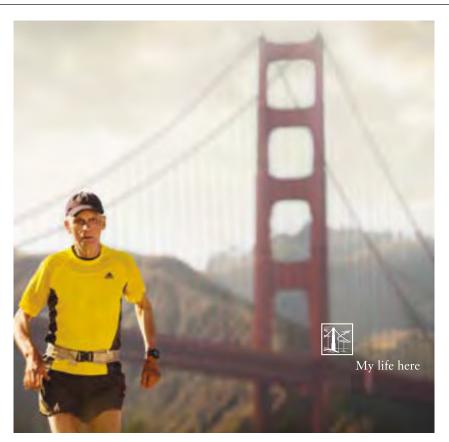


San Francisco Opera Guild Holiday Dinner on Stage

Celebrate the holiday season by joining San Francisco Opera Guild's black-tie Holiday Dinner on the stage of the War Memorial Opera House on Monday, December 1. The evening honors renowned opera supporter and philanthropist Diane B. Wilsey and will include lively entertainment as well as an exclusive live auction. Your participation in this event ensures that San Francisco Opera Guild continues its tradition of introducing children to the beauty and excitement of opera through their education and outreach programs. Co-Chairs: Jane Hartley & Susan S. Tamagni. Tickets start at \$750. For more information and to purchase tickets, call (415) 565-3204 or visit sfopera.com/guild.

San Francisco Opera and Musicians Union Ratify New Four-Year Contract

In September, the San Francisco Opera Association and the American Federation of Musicians Local 6 ratified a new fouryear agreement for the San Francisco Opera Orchestra effective August 1, 2014 through July 31, 2018. General Director David Gockley commented, "At a time of continued turbulence for this industry, I'm heartened that difficult issues were able to be addressed in a respectful manner, with both sides committed to the future of the



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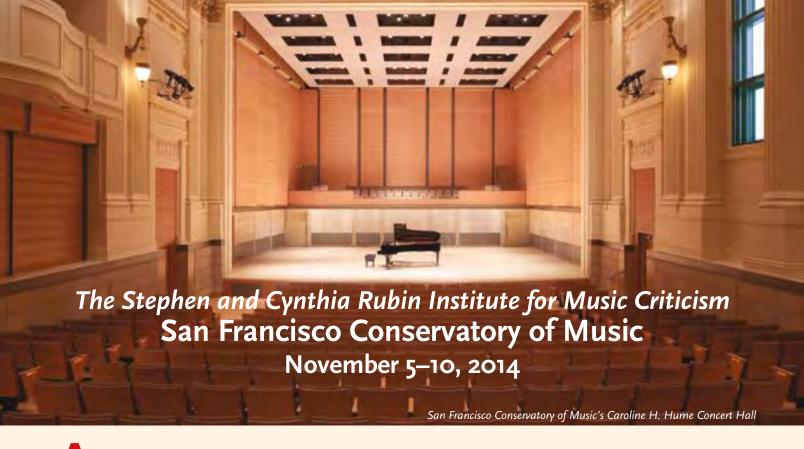
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lex Ross, music critic for *The New Yorker*, said, "Music is inconceivable without language. We have a desperate need to talk about musical experiences, even if we can only say we 'have no words.'" He made this statement at the inaugural Rubin Institute for Music Criticism in 2012.

The first program of its kind focusing on music and music criticism, the Rubin Institute is a biennial gathering that brings together before the public national music journalists, renowned musicians, and aspiring young writers, combining the wisdom and insight of today's highly esteemed critics, the artistry and daring of acclaimed musicians, and the energy and promise of tomorrow's music journalists. This year's institute held at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music comprises a weeklong series of public events including performances, keynote addresses by critics, critical review, and discussion panels.

Founded in 2011 by Stephen Rubin, President and Publisher, Henry Holt & Co., the inaugural edition of the Rubin Institute was held at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music in 2012 and featured performances by the Cleveland Orchestra, pianist Jeremy Denk, Apollo's Fire, and the International Contemporary Ensemble (ICE).

With public concerts by acclaimed musicians from the opera, chamber, and orchestral stages, the 2014 performances are reviewed by a select group of student writers (Rubin Institute Fellows). Their work is critiqued in private workshops and public sessions by a panel of highly esteemed national music critics and journalists. Leading up to the Institute, the twenty student writers work with a preparatory team at each of their nominating universities.

San Francisco Conservatory of Music, San Francisco Opera, San Francisco Symphony, Cal Performances, and Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra invite you to join us as we partner for the biennial Stephen and Cynthia Rubin Institute for Music Criticism November 5–10, 2014. Solely devoted to the art of classical music criticism, the Institute brings together the nation's most dis-

tinguished music journalists and writers, and aspiring young writers (Rubin Institute Fellows) for a keynote address, lectures, public performances, discussion panels, and critical reviews. The week-long event culminates in the awarding of both the \$10,000 Rubin Prize in Music Criticism to one of the Fellows for demonstrating outstanding promise in musical criticism, and the \$1,000 Everyone's a Critic Public Audience Review Prize for the best review by an audience member of a concert performed during the Institute.

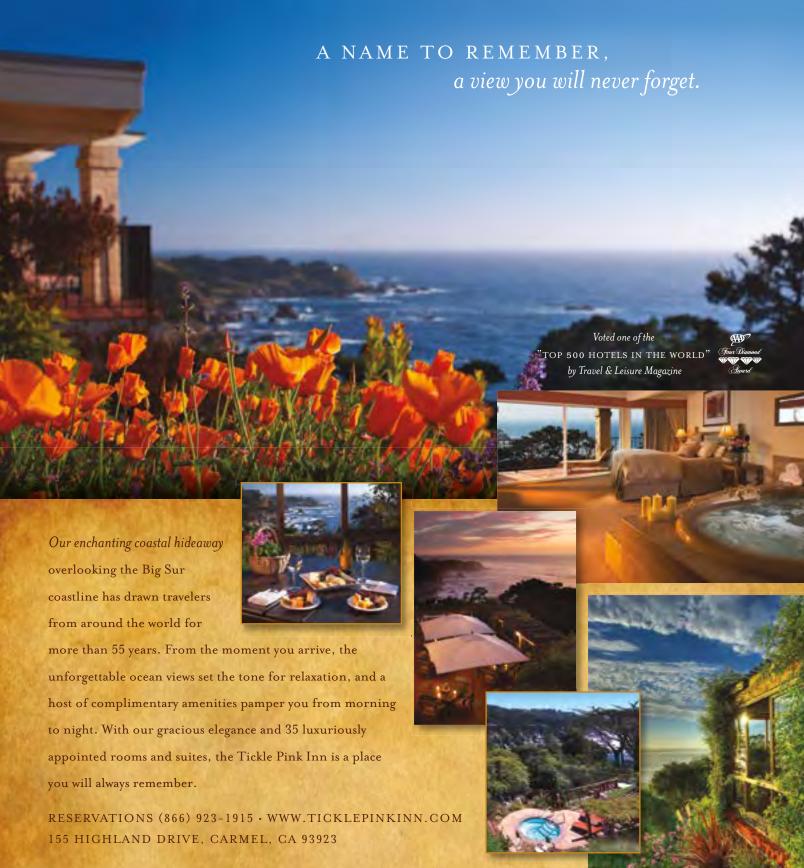
You are invited to attend the November 8 performance of *Tosca*, featuring a pre-performance lecture by *Washington Post* critic and writer Anne Midgette, and submit a 400-word critical review to the Rubin Institute to compete in the Audience Prize. *San Francisco Chronicle* Music Critic Joshua Kosman chairs the Everyone's a Critic Public Audience Review Prize judging panel, which includes writer/critics Robert Commanday, Wynne Delacoma, and Steven Winn.

The 2014 Rubin Institute Writers Panel includes Anne Midgette; Tim Page, professor, journalism and music, University of Southern California; John Rockwell, writer and arts critic; Alex Ross, *The New Yorker* magazine critic and author; Heidi Waleson, *Wall Street Journal* critic and author; and Rubin Institute benefactor Stephen Rubin, President and Publisher of Henry Holt & Co. Anthony Tommasini, *The New York Times* chief music critic, will give the November 5 opening keynote address.

For Midgette, the importance of the Rubin Institute is clear. "We need creativity more than ever, simply to find new outlets and new forms of expressing ourselves."

Please visit the Rubin Institute's website for full details on the entire Institute and all public events, and for a video of Mr. Kosman, Rubin Institute Critic-in-Residence, offering advice and tips on how a critic works: www.sfcm.edu/rubin-institute.





GET "IN THE KNOW"

San Francisco Opera and its affiliates are pleased to offer a wealth of educational resources to help you get "in the know" for each opera performance. For information on these and other resources, visit sfopera.com/learn.

E-OPERA NEWSLETTER

San Francisco E-Opera subscribers are the first to know about the latest performances, special events, and educational opportunities. Keep up-to-date on featured artists, special ticket offers, advance program notes, and other insider information by signing up at sfopera.com/eopera.

INSIGHT PANELS

Renowned artists and personalities from the world of opera, including cast members and directors from the productions, share behind-the-scenes insights and experiences during informal panel discussions presented by San Francisco Opera Guild. Visit sfopera.com/insights.

OPERA PREVIEW LECTURES

San Francisco Opera Guild chapters present lectures that bring renowned musicologists to communities throughout the greater Bay Area, offering an in-depth look into the season's upcoming operas. Visit sfopera.com/previews.

OVERTURE: OPERA WORKSHOPS FOR ADULTS

San Francisco Opera hosts a series of interactive workshops for adults about the journey of creating opera. Newcomers and seasoned opera-goers learn the process from the ground up and experience San Francisco Opera behind-the-scenes. Visit sfopera.com/adult.

FAMILY PROGRAMS

San Francisco Opera offers family programs, including movie screenings and interactive workshops, throughout the year. Visit sfopera.com/family.

CHECK OUT SAN FRANCISCO OPERA'S BLOG

Our blog, Backstage at San Francisco Opera, offers unique insight into the Company, with entries from the principal singers, chorus, and orchestra musicians to the creative teams for each opera and the many talented people who don't take a bow on stage. Visit sfopera.com/blog.

OPERA HOUSE TOURS

Discover the magic that goes into creating an opera production with a backstage tour of the War Memorial Opera House led by a Guild volunteer docent. Tours occur only on selected dates in small groups; reservations required. E-mail tour.reserve@gmail.com or call the San Francisco Opera Guild at (415) 551-6353 to leave a message. For group tours contact Lynn Watson at sf.opera.tours@gmail.com. \$20 for general admission.

OPERA TALKS

Before every performance, charismatic scholars present a 25-minute overview of the opera, with insights on the music, composer, and historical background. Talks begin 55 minutes prior to curtain. Visit sfopera.com/operatalks.

Un Ballo in Maschera: Marcia Green Partenope: Alexandra Amati-Camperi

Tosca: Jonathan Khuner

La Cenerentola: Giancarlo Aquilanti

La Bohème: Kip Cranna

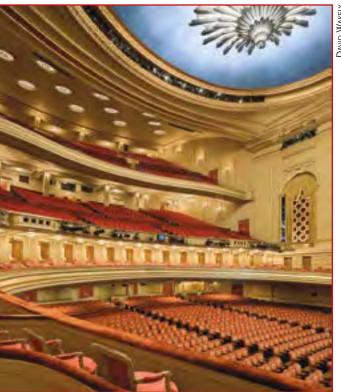
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San Francisco Opera celebrated the opening of its 92nd season on September 5 with a sold-out performance of Vincenzo Bellini's *Norma*, led by Music Director Nicola Luisotti. The evening was distinguished by two events that are the highlight of the City's cultural season: San Francisco Opera Guild's Opera Ball 2014, co-chaired by Teresa Medearis and Cynthia L. Schreuder, and BRAVO! Club's Opening Night Gala, co-chaired by S.B. Hadley Wilson and Benjamin Osgood. Opera Ball 2014 was designed by event stylist J. Riccardo Benavides with dinner by McCall's Catering and benefited San Francisco Opera and Opera Guild's education and outreach programs that annually reach more than 60,000 young people and families.

PHOTO IDENTIFICATIONS ARE LEFT TO RIGHT. PHOTOS BY DREW ALTIZER

















San Francisco Opera's season-opening festivities included the 41st annual San Francisco Chronicle Presents San Francisco Opera in the Park, featuring Music Director Nicola Luisotti conducting the San Francisco Opera Orchestra. Opera in the Park featured Thomas Hampson, Dolora Zajick, Ramon Vargas, Heidi Stober, and other luminaries of the Fall 2014 season.







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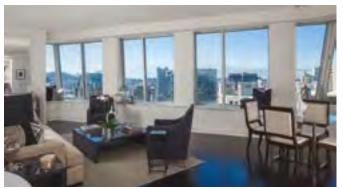
web: 0086810 | \$8,600,000 Stunning bay view renovated home on one of the best blocks in Cow Hollow. 5bd/6ba, elevator to all 4 levels, deep landscaped yard. Carrie B. Goodman, Lisa G. Miller 415.624.4166

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John A. & Cynthia Fry Gunn



nce again, the unprecedented generosity of Cynthia and John Gunn has set the stage for a dazzling season at San Francisco Opera. Since 2002, when John joined the Opera Board, the couple has underwritten numerous productions and provided exceptional support for many of the company's innovative endeavors.

In September 2008, the Gunns made a historic commitment—believed to be the largest gift ever made by individuals to an American opera company—to help fund the signature projects of General Director David Gockley, including new operas and productions, multimedia projects, and outreach programs. This season, that gift is helping make four productions possible—Norma, La Bohème, The Trojans, and Two Women (La Ciociara).

Earlier this year, John also shared his considerable insights at the 2014 conference of OPERA AMERICA, the national service organization for opera. As he told attendees, "Opera is a dynamic art form and all of us play a role in keeping it vital. We must expand our repertoire and our audiences, and strive for financial flexibility. And we depend on donors to keep opera alive."

John is the former chairman and CEO of Dodge & Cox Investment Managers. He joined the firm in 1972, the year he received his MBA from Stanford Business School and married Cynthia, who graduated from Stanford with an A.B. in political science in 1970. Early in her career, Cynthia was the editor and director of The Portable Stanford book series for ten years. She edited twenty-eight books by Stanford professors on a vast array of topics, including *Economic Policy Beyond the Headlines* by George Shultz and Ken Dam.

In addition to their support of San Francisco Opera, the Gunns are active members of the community. John is the chair of the advisory board for the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research (SIEPR), serves as a trustee of Stanford University, and is on the board of directors of Stanford Hospitals and Clinics. Cynthia is an overseer of Stanford's Hoover Institution, a member of the advisory board of Family and Children Services, and serves on the boards of the Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health and the San Francisco Fine Arts Museums.

Opera lovers are grateful to Cynthia and John, and applaud their commitment to keeping San Francisco Opera a leading-edge company.



Thank You for Supporting San Francisco Opera!

s members of the San Francisco Opera Chorus, we are proud to participate once again this year in SingforAmerica, a program that provides support for the performing arts in our community, including San Francisco Opera.

We are thrilled to use our voices and talents to generate support for the Company we care for so deeply and to join with so many of you who have also made generous gifts this year to San Francisco Opera.

Thank you for your wonderful support!

Above: San Francisco Opera Chorus members recently participated in SingforAmerica to raise funds in support of San Francisco Opera. Photo: Kristen Loken

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SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT



The Bernard Osher Endowment Fund

(Production Sponsor, A Masked Ball and Partenope)

A native of Maine, Bernard Osher began his involvement with San Francisco Opera more than forty years ago as a season subscriber shortly after moving here from New York. He and his wife Barbro have been outstanding supporters of Bay Area cultural programs ever since. In 1977, Bernard created the Bernard Osher Foundation to support principally cultural and educational organizations to maintain and enrich the quality of life locally and nationally. As a reflection of Bernard and Barbro's interest in the arts, the Osher Foundation has funded virtually every major arts organization in the area and many groups offering special programs in the arts for youth. At San Francisco

Opera, the Oshers have supported every aspect of the Company's work, from artist appearances to production facilities. Another focus of their foundation support is higher education, including the Osher initiative for community college students, lifelong learning institutes on 119 campuses nationwide, and Osher Centers for Integrative Medicine at UCSF, Harvard, and Karolinska Institute in Stockholm.

Jan Shrem & Maria Manetti Shrem (Chairs, Amici di Nicola of Camerata)

After a career devoted to his publishing businesses in Japan and Europe, the creation of Clos Pegase Winery and his art collection, Jan Shrem, in joyous partnership with his wife Maria Manetti Shrem, is bringing his focus and affection to philanthropic causes that advance education and the performing and visual arts. Though they grew up half-a-world apart, Jan and Maria both developed a love of opera at a young age. While their lives led them each around the globe, their individual passions eventually led them to San Francisco Opera, and to each other. With a generous three-year commitment, Jan and Maria have assumed the volunteer leadership role of Chairs of the Amici di Nicola of Camerata, which focuses on projects involving Music Director Nicola Luisotti.



They have also established the Great Interpreters of Italian Opera Fund to help bring today's most compelling artists in Italian repertoire to San Francisco Opera. "I am personally honored by Maria and Jan's support and confidence in me," says Maestro Luisotti. "With their help, we are realizing everything Italian opera can—and should—be."

Joan and David Traitel/Great Singers Fund

(Sponsor, Thomas Hampson, Dolora Zajick, and Ramón Vargas in A Masked Ball and Danielle de Niese and David Daniels in Partenope)

"Without great singers, opera is not all it could be," says San Francisco Opera board member Joan Traitel. "That's why my husband and I approached David Gockley with the idea of creating a special way of supporting singers exclusively." The result was the Great Singers Fund, inaugurated by the Traitels in 2008 to provide San Francisco Opera with enhanced support in attracting the world's best-known singers. Joan, a member of the Opera's board of directors since 1998, and her husband David were production sponsors for several years before founding the Great Singers Fund. "The Fund makes a



difference in the quality of opera in San Francisco," Joan explains. When asked to name a favorite artist in the 2014-15 Season, Joan simply can't stop at one. "There are so many! Sondra Radvanovsky is the rare soprano who can do full justice to one of opera's most dazzling and demanding roles in the season opener, *Norma*. I'm so pleased that the Fund can enable her appearance." Joan and David and the Great Singers Fund are also supporting the appearances of Patricia Racette in *Susannah*, Ramón Vargas, Thomas Hampson and Dolora Zajick in *A Masked Ball*, and Danielle de Niese and David Daniels in *Partenope*. Joan concludes, "I hope people see the relationship between the Great Singers Fund and this season's fantastic lineup. Your support truly can make a difference! These amazing artists make an evening special, and at the end you walk away happy."



Elizabeth and Burgess Jamieson Fund (Production Sponsor, Tosca)

Libby and Burgess Jamieson have made an extraordinary commitment to San Francisco Opera through the years by supporting traditional, classic productions. Their special enthusiasm for classic works of opera has assured a regular place on the War Memorial Opera House stage for recent memorable productions of *Il Trittico, La Bohème, Madama Butterfly, Turandot* and *Tosca*. "San Francisco Opera's classic production is by far the best *Tosca* I have ever experienced," Burgess says. "Aside from being historic, the grandeur and opulence of the sets are perfectly suited to the story, and this season, to the larger-than-life diva portraying Floria Tosca, Lianna Haroutounian." The Jamiesons are pleased to know that their favorite operas continue to draw thousands of

newcomers to San Francisco Opera every year.

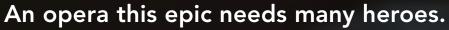
With 40 years of experience in private and public investment management, Burgess is active on San Francisco Opera's board of directors and its investment committee.

In addition to their outstanding underwriting of the Company, the Jamiesons are active philanthropists, supporting other cultural and educational organizations and foundations.



the TROJANS

HECTOR BERLIOZ



Join the Trojans Circle with a gift starting at \$5,000 and enjoy exclusive benefits. Your support is crucial to produce this landmark opera at San Francisco Opera.

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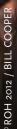
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*Deceased

CONTACT

Andrew Morgan amorgan@sfopera.com Direct: (415) 565-3266

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Photography by Mark Tuschman Photography; Benefactor: Kathy Knudsen

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Young Professionals

AT SAN FRANCISCO OPERA

SAN FRANCISCO OPERA has two fantastic opportunities for young professionals between the ages of 21–40 to become more involved with opera. Whether you're interested in discounted tickets, invitations to Final Dress Rehearsals or exclusive events, there's something for everyone! Find out more about our young patron program, **BRAVO! CLUB**, and our young donor program, **Orpheus at San Francisco Opera** below.

BRAVO! CLUB



San Francisco Opera's BRAVO! CLUB is a group of young adults dedicated to building a new audience for San Francisco Opera. Founded in 1991, BRAVO! CLUB has an annual membership of over 700 Bay Area professionals and hosts a variety of educational and performance-related events in support of San Francisco Opera. If you enjoy opera, or have always wanted to learn more, BRAVO! CLUB offers you a chance to experience San Francisco Opera with other arts lovers aged 21–40.

DISCOUNTED TICKETS:

BRAVO! Tix offers members the opportunity to purchase \$50 Orchestra and \$35 Dress Circle seats.

FREE ADMISSION:

BRAVO! hosts a number of social and educational events throughout the year.

EXCLUSIVE INVITATIONS:

Celebrate the new season of Opera at BRAVO! CLUB's annual Opening Night Gala.

2014 BRAVO Board of Directors

Lauren Groff, President

Anna Aleksandrova, Adam Arthur Bier, Kyle Brisby, Shannon Eliot, Sacha Feinman, James Lee, Benjamin Russell Osgood, S. B. Hadley Wilson



sfopera.com/BRAVO



ORPHEUS



Orpheus at San Francisco Opera connects young donors who share a passion for opera. Some of us attended the opera with our families, and some of us had never set foot in an opera house until we were adults; but what unites us is our desire to invest in this great Company, inspire and lead the "next generation" of opera patrons, and learn more about the inner workings of this magnificent art form.

GREAT PERKS: Join us for networking opportunities with fellow young opera fans, private luncheons with artistic staff, backstage tours, and VIP seating at events like Opera at the Ballpark.

DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT: Members receive a matching gift (generously provided by Ben & Marina Nelson, as well as additional support from Soo & Raj Venkatesan and the Koret Foundation), bringing them up to the \$3,000 Founder level of the Medallion Society. Depending on your age, you could be eligible for up to a 5-to-1 match for your charitable gift.

ADDITIONAL BENEFITS:

Medallion Society concierge ticket service, invitations to exclusive Medallion Society events, and invitations to three Final Dress Rehearsals per season.



For more information or to join, please contact Sandra Chien at (415) 551-6393 or schien@sfopera.com.

sfopera.com/Orpheus

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2014-2015 REPERTOIRE

NORMA

Vincenzo Bellini

New Production

September 5, 10, 14, 19, 23, 27, 30

Company Sponsors John A. & Cynthia Fry Gunn are proud to support this production. This production is made possible, in part, by Opening Weekend Grand Sponsor Diane B. Wilsey,

Thomas & Barbara Wolfe, Koret Foundation, and Tad & Dianne Taube. Major support for this production also provided by the Great Interpreters of Italian Opera Fund established by Jan Shrem & Maria Manetti Shrem.

SUSANNAH

Carlisle Floyd

Company Premiere

September 6, 9, 12, 16, 21

This production is made possible, in part, by Leslie & George Hume and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

A MASKED BALL

Giuseppe Verdi

October 4, 7, 10, 13, 16, 19, 22

This production is made possible, in part, by The Bernard Osher Endowment Fund and The Thomas Tilton Production Fund.

PARTENOPE

George Frideric Handel

Company Premiere

October 15, 18, 21, 24, 30; November 2 This production is made possible, in part, by

The Bernard Osher Endowment Fund.

TOSCA

Giacomo Puccini

October 23, 26; November 1, 4, 8

This production is made possible, in part, by the Burgess & Elizabeth Jamieson Fund.

CINDERELLA

Gioachino Rossini

November 9, 13, 16, 18, 21, 26

This production is made possible, in part, by Chevron.

LA BOHÈME

Giacomo Puccini

November 14, 15, 19, 20, 22, 23, 25, 29, 30; December 2, 3, 5, 7 Company Sponsors John A. & Cynthia Fry Gunn are proud to support this production. This production is made possible, in part, by the Burgess & Elizabeth Jamieson Fund and San Francisco Opera Guild.

LA BOHÉME FOR FAMILIES

November 22, 29

THE TROJANS

Hector Berlioz

June 7, 12, 16, 20, 25; July 1, 2015

Company Sponsors John A. & Cynthia Fry Gunn are proud to support this production. This production is made possible, in part, by The Goatie Foundation, the Edmund W. & Jeannik Méquet Littlefield Fund, Koret Foundation, and Tad & Dianne Taube.

Additional support is provided by the Columbia Foundation and by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts.

TWO WOMEN (LA CIOCIARA)

Music by Marco Tutino

Libretto by Marco Tutino and Fabio Ceresa

Adapted from a script by Luca Rossi

Based on the novel La Ciociara by Alberto Moravia

By arrangement with Studio Legale Cau Morandi Minutillo Turtur

World Premiere • Commissioned by San Francisco Opera

June 13, 19, 23, 28, 30, 2015

This production is made possible by the Phyllis C. Wattis Fund for New Productions. Company Sponsors John A. & Cynthia Fry Gunn are proud to support the commission of *Two Women*. The world premiere is made possible, in part, by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and by an anonymous grant.

THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart June 14, 18, 21, 24, 27, 29; July 3, 5, 2015

The following conductor appearances are made possible by Jan Shrem & Maria Manetti Shrem, Chairs,

Amici di Nicola of Camerata:

Nicola Luisotti (Norma, A Masked Ball, Two Women)

Giuseppe Finzi (*La Bohème*)

Riccardo Frizza (Tosca)

The following artist appearances are made possible by a gift to the Great Singers Fund by Joan & David Traitel:

Sondra Radvanovsky and Marco Berti (Norma)

Patricia Racette (Susannah)

Dolora Zajick, Ramón Vargas, and Thomas Hampson (A Masked Ball)

Danielle de Niese and David Daniels (Partenope)

Sus an Graham (The Trojans)

Anna Caterina Antonacci (The Trojans, Two Women)

All performances feature English supertitles.

Repertoire, casts, dates, and ticket pricing are subject to change.

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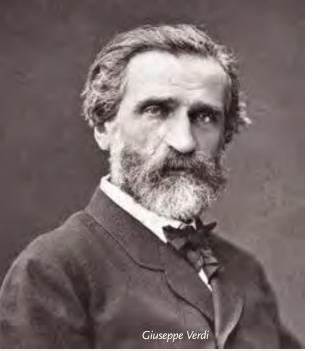
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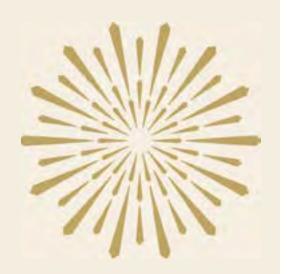


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SAN FRANCISCO OPERA

David Gockley, General Director

Nicola Luisotti, Music Director *Caroline H. Hume Endowed Chair*



Giuseppe Verdi

UN BALLO IN MASCHERA

This production is made possible, in part, by The Bernard Osher Endowment Fund and The Thomas Tilton Production Fund.

Nicola Luisotti's appearance made possible by Jan Shrem & Maria Manetti Shrem, Chairs, Amici di Nicola of Camerata.

Mr. Vargas's, Mr. Hampson's, and Ms. Zajick's appearances are made possible by a gift to the Great Singers Fund by Joan & David Traitel.

Additional support for this production provided by Affiliate Sponsors Stephen & Choongja Kahng and the Patricia Yakutis Endowment Fund.

UN BALLO IN MASCHERA

ACT I

Oscar, a royal page, is discussing the king's invitations to a masked ball. Seeing the name of Amelia, wife of the king's chief minister Anckarström, King Gustavus loses himself in thought over his attraction to her. Anckarström enters to discuss a conspiracy against the the crown—which includes Sam and Tom—and Gustavus decides to visit the soothsayer Madame Arvidson (known as Ulrica), who has been accused of witchcraft.

After Ulrica impresses her audience with her skills (and a little help from King Gustavus, disguised as a fisherman), she sends her visitors away to grant an audience with Amelia. She instructs Amelia to find a magic herb, and Gustavus resolves to follow her. The disguised king asks Ulrica to read his palm, and she divines that he will die by the next hand he shakes. Gustavus invites anyone to disprove her prophecy, and he clasps the hand of Anckarström, who has just arrived.

ACT II

Gustavus has followed Amelia and declares his love for her, which she returns but begs him to think of her honor. Anckarström rushes in to warn the king to flee the approaching assassins—Ribbing and Horn—and Gustavus asks him to escort the veiled lady back without attempting to discover who she is. Anckarström draws his sword against the assassins, and Amelia reveals her identity in her attempt to defend her husband.

ACT III

Upon their return home, Anckarström declares that death is the only possible punishment for her betrayal. Anckarström asks to join Ribbing and Horn's conspiracy. The men are about to draw lots to determine who assassinates the king, when Amelia enters and Anckarström forces his wife to draw a name. He rejoices when his name is chosen as her lover's killer.

Struggling with the decision to sacrifice his love for Amelia, Gustavus resolves to send her away with Anckarström on a diplomatic appointment abroad. Oscar delivers a note to the king from an unknown lady, warning him of a murder plot. He decides to ignore it.

At the masked ball, Anckarström insists that he must speak to the king on urgent state business; Oscar reveals Gustavus's disguise. Amelia urges him to leave as his life is in danger. He refuses but tells her of the foreign assignment for her husband, and he bids her an ardent farewell. Anckarström discovers them and shoots the king. The dying Gustavus, surrounded by his grieving court, forgives Anckarström, who learns too late of his wife's innocence.

First performance: Rome, Teatro Apollo, February 17, 1859.

First performance in the U.S.: February 11, 1861.

First performance in San Francisco: Maguire's Academy of Music (Maguire's Italian Opera Troupe), May 25, 1863. 130 performances of *Un Ballo in Maschera* were given in San Francisco between 1863 and 1899.

First San Francisco Opera performance: September 19, 1931.

Setting: Due to a series of forced revisions by censors, *Un Ballo in Maschera*'s original setting was moved from Stockholm to Colonial Boston for its premiere. San Francisco Opera's productions were performed with the Boston setting until 1977. Since that time, all of the Company's productions have used the Stockholm setting.

Personnel: 10 principals, 56 choristers, 8 dancers, 12 supernumeraries; 86 total

Orchestra: 2 flutes (1 doubling piccolo), 2 oboes (1 doubling English horn), 2 clarinets, 2 bassoons, 4 horns, 2 trumpets, 3 trombones, cimbasso, timpani, 2 percussion, harp, regular (40) strings; 62 total

Backstage: piccolo, flute, oboe, 2 clarinets, bassoon, 2 horns, 2 trumpets, 2 trombones, euphonium, 2 violins, viola, cello, bass

Opera in three acts by **Giuseppe Verdi**Libretto by **Antonio Somma**

Based on a libretto by Eugene Scribe for Daniel Auber's opera Gustave III, ou Le Bal masqué

UN BALLO IN MASCHERA A MASKED BALL

(Sung in Italian with English supertitles)

Conductor

Nicola Luisotti

Director

Jose Maria Condemi

Costume Designer

John Conklin

Lighting Designer

Gary Marder

Chorus Director

Ian Robertson

Choreographer

Lawrence Pech

Assistant Conductors

Giuseppe Finzi Vito Lombardi

Musical Preparation

Bryndon Hassman

. Tamara Sanikidze

John Churchwell

Jonathan Khuner

Fabrizio Corona

Prompter

Dennis Doubin

Supertitles

Philip Kuttner

Assistant Stage Directors

E. Reed Fisher

Morgan Robinson

Stage Manager

Rachel C. Henneberry

Costume Supervisor

Jai Alltizer

Wig & Makeup Designer

Jeanna Parham

San Francisco Opera production

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2014 AT 7:30 PM TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7 AT 7:30 PM FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10 AT 7:30 PM MONDAY, OCTOBER 13 AT 7:30 PM THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16 AT 7:30 PM SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19 AT 2:00 PM WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22 AT 7:30 PM

CAST

(in order of appearance)

Count Horn (Sam) Christian Van Horn

Count Ribbing (Tom) Scott Conner*

Oscar Heidi Stober

Gustavus III, King of Sweden (Riccardo) Ramón Vargas

Count Anckarström (Renato) Thomas Hampson

Brian Mulligan (10/7, 22)

Chief Magistrate A.J. Glueckert†

Madame Arvidson (Ulrica) Dolora Zajick

Christian (Silvano) Efraín Solís†

Amelia's Servant Christopher Jackson

Amelia Anckarström Julianna Di Giacomo*

Courtiers, chiefs of staff, deputies, conspirators, inhabitants of the port area

Corps de ballet

*San Francisco Opera debut †Current Adler Fellow

TIME AND PLACE: 1792 in Stockholm, Sweden

ACT I

Scene 1: Levee in the king's bedroom

Scene 2: Madame Arvidson's house on the waterfront

-INTERMISSION-

ACT II

A lonely field

-INTERMISSION-

ACT III

SCENE 1: Count Anckarström's study
SCENE 2: The king's box at the opera
SCENE 3: Inside the Stockholm opera house

Latecomers will not be seated during the performance after the lights have dimmed.

The use of cameras, cellular phones and any kind of recording equipment is strictly forbidden.

PLEASE TURN OFF AND REFRAIN FROM USING ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES.

The performance will last approximately three hours.



erdi's active involvement with the Italian unification and independence movement, the Risorgimento, has labeled him a "political" composer. He is, moreover, valued as a political artist to feel good about—his patriotism is convincingly sincere and refreshingly non-toxic. One can see a parallel between the fortunes of the Risorgimento and expressions of patriotism in Verdi's operas between the years 1842 and 1859. There are rising nationalist sentiments embodied in and fueled on by the choruses and solos of such works as *Nabucco* (1842), *Ernani* (1844), *Giovanna d'Arco* (1845), and *Attila* (1846). The wars and revolutions of 1848–49 came close to achieving the long-held dream of Italian nationhood, and Verdi's response and contribution was *La Battaglia di Legnano* (1849), a ripsnorter of a rabble-rouser, and a much-underrated opera that should not be written off today as a mere propaganda piece. The 1848–49 explosions failed in Italy, however, and the peninsula

William Berger is a writer and radio producer for the Metropolitan Opera. His books include Wagner Without Fear, Puccini Without Excuses, and Verdi With a Vengeance.

returned to a tense truce. In this period, Verdi's work looked deeper into the psychological dimensions of its characters, with spectacular success (Rigoletto [1851], Il Trovatore [1853], La Traviata [1853]). Verdi's overt association with the Risorgimento returned in a huge way in 1859, as the Kingdom of Italy finally emerged. The Kingdom of Piedmont-Sardinia had managed to wrest the rich province of Lombardy (including the great city of Milan) from the Austrian Empire through a combination of war and diplomacy. The wily Prime Minister of Piedmont, Camillo Benso di Cavour, was close to convincing Italians throughout the peninsula that their best hope for national unity and independence lay in union with his nation, and Italians were beginning to agree. Even those of anti-monarchical leanings and those from distant regions such as Sicily were calling for unity under the Piedmontese King Vittorio Emanuele II as King of Italy. Somebody realized that this formula, Vittorio Emanuele, Re d'Italia spelled the acrostic V.E.R.D.I., and instantly the walls of Rome were covered with "Viva VERDI!" just as Un Ballo in Maschera prepared its premiere run in that city. Beyond his music, now even Verdi's name was glued onto the national consciousness. In several ways, Ballo had

Masked Ball by Luis Paret y Alcázar (1746–1799). Bridgeman Art Library

already been political before the Rome premiere. The semi-historical tale of the assassination of a king at a masked ball infuriated the censor in Naples, where Verdi had originally been commissioned to write a new opera, and had been morphed into a tale of governor of Colonial Boston (at a masked ball!) to gain approval in Rome. But that background only explains why Ballo was political in 1859, rather than addressing why it is possible to call it intensely political today. The fact is that the true political nature of Ballo is much deeper than an acrostic: it shows us that the essential political core in Verdi's works is much deeper than is generally presumed.

Verdi's death in 1901 was a moment of national mourning and a rare moment of concordance among Italians. The poet Gabriele D'Annunzio (who would later prove to be a political problem of his own) perfectly summed up the reason Verdi's life, and death, had such a universal impact: "Pianse e canto per tutti," "He sang and wept for all." It was a perceptive as well as pithy comment. Not only does Verdi's music have a virtually global appeal, but the subjects he depicted so shrewdly show an understanding of human personalities and motivations that can be compared with such thinkers as Chekhov, Durkheim, and even Freud, among others, in their respective fields. This penetrating brilliance can be explored particularly well in *Un Ballo in Maschera*.

By the time Verdi composed *Ballo*, he was at a point in his artistic and personal evolution at which he could perceive and chose to depict multiple points of view. He had always the ability to feel compassion for several characters, even those in opposition to his protagonists. It is one of the most appealing features of Verdi's works, and one that sets him apart from others (most obviously, his contemporary Wagner, whose every opera—even his great comedy *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*—must contain an evildoer for the audience to hate as counterpoint to the admirable heroes). While Verdi could certainly create an awesome villain when he wanted to (Di Luna in *Il Trovatore*, and of course lago in *Otello* [1887]), it is remarkable how many of his operas lack an actual bad guy: *La Traviata*; *Aida* (1871); *Falstaff* (1893). Even elsewhere, the lines between good and evil are as blurry as they often are in real life: *Rigoletto*; *Don Carlos* (1867); *Simon Boccanegra* (1881).

Although it's dangerous to draw too direct a connection between personal and artistic biography, careful consideration of both can be illuminating. By 1859, Verdi's hopes and dreams for his country had matured and were even showing signs of rot. The idealism of youth had been tempered by the realities of life. Verdi had previously been

Portrait of Giuseppe Verdi by Giovanni Boldini (1842–1931). Bridgeman Art Library

an ardent republican (that is, antimonarchist). Many of his operas in the early years (Nabucco, Ernani, Giovanna d'Arco, and especially Macbeth [1847] and Rigoletto) form a perfect anthology of "Royals Behaving Badly." In 1859, republican Italians were acceding to the Kingdom of Italy notion, choosing the possible over the ideal. Verdi accepted the convenient association of his name with Vittorio Emanuele's, and in Un Ballo in Maschera, produced that same year, the lead character is a sympathetic, nuanced king. It is not a change of attitude as much as a broadening of perspective. Not only is there no real "bad guy" in Ballo

(Anckarström is driven to his crime and immediately regrets it), but love of country and calls-to-arms are not presented in such black-and-white terms as they are in earlier operas, culminating in *La Battaglia di Legnano*. It is notable that in this decisive year of 1859, the year in which Cavour laid down his challenge to Austria once and for all, Verdi should respond with an opera rich in nuance and motivational ambiguity. Later that year, as Austrian troops withdrew from the area near Verdi's farm at Sant'Agata (after dynamiting the city of Piacenza as a vile farewell

"Finally they have left! or at least they have withdrawn, and may our lucky star take them even further away, until—driven beyond the Alps—they go off to their own climate, their own sky, which I hope is even clearer, beautiful, more resplendent than ours." [Verdi to Clara Maffei, June 23rd, 1859].

gesture), he wrote:

This says a lot about Verdi at this juncture: he is angry at injustice, insistent about his goals, and ready to savor a moment of triumph. But nowhere is he petty or condescending. The Austrians simply have to go because Italy is not Austria, not because Italians were better (he was far too judicious an observer of his own people to believe that) nor because Austrians were inferiors. They simply needed to go and enjoy their own distant home in good health. Verdi always had the ability to perceive that there were several sides to any story: by 1859 he could express a truly universal vision ("he sang and wept for all...").

Can this actually be perceived in Verdi's music? Yes. The score (beyond merely the libretto) of *Un Ballo in Maschera* reveals a profound ability to follow multiple points of view and in fact presents radical and prescient methods of exploring complex situations. Let's look at Ulrica the witch in Act I.

In the first scene, the Chief Justice presents the king, Gustavus, with an accusation against a witch, Ulrica, who is deluding the people with her crafts, or with her frauds of witchcraft. Oscar the page boy (sung by a high soprano, and a thoroughly unique creation within Verdi's output, both musically and dramatically) says the old witch is just fun and games, and that the king should go incognito to see her for himself. Twin impulses of the king, caution and daring, are expressed by external characters. The entire court goes to the witch's den of iniquity. Verdi's treatment of the supernatural is always a curious matter. Many commentators found him lacking in his ability to portray it. They have missed the point. Whenever Verdi ventures into an encounter with the supernatural, in any opera from 1842's Nabucco to 1893's Falstaff, the focus of his interest is never the supernatural phenomenon itself, but always the characters' reaction to it. Ghosts, goblins, and even deities are only important as motivators to the most truly profound (and often scary) force in the universe, human emotional psychology. Ulrica's aria, summoning the spirits of hell, is a bit self-consciously ghoulish—but only a bit. The music successfully supports the multiplicity of reactions to it from the characters on the stage—by turns frightened, skeptical, annoyed, and amused. Amelia, the king's love interest (and, inconveniently, the wife of his best friend and courtier Anckarström) will ask Ulrica for a cure for her illicit love of the king. Therefore, the prime purpose of the variety of impressions made by Ulrica's music will be to inform Amelia's and Gustavo's subsequent actions: Amelia will be frightened when she follows Ulrica's instructions to pick herbs at the gallows at midnight; Gustavus will be careless about the dangers of following her there and attempting to make love to her. Her fears and his defiance will come to a fatal conclusion in the subsequent act. They are not living out the prophecies of Ulrica: they are living out their reactions to them.

All this must be, and is, detectable in the music in the Ulrica scene. To be concerned with whether or not we in the audience are genuinely spooked by Ulrica's aria is a mistake. She embodies a

set of projections from Oscar, the Chief Magistrate, the community, and (most importantly) Gustavus and Amelia.

Here's what's really interesting: we then get to see and hear all of those characters as perceived by Ulrica. When Gustavus's identity is revealed and he's acclaimed by the people, the act concludes with a rousing patriotic chorus, a sort of national anthem composed in broad strokes and bright colors. In fact, it is too patriotic, martial, and naïve in this context—it *might* have made sense in a clearly patriotic chorus in an earlier opera such as Giovanna d'Arco. Taken at face value, it is illogical that the people on the stage would be so inflamed with love of country when finding their king disguised in a witch's hut. The only way this music makes psychological sense is if we understand it as Ulrica's perception of the people. This outsider with a separate perspective (whether or not she is truly clairvoyant or just an accomplished faker—a point that, significantly, Verdi never deigns to answer) sees hollowness and a resort to form and habit in the overblown expression of patriotism. Sometimes, noble patriotic music can be a delusion, a lie. Our experience of the music's meaning is morphed by how we understand the characters' perceptions of it. In other words, facts actually change by being perceived. It is a musical analog of the Uncertainty Principle, which makes Verdi the musical progenitor of Heisenberg.

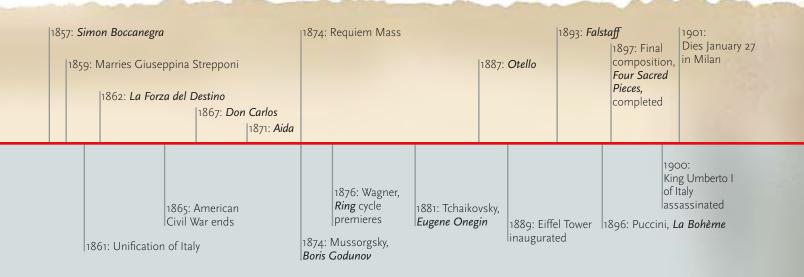
This is best explored in Act III, Scene 1—a scene that makes a good case for being the best Verdi ever wrote (along with Act IV, Scene 1 of *Don Carlos...* and all of Act II of *Otello...*). Amelia's and Gustavus's secret (if unconsummated) love is now known, and Anckaström is furious and humiliated. In their home, he threatens his wife with death. She begs for one last chance to bid farewell to their child, in an understated (and somewhat calming to her homicidal husband—does Amelia know she will have this effect on him?) aria with a notable solo cello accompaniment. Verdi's command of the cello has often been noted (Act IV, Scene 1 of *Don Carlos*)—here it has the effect of focusing the audience's collective ear on a single instrument, a minimal base for what is to follow.

VERDI	1813: Born October 10 in Le Roncole				1836: Marries Margherita Barezzi, who dies 4 years later 1839: First opera, <i>Oberto</i> , premieres in Milan				1847: Macbeth 1851: Rigoletto 1853: Il Trovatore, La Traviata		
WORLD EVENTS	1820: Antarctica discovered 1816: Rossini, II Barbiere di Siviglia 1813: Wagner born; Austen, Pride and Prejudice		1831: Darwin begins journey on HMS Beagle 1831: Bellini, Norma 1829: Goethe, Faust : Beethoven dies		Norma	1842: NY Philharmonic founded		nic	1851: First World's Fair held in London 1848: California Gold Rush begins		

The poet Gabriele D'Annunzio perfectly summed up the reason Verdi's life, and death, had such a universal impact: "Pianse e canto per tutti," "He sang and wept for all."

Anckaström grants her wish and dismisses her, looking at Gustavus's portrait and realizing in the great aria "Eri tu" that Gustavus, not Amelia, is the true culprit. Two courtiers who hate Gustavus for their own reasons, Ribbing and Horn, appear, summoned by Anckarström. The three decide to kill Gustavo. Their trio is martial and exhilarating. It would not have been out of place in Ernani, to whose thrilling chorus "Si ridesti il leon di Castiglia"—to which it bears outward resemblance. But here it is distilled into a trio of two basses and a baritone, singing in private, so to speak. These are actual individuals rousing themselves to shed blood: there is no element of public grandstanding (unlike the Ballo Act I choral finale with Ulrica). Amelia returns, suspecting (but not knowing) what the men are plotting. Anckarström compels his wife to draw names from an urn... she pulls his name. The trio is recapitulated with more thundering orchestra and Amelia's soprano voice added. From her point of view, the low men's voices form a sort of anxious gut-rumbling under her fears, which are expressed in full soprano voice. From their point of view, her high soprano voice caps off their resolution to bloodshed (a strangesounding idea that nevertheless makes perfect operatic sense-Wagner memorably encapsulated the spirit of war in loud women's voices in his "Ride of the Valkyries," composed in that same decade). It is a thrilling moment and any other opera composer would have been well satisfied to end the scene there. For Verdi, it's merely a set up for the coup de grace. The chatty Oscar, (high soprano), enters to announce the masked ball of the title, singing a frilly minuet-like ditty. C Major never sounded so harrowing. The context of the regicidal plot turns the pretty tune into the aural equivalent of a tattoo needle hitting the skin. The thing itself is changed by the act of perceiving it, a supreme moment of Verdias-Heisenberg.

It is also the true basis for the term "political" so often used for Verdi. It's really not about a unified Italy any more—global audiences today cannot be expected to get excited about the Risorgimento, for better or worse. It's about politics in its true meaning of "affairs of the community [polis]," which has the notion of "the many [poly]" embedded in it. This is important for us in the audience, beyond appreciating how extraordinarily smart (in addition to everything else) Verdi was. If you can see things from more than one point of view, you have a more complete purview of the human experience. That much is tautological. But to take that journey with Verdi, who was supremely capable of imbuing each of the multiple points of view with a convincing humanity ("... he sang and wept for all...") is to experience the world with depth, true perception, and deep compassion. It is, in fact, the vantage point of a deity.



From the San Francisco Opera Archives

Un Ballo in Maschera

Past Casts



Clockwise from top left: Robert Merrill (Count Anckarström), Claramae Turner (Madame Arvidson), and Jan Peerce (King Gustavus) in 1957; Jussi Björling (King Gustavus) and Elisabeth Rethberg (Amelia) in 1940; Ruza Baldini as Madame Arvidson (Ulrica) in 1982; José Carreras (King Gustavus) and Yuri Mazurok (Count Anckarström) in 1977; Sandor Konya (King Gustavus) and Leontyne Price, in her role debut as Amelia in 1965.









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Top: Luciano Pavarotti appeared as King Gustavus in San Francisco twice: in his role debut, opposite Martina Arroyo as Amelia in 1971 (left), and in 1982, opposite Kathleen Battle as Oscar (right).

Center left: The late Carlo Bergonzi as King Gustavus in 1985.

Center right: Deborah Voigt as Amelia in 2006.

Below: Act II, 1977

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JULIANNA
DI GIACOMO
(Santa Monica,
California)
Amelia Anckarström
Soprano Julianna
Di Giacomo makes
her San Francisco

Opera debut as Amelia in Un Ballo in Maschera. The Merola Opera Program alumna's other engagements this season include the title role of Luisa Miller with the Teatro di San Carlo in Naples, Madame Lidoine (Dialogues des Carmélites) in Bari, Leonora (Il Trovatore) in Cincinnati, and concerts in the U.S., Sweden, and Israel. Recent career highlights include Clotilde (Norma), Lina (Stiffelio), and Leonora (Il Trovatore) with the Metropolitan Opera; Lucrezia (I Due Foscari) at Milan's Teatro alla Scala and in concert at Carnegie Hall; Donna Anna (Don Giovanni) with Los Angeles Opera; Nedda (Pagliacci) with the Los Angeles Philharmonic; Leonora in Chile, Minorca, and Israel; Desdemona (Otello) with Palermo's Teatro Massimo; in Bari and Israel; Elena (I Vespri Siciliani), Valentine (Les Huguenots), and the title role of Suor Angelica with Madrid's Teatro Real; the title role of Norma with Rome's Teatro dell'Opera; and Rozenn (Le Roi d'Ys) with Montpellier Opera and the Paris Opera Comique. She has performed as a soloist on the concert stage with the Vienna Philharmonic, New York Philharmonic, Los Angeles Philharmonic, and in Paris, Florence, and Berlin, among others.



HEIDI STOBER (Waukesha, Wisconsin) Oscar Heidi Stober made her San Francisco Opera debut in 2010 as Sophie (Werther)

and has since returned as Susanna (Le Nozze di Figaro), Atalanta (Xerxes),

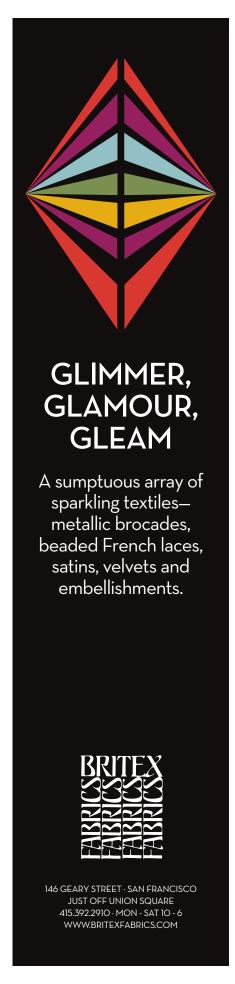
Pamina (The Magic Flute), Nannetta (Falstaff), and Magnolia Hawks (Show Boat). The American soprano's recent engagements include Pamina with the Metropolitan Opera; Pamina, Susanna, Gretel (Hänsel und Gretel), Adina (L'Elisir d'Amore), and Micaëla (Carmen) with Deutsche Oper Berlin; and Zdenka (Arabella) with the Santa Fe Opera. A recent principal artist with Deutsche Oper Berlin, her other engagements with that company have included Zerlina (Don Giovanni), Oscar (Un Ballo in Maschera), Ninette (L'Amour des Trois Oranges), Ascagne (Les Troyens), and Roggiero (Tancredi). Stober is a graduate of the Houston Grand Opera Studio, and her credits there include Musetta (La Bohème), Atalanta, Blonde (Die Entführung aus dem Serail), Norina (Don Pasquale), Susanna, The Rose (Portman's The Little Prince), and La China in the world premiere of Catán's Salsipuedes. Other career highlights include Gretel with the Metropolitan Opera; La Folie and Thalie (Platée), Tigrane (Radamisto), Musetta, and Ada Leverson in the world premiere of Morrison's Oscar with the Santa Fe Opera; Poppea (Agrippina) with New York City Opera; Morgana (Alcina) in Santiago, Chile; Aminta (Il Re Pastore) with Opera Theatre of St. Louis; and Leïla (Les Pêcheurs de Perles) at Opera Colorado. Upcoming engagements include Oscar with the Metropolitan Opera; Gretel, Pamina, Ninette, and Adina with Deutsche Oper Berlin; Sandrina (La Finta Giardiniera) with the Santa Fe Opera; and Ada Leverson with Opera Philadelphia.



RAMÓN VARGAS (Mexico City, Mexico) Gustavus III (Riccardo) Tenor Ramón Vargas made his San Francisco

Opera debut in 1999 as Riccardo (Un Ballo in Maschera) and went

on to perform Edgardo (Lucia di Lammermoor) later that season; he also appeared as Nemorino (L'Elisir d'Amore) in 2008. His most recent Company appearances include the title role of Werther and Faust (Mefistofele). Vargas has appeared in leading roles in virtually all the world's major opera houses: La Scala (Alfredo in La Traviata, Edgardo, and the Duke of Mantua in Rigoletto); the Vienna State Opera (title roles of Roberto Devereux and Don Carlos, Leicester in Maria Stuarda. Nemorino, Edgardo, Lensky in Eugene Onegin, Roméo in Roméo et Juliette, Rodolfo in La Bohème. Des Grieux (Manon), and Werther); Royal Opera, Covent Garden (Don Ottavio in Don Giovanni, Alfredo, the Duke of Mantua, Rodolfo, Riccardo); Paris Opera (the Duke of Mantua, Alfredo, the title role of Idomeneo, Rodolfo in Luisa Miller. Riccardo); the Metropolitan Opera (the title roles of La Clemenza di Tito, Faust, Roméo et Juliette; Lensky; the Duke of Mantua; Count Almaviva in Il Barbiere di Siviglia; Don Ramiro in La Cenerentola: Nemorino: Rodolfo: and Foresto in Attila); the Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires (Fernand in *La Favorite*) and many others. Recent engagements also include Don Carlos, Rodolfo (Luisa Miller), and Giasone in the new production of Mayr's Medea in Corinto in Munich; Riccardo in Paris, Covent Garden, and the Met; Rodolfo (Luisa Miller) at Paris Opera; and Idomeneo for his debut at the Salzburg Festival. The Grammy Award nominee's broad discography includes several solo albums as well as recordings of Werther, I Capuleti e i Montecchi, Falstaff and others. He can be seen on DVD in the Met's La Bohème (EMI) and Eugene Onegin (Decca), as well as La Scala's La Traviata (Decca) and Don Carlos from Vienna.





THOMAS
HAMPSON
(Elkhart, Indiana)
Count Anckarström
(Renato)
Preeminent
American baritone

Thomas Hampson's most recent San Francisco Opera appearance was creating the role of Rick Rescorla in 2011's Heart of a Soldier. He has appeared with the Company as Ulysses (Il Ritorno d'Ulisse in Patria); Figaro (The Barber of Seville); the title roles of Hamlet and Macbeth; and as Valmont in the world premiere of The Dangerous Liaisons. Hampson enjoys a singular international career as a recitalist, opera singer, and recording artist, and maintains an active interest in teaching, research, and technology. He has performed in all of the world's most important concert halls and opera houses with many of today's most renowned singers, pianists, conductors, and orchestras. His discography of more than 150 albums includes winners of Grammy Awards, five Edison Prizes, and the Grand Prix du Disque. He carries the titles of Kammersänger of the Vienna State Opera and Commandeur de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres by the Republic of France, and was awarded the Austrian Medal of Honor in Arts and Sciences in 2004. He is the 2009 Distinguished Artistic Leadership Award recipient from the Atlantic Council in Washington D.C., and in 2008 he was named special adviser to the study and performance of music in America by Dr. James H. Billington, Librarian of Congress. Hampson was made honorary professor at the faculty of philosophy of the University of Heidelberg in 2013 and holds honorary doctorates from the Manhattan School of Music, Whitworth College, and San Francisco Conservatory. In 2010, Hampson was elected a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and received the Library of Congress's "Living Legend" award, which recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to America's diverse cultural, scientific, and social heritage.



BRIAN MULLIGAN (Endicott, New York) Count Anckarström (Renato) American baritone Brian Mulligan made his San

Francisco Opera debut as Marcello (La Bohème) in 2008 and has since returned as Valentin (Faust), Albert (Werther), Sharpless (Madama Butterfly), the title role in Nixon in China, and the King's Herald (Lohengrin). He returns later this season as Marcello and Chorebus (Les Troyens). Recent engagements include Prospero (Adès's The Tempest) with Frankfurt Opera; Yeletsky (The Queen of Spades) with Zurich Opera; André Thorel (Massenet's Thérèse) at Wexford Festival Opera; the Father (Hänsel und Gretel) with Lyric Opera of Chicago; Enrico (Lucia di Lammermoor) with Canadian Opera Company, Lyric Opera of Chicago and Washington National Opera; the title role of Hamlet with Minnesota Opera; and Balstrode (Peter Grimes) at the Aspen Music Festival. Career highlights include Valentin at the Metropolitan Opera; the title role of The Death of Klinghoffer with Opera Theater of St. Louis; Enrico and Sharpless with English National Opera; Prometheus (Die Vögel) at Los Angeles Opera; Marcello at Houston Grand Opera and New York City Opera; Ford (Falstaff) at Japan's Saito Kinen Festival; and the title role of Der Kaiser von Atlantis with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Houston Grand Opera, and at the Ravinia Festival. Orchestral appearances include engagements with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the Cleveland Orchestra.



DOLORA ZAJICK (Salem, Oregon) Madame Arvidson (Ulrica) Mezzo-soprano Dolora Zajick made her San Francisco Opera

debut as the High Priestess in Aida in 1984, continuing in several leading roles here, including Azucena in II Trovatore (1986, 1994, and 2003); Amneris in Aida (1989, 2010); her first Marfa in Khovanshchina (1990); her first assumption of the title role of Hérodiade (1994); and the title role of The Maid of Orleans (2006). The Merola Opera Program alumna and former San Francisco Opera Adler Fellow has appeared at most of the major opera houses and festivals of the world in these and other roles, such as Eboli (Don Carlo), Lady Macbeth (Macbeth), Santuzza (Cavalleria Rusticana), Adalgisa (Norma), Léonor (La Favorite), and Dalila (Samson et Dalila). She has also appeared in concert with many of the world's foremost symphony orchestras and conductors. Among her recordings are Aida, Il Trovatore, Don Carlo, La Forza del Destino, Rusalka, Hérodiade, Alexander Nevsky, the Verdi Requiem, and her first solo disc, The Art of the Dramatic Mezzo-Soprano. Recent engagements include Ježibaba in Rusalka at the Metropolitan Opera; Amneris at Barcelona's Gran Teatre del Liceu, the Arena di Verona, and the Met; Adalgisa at the Met and with Washington National Opera; as the Princess (Suor Angelica) in Barcelona; Elvira Griffiths in the world premiere of Tobias Picker's An American Tragedy at the Met; Eboli with the Vienna State Opera, La Scala, and Los Angeles Opera; Ortrud (Lohengrin) in Los Angeles and Madrid; and Azucena in Chicago and Madrid and at the Met.



SCOTT CONNER
(Olathe, Kasas)
Count Horn
(Tommaso)
Bass Scott Conner
makes his San
Francisco Opera
debut in Un Ballo in

Maschera and returns later this season as Angelotti (Tosca) as well as Colline (La Bohème). Recent engagements include role debuts with Zürich Opera,

the Glyndebourne Festival, the Aixen-Provence Festival, and Lille Opera, as well as a return to the Dresden's Semperoper. Future seasons include debuts with Dutch National Opera and a return to Aix-en-Provence. Conner joined the ensemble of the Semperoper Dresden during the 2012–13 season, where his roles have included Colline, Sparafucile (*Rigoletto*), and Don Basilio (*Il Barbiere di Siviglia*). He recently made his debut at Washington D.C.'s



John F. Kennedy Center, appearing as the bass soloist in Handel's *Messiah* with the National Symphony Orchestra. He is the recipient of a 2012 Sara Tucker Study Grant from the Richard Tucker Foundation and first prize winner of both the 2012 Gerda Lissner Foundation Competition and 2012 Loren L. Zachary Competition.



CHRISTIAN VAN HORN (Rockville Centre, New York) Count Ribbing (Samuele) Bass-baritone Christian Van Horn

made his San Francisco Opera debut in 2010 as the King of Egypt (Aida) and returned later that fall as the Bailiff (Werther), the Bonze (Madama

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Butterfly), and Timur (Turandot). His most recent Company appearances were as Angelotti (Tosca) in 2012 and the Four Villains (Les Contes d'Hoffmann) in 2013. A graduate of Lyric Opera of Chicago's Ryan Center, his roles with that company include Nourabad (Les Pêcheurs de Perles), Brander (La Damnation de Faust), Crespel (Tales of Hoffmann), and Raimondo (Lucia di Lammermoor). Recently, Van Horn appeared as Pistola (Falstaff) and Colline at the Metropolitan Opera, Publio (La Clemenza di Tito) with Lyric Opera of Chicago, Colline (La Bohème) at Bavarian State Opera and the Santa Fe Opera, Zuniga (Carmen) at the Salzburg Festival and with the Berlin Philharmonic, Banquo (Macbeth) in Geneva, and the title role of Le Nozze di Figaro with Russia's Perm Opera. Other career highlights include the title role of Le Nozze di Figaro in Stuttgart, Colline at Los Angeles Opera, Timur with the Dallas Opera, and creating the roles of Karenin in David Carlson's Anna Karenina with Florida Grand Opera and the Emperor in Tan Dun's Tea: A Mirror of the Soul at Santa Fe Opera. His engagements with San Francisco Opera this season include Oroveso (Norma), Alidoro (La Cenerentola), Colline (La Bohème), and Narbal (Les Troyens).





EFRAÍN SOLÍS (Santa Ana, California) Christian (Silvano) Mexican-American baritone Efraín Solís is a first-year San Francisco Opera

Adler Fellow who made his Company debut this summer as Prince Yamadori (Madama Butterfly). In the spring of 2013, he joined Opera Santa Barbara as a member of their Studio Artist Program, where he sang the role of Il Notaio and covered Dr. Malatesta in Don Pasquale. As a participant of the 2013 Merola Opera Program, he sang Junius in The Rape of Lucretia and covered the Count in The Marriage of Figaro. Chosen as a finalist for the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and the 2013 Houston Grand Opera's Eleanor McCollum Competition, Solís holds degrees from



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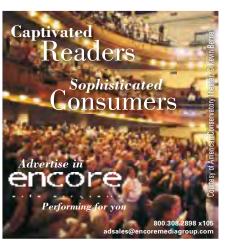
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Chapman University and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, where he performed the title role of *Don Giovanni*, Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte*, and the title role of *Gianni Schicchi*.



A.J. GLUECKERT (Portland, Oregon) Chief Magistrate Tenor A.J. Glueckert is a second-year San Francisco Opera Adler Fellow who made

his Company debut in The Gospel of Mary Magdalene last summer and appeared as Mr. Knox in the world premiere of Dolores Claiborne, the Steersman (Der Fliegende Holländer), and Ambrogio (Il Barbiere di Siviglia) in 2013. This season, he has appeared as Flavio (Norma) and Elder Gleaton (Susannah). Glueckert is an alumnus of the 2012 Merola Opera Program, where he performed Mr. Owen in Argento's Postcard from Morocco. As a resident artist with Minnesota Opera, he was heard as Arturo (Lucia di Lammermoor) in addition to creating the role of the Crown Prince in the world premiere of Puts's Silent Night. Upcoming engagements include his European debut at Frankfurt Opera as the Prince in Rusalka, a role he will also sing at New Orleans Opera, and Don José (Carmen) at Pittsburgh Opera. He holds two degrees from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.



CHRISTOPHER JACKSON (Buffalo, New York) Amelia's Servant A member of the San Francisco Opera Chorus, Christopher Jackson made his

Company debut in 2009 as the Pony Express Rider (*La Fanciulla del West*) and has appeared in solo roles in seven other Company productions, including Jeppo Liverotto (*Lucrezia Borgia*). Career highlights include several roles at New York City Opera, including

Pinkerton (Madama Butterfly), Calaf (Turandot) with New York Grand Opera, Don José (Carmen) with Anchorage Opera, and concert performances at Carnegie Hall.



NICOLA LUISOTTI (Massarosa, Italy) Conductor Nicola Luisotti has been music director of San Francisco Opera since September

2009 and he holds the Caroline H. Hume Endowed Chair. In the current season he conducts Norma, Un Ballo in Maschera, and the world premiere of Marco Tutino's La Ciociara. Luisotti's other engagements during the current season include Madama Butterfly with the Royal Opera, Covent Garden; Nabucco in Valencia; Il Trovatore with the Teatro di San Carlo in Naples: and a concert with Rome's Accademia di Santa Cecilia. Called "both an original thinker and a great respecter of tradition" by Opera News, Luisotti made his San Francisco Opera debut in 2005 conducting La Forza del Destino and has by now led more than twenty other productions with the Company. He has garnered enthusiastic praise from both audiences and critics for his work at the Royal Opera, Covent Garden; the Metropolitan Opera; Paris Opera; the Vienna State Opera; Milan's La Scala; Genoa's Teatro Carlo Felice; Venice's La Fenice; Munich's Bavarian State Opera; Madrid's Teatro Real; Los Angeles Opera; Toronto's Canadian Opera Company; Seattle Opera; Bologna's Teatro Comunale; and Tokyo's Suntory Hall. Maestro Luisotti was awarded the 39th Premio Puccini Award in conjunction with the historic 100th anniversary of Puccini's La Fanciulla del West at the Metropolitan Opera, which he conducted in 2010. Equally at home on the concert stage, Luisotti served as principal guest conductor of the Tokyo Symphony from 2009 to 2012 and has established growing relationships with the orchestras of London (Philharmonia Orchestra), Genoa, Budapest, Turin, and Munich (Bavarian Radio Orchestra), as well as

the Berlin Philharmonic, San Francisco Symphony, and the Atlanta Symphony. Other recent career highlights include a new production of *Nabucco* at Milan's La Scala and the Royal Opera, Covent Garden, and *Don Giovanni* and *Turandot* at Covent Garden, in addition to concerts with the Orchestre de Paris, La Scala's Filarmonica della Scala, and the Cleveland and Philadelphia Orchestras.



JOSE MARIA
CONDEMI
(Buenos Aires,
Argentina)
Director
Artistic director
of Opera Santa
Barbara, Jose Maria

Condemi has directed Così fan tutte, Tosca, The Elixir of Love for Families, Faust, Madama Butterfly, and Carmen at San Francisco Opera as well as Suor Angelica, Gianni Schicchi, La Bohème, La Cenerentola, and A Streetcar Named Desire for the Merola Opera Program. A former San Francisco Opera Adler Fellow and Merola Opera Program alumnus, his notable engagements include a new production of Ernani and Tristan und Isolde for Lyric Opera of Chicago; Luisa Miller for Toronto's Canadian Opera Company; Aida for Houston Grand Opera; La Bohème, Il Trovatore and Orphée et Eurydice for Seattle Opera; Ainadamar, Don Giovanni, and La Traviata for Cincinnati Opera; Maria Padilla for Minnesota Opera; Il Trovatore for Austin Lyric Opera; Così fan tutte and The Barber of Seville for Atlanta Opera; and Die Zauberflöte, L'Elisir d'Amore, Don Pasquale, and La Rondine with Opera San José. Condemi's collaboration with contemporary opera composers includes directing the world premieres of Armienta's River of Women and The Weeping Woman. Other recent career highlights include Florencia en el Amazonas for Opera Colorado and Utah Opera, *Tosca* for Florida Grand Opera, the world premiere of the San Francisco Opera commission The Secret Garden, and The Elixir of Love for Opera Theater of Saint Louis. Upcoming engagements include

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Tosca for Seattle Opera, Il Trovatore for Cincinnati Opera, and Frida for Michigan Opera Theater.



JOHN CONKLIN (Hartford, Connecticut) Costume Designer John Conklin made his San Francisco Opera debut with the 1977 production

of *Un Ballo in Maschera*—his designs for that opera have since returned four times to the War Memorial Opera House stage, most recently in 2006. He created the original designs for Wagner's Ring cycle presented at San Francisco Opera between 1983 and 1985. His work has also been seen at the Metropolitan Opera, New York City Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, the Dallas Opera, Seattle Opera, the San Diego Opera, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, the Santa Fe Opera, and Glimmerglass Opera, among others. Conklin's designs have appeared at English National Opera, Scottish Opera, Bavarian State Opera, and Opera Australia. He has also designed for major theaters around the country, including the New York Shakespeare Festival, American Repertory Theater, Hartford Stage, Long Wharf Theatre, Arena Stage, the Mark Taper Forum, and the Goodman and Guthrie theaters. Conklin currently teaches at the Tisch School of the Arts at New York University.



GARY MARDER
(San Diego,
California)
Lighting Designer
Resident lighting
designer for San
Francisco Opera,
Gary Marder made

his Company debut this past season with his designs for Mefistofele, Der Fliegende Holländer, Il Barbiere di Siviglia, Madama Butterfly, and La Traviata. His work has been seen at venues across the globe, including The Magic Flute in Sydney; La Traviata at Turin's Teatro Regio as well as in Tokyo; The Makropulos Case and Samson

et Dalila at Houston Grand Opera; Samson et Dalila, Il Barbiere di Siviglia, Carmen, Peter Grimes, and Norma at San Diego Opera; Dialogues des Carmélites with Palm Beach Opera; La Clemenza di Tito in Toronto; Tosca with Opera New Jersey; Aida at the Dallas Opera; and in Boston, Connecticut, Barcelona, and Baden Baden. Marder served as assistant resident lighting designer for the Metropolitan Opera for twelve seasons and associate resident lighting designer at New York City Opera for five years.



IAN ROBERTSON (Dundee, Scotland) Chorus Director Recipient of the 2012 San Francisco Opera Medal, Ian Robertson has been chorus director and

conductor with San Francisco Opera since 1987, having prepared more than 300 productions for the Company. He was awarded the Olivier Messiaen Foundation Prize in 2003 for his artistic contribution to the preparation of the Company's North American premiere of Saint François d'Assise. Robertson has also conducted nine main-stage productions with the Company. Other North American opera credits include productions with Sarasota Opera, Edmonton Opera, and Philadelphia's Curtis Opera Theatre. Before joining San Francisco Opera, Robertson was head of music and chorus director of Scottish Opera.



LAWRENCE PECH
(San Francisco,
California)
Choreographer
Lawrence Pech is
in his eighteenth
season as dance
master and resident

choreographer for San Francisco
Opera. He has created period and
interpretive dances on more than
forty productions with the Company.
Pech received his formal training from
American Ballet Theatre (ABT) and
was invited by Mikhail Baryshnikov to
join that company in 1980. In 1986,





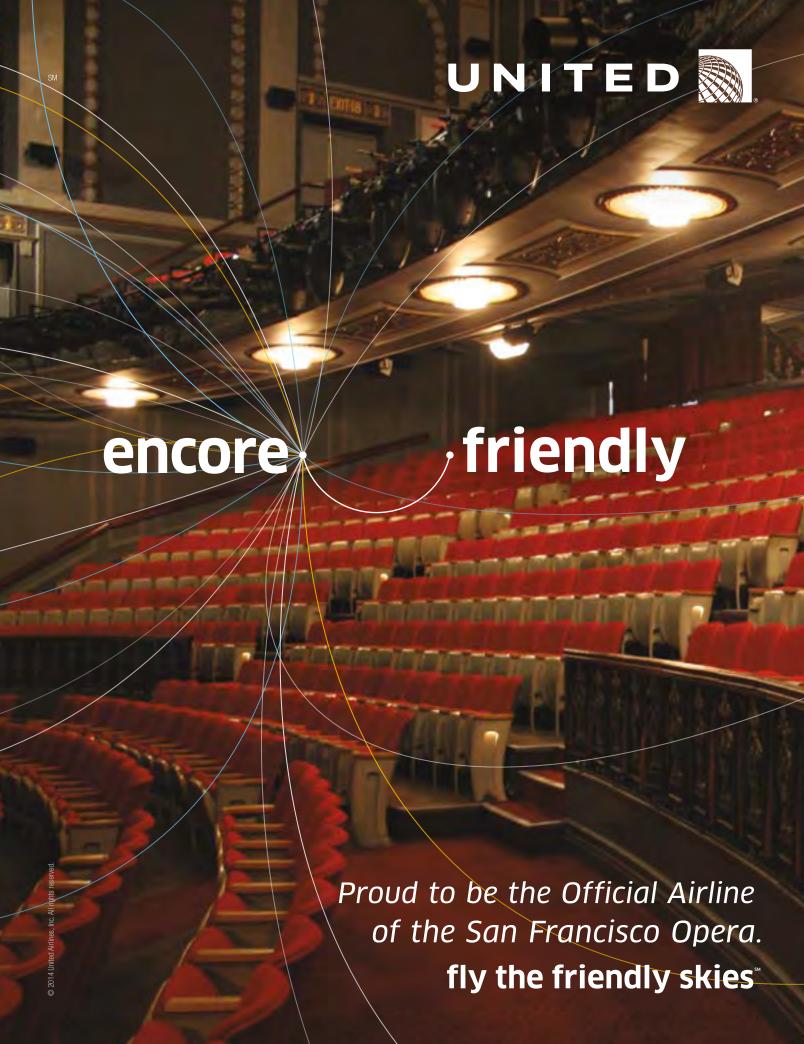
he joined San Francisco Ballet, where he became a principal dancer in 1989. Pech founded his own dance company in 1995 and has choreographed more than fifty ballets, thirty musicals, and numerous self-produced evenings of music and dance around the world.

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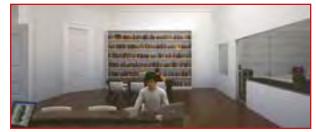
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n 2010, General Director David Gockley announced the establishment of **The Diane B. Wilsey Center for Opera** on the fourth floor of the Veterans Building, in the space formerly occupied by the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. The Center, adding over 55,000 square feet to San Francisco Opera's facilities on the War Memorial Campus, will centralize functions that are currently spread over seven different venues throughout the City. In addition to the conveniences this move affords, it will save San Francisco Opera over \$1 million in operating costs each year, allowing the Company to better focus its resources onto the stage and in the community.



We are excited to report that **the** capital campaign has achieved over 90% of our fundraising goal of \$19 million, including a \$5 million lead naming gift by Diane B. Wilsey.



Be a part of this historic project! Visit sfopera.com/WilseyCenter for more information, or contact Andrew Morgan, Director of Individual and Leadership Giving, at (415) 565-3266 or amorgan@sfopera.com.



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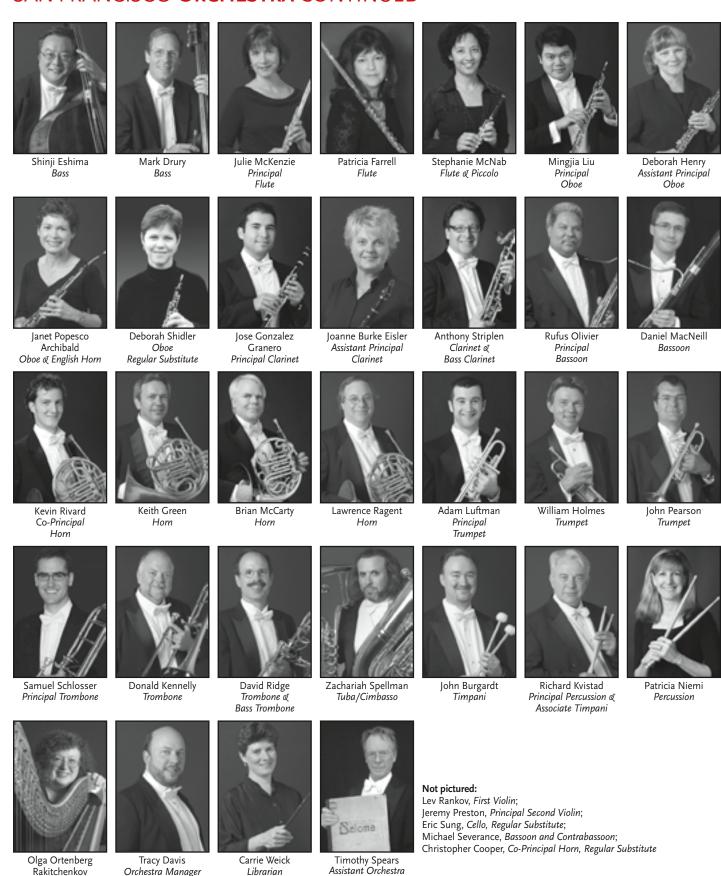
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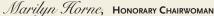
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Young artists participating in Merola's intensive training program benefit from its association with San Francisco Opera, often returning to appear on the main stage. In any given season, over 30% of all San Francisco Opera roles, including cover roles, are performed by former Merola artists. Graduates of the Merola Opera Program include Joyce DiDonato, Susan Graham, Thomas Hampson, Anna Netrebko, Patricia Racette, John Relyea, Patrick Summers, Ruth Ann Swenson, Carol Vaness, Rolando Villazón, Deborah Voigt and Dolora Zajick.

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More than 75,000 Bay Area families, students and teachers experience the excitement of opera with a variety of community outreach programs presented through the collaborative efforts of San Francisco Opera, the Opera Guild, and the Merola Opera Program.

YOUR OPERA EXPERIENCE

The **OPERA BOX OFFICE** is located in the Opera House, 301 Van Ness Avenue, and is open Monday 10 AM—5 PM, Tuesday through Saturday 10 AM—6 PM, and through the first intermission on performance days. Tickets may also be charged by phone at (415) 864-3330 or ordered online at sfopera.com. We accept American Express, VISA, MasterCard, and Discover.

If you are unable to use your tickets to a particular performance, you may exchange them for tickets to another performance, subject to availability, or donate them back to the Opera. Ticket exchanges for future performances can be accommodated up to one hour before curtain or during the first intermission. No refunds are associated with ticket exchanges, and a fee (plus any price differential) may apply.

ACCESSIBILITY San Francisco Opera is committed to providing easy access for all of our patrons. Please contact the Opera Box Office prior to your visit so that we can ensure your comfort.

For Patrons in Wheelchairs, San Francisco Opera offers wheelchair-accessible seats at a range of prices. All entrances at the War Memorial Opera House are wheelchair accessible. Wheelchair-accessible stalls in restrooms can be found on all floors (except the Main Lobby and 5th floor Balcony levels). Accessible drinking fountains are located on all floors except the Balcony level.

For Patrons Needing Assistive Listening Devices, Sennheiser infrared sound amplification headsets are available at the South Lobby coat check. A major credit card or driver's license is required for deposit.

Text-to-Voice Supertitles: Live Titles, headsets that provide a spoken version of the projected supertitles, are available at the North Coat Check. A major credit card or driver's license is required for deposit.

San Francisco War Memorial and Performing Arts Center War Memorial Opera House

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Performance Etiquette

- Please turn off and refrain from using all electronic devices before the performance, including digital watches and cell phones.
- No cameras or recording equipment are permitted in the Opera House.
- As a courtesy to those who may have fragrance allergies, please avoid wearing perfume or cologne.
- No food or drink (except water bottles) is permitted in the auditorium.
- Children of any age attending a performance must have a ticket; no babes in arms.

Management reserves the right to remove any patron creating a disturbance.

DINING AND REFRESHMENTS The Patina Group serves an elegant hot buffet in the lower lounge of the Opera House beginning two hours prior to all performances. Lighter fare is also served before performances and during intermissions at Patina's Café Express (Lower level) and Dress Circle Café. Call (415) 861-8150 or visit opentable.com for reservations or to pre-order. Patrons dining in the Opera House may enter through the North Carriage entrance (adjacent to the War Memorial courtyard) up to two hours prior to curtain.

The **SAN FRANCISCO OPERA SHOP**, located on the South Mezzanine level of the Opera House, sells opera CDs, DVDs, SF Opera merchandise, and gift items. The Shop is open 90 minutes before performances, at intermissions, and afterward. All proceeds benefit San Francisco Opera.

COAT CHECK For the safety and comfort of our audience, all large parcels, backpacks, luggage, etc. must be checked at the Opera House coat check, located at the North and South ends of the Main Lobby.

COURTESY TELEPHONE, for local calls only, is located in the main lobby across from the South passenger elevator

DRINKING FOUNTAINS are available on all levels except the Lower level, where there is a courtesy water station on the north side. Water bottles are permitted in the auditorium.

OPERA GLASSES may be rented for \$5 at the North Lobby coat check. ID deposit is requested.

LARGE PRINT CAST SHEETS AND SYNOPSES are available at the coat check stations in the main lobby.

FIRST AID STATION is located on the South Lower level. In case of emergency, please ask the nearest usher to assist you.

LOST AND FOUND items may be claimed at the North coat check during the performance. All unclaimed items are delivered to the War Memorial Performing Arts Center at 25 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 800, (415) 621-6600 (8 AM-5 PM, Monday-Friday).

Patrons wishing to **REQUEST TAXI SERVICE** may do so with the usher at the Grove Street entrance before the end of the final intermission. Requests are not a guarantee of service. Taxi service is based on availability of licensed taxis.



PATRONS, ATTENTION PLEASE! FIRE NOTICE: Please note the nearest exit. In an emergency, WALK, do not run, to the nearest exit. Disabled patrons, proceed to nearest elevator lobby and await assistance.



The art of performance draws our eyes to the stage



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Metamorphosis, an Hermès story

