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SAN FRANCISCO OPERA



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A Message from the Leaders of San Francisco Opera

Dear Opera-goers,

Welcome back to the War Memorial Opera House for our summer season.

For more than nine decades, San Francisco Opera has presented a balanced and diverse selection of masterpieces from the operatic canon. This summer season highlights the best of French, Italian, and Czech opera: three passionate stories



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

with thrilling, emotive music that highlight the great power of this art form. Bizet's *Carmen* is presented in a bold, updated staging by Spanish director Calixto Bieito. Our production of Verdi's *Don Carlo* brings together a dream cast of international singers including Michael Fabiano, Ana María Martínez, Mariusz Kwiecień, and René Pape, under the baton of Music Director Nicola Luisotti. Completing our summer season is Leoš Janáček's haunting *Jenůfa*, conducted by Jiří Bělohlávek and starring legendary Finnish soprano Karita Mattila who returns to San Francisco following her searing performance in the Company's 2010 production of Janáček's *The Makropulos Case*.

This summer we also bid farewell to retiring General Director David Gockley. We were extremely fortunate to attract David to San Francisco 10 years ago, and the artistic results over the last decade speak for themselves. David has brought us wonderful and varied seasons, attracting remarkable artists and productions to San Francisco. He has kept the Company in the forefront of Opera's evolution by championing several world premieres, including next fall's *Dream of the Red Chamber*, as well as the San Francisco premieres of important American operas such as *Susannah* and *Nixon in China*. He has brought out the operatic elements of great musicals, with terrific successes such as *Porgy and Bess*, *Show Boat*, and more recently *Sweeney Todd*. And who can forget our *Ring* in 2011 and last summer's blockbuster *Les Troyens*? The unifying element in all these productions is David's single-minded focus on artistic quality and his belief in the power of opera to touch an audience like no other art form can.

David leaves San Francisco Opera much stronger than he found it in many ways: artistically, financially, with a great new facility in the Wilsey Center for Opera and new programs that broaden our impact on our community. He has maintained and enhanced the pillars of strength that are the bedrock of this Company: grand opera produced to world-class standards, a terrific young singers fellowship program, and excellent education and community outreach initiatives.

On June 16, we will celebrate David's career with a gala concert featuring many of opera's most extraordinary artists. We invite you to join us for an unforgettable evening as we toast a visionary leader who, in his 45-year career as general director, is recognized by the opera community as single-handedly changing the direction of American opera.

An A.

John A. Gunn Chairman of the Board

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Save the date of Friday, September 9 for San Francisco Opera's **Opera Ball 2016**: *La Révolution et L'Amour*, a grand fête marking the opening of the Company's 94th season and inaugural season of General Director Matthew Shilvock. Produced by San Francisco Opera Guild and led by co-chairs Sandra Farris and Patricia Sprincin, this year's Opera Ball will unfold in a tented pavilion in the War Memorial Courtyard. Celebrated designer J. Riccardo Benavides returns to create for the 850 guests a festive atmosphere of Parisian élan inside the tent, where they will enjoy a sumptuous dinner by executive chef Josip Martinovic of McCalls Catering and Events. The evening includes a cocktail reception, the opening performance of Umberto Giordano's verismo opera *Andrea Chénier*, and a post-performance celebration with dancing. All proceeds benefit the Opera Association and Opera Guild's education programs. For tickets, visit sfopera.com/operaball2016.

BRAVO! Club's 25th Annual Opening Night Gala is a glamorous and fun-filled celebration ideal for young professionals. For details, visit **sfopera.com/bravo**.





CORY WEAVE

OPERA TOURS

Explore the wonder that goes into creating an opera production with a backstage tour of the War Memorial Opera House led by an Opera Guild volunteer docent. The summer dates of the tours are June 4, 10, 18, 23, and 29. Tours begin at noon, 12:30 p.m. and 1 p.m. and last approximately an hour and a half. Visit the wig and make-up rooms, prompter's box, dressing rooms, laundry, orchestra library, practice rooms, costumes, media suite, and stage management console, among other attractions.

Advance reservations are required by either emailing **tour.reserve@gmail.com** or calling (415) 551-6353. Groups should contact **sf.opera.tours@gmail.com**. Cost is \$20 per person; donors and subscribers receive special discounts. Learn more at **sfopera.com/discover-opera/tours**.

Opera at the Ballpark Turns 10

Celebrating the tenth free simulcast at AT&T Park, this year's *Opera at the Ballpark* takes place on **Saturday, July 2 at 7:30 p.m.** with the Company's sizzling new *Carmen*.

These annual live simulcasts, a partnership between San Francisco Opera and the San Francisco Giants, were instituted as one of the first innovations of General Director David Gockley's tenure to bring opera into the community. They have drawn well over 250,000 people of all ages, and have become a beloved Bay Area tradition.

This year's offering features the American premiere of Calixto Bieito's bold *Carmen* production, set in modern Spain. The simulcast will feature English subtitles on the ballpark's HD screen. Online registration, which assures early entrance into the ballpark for preferred seating and entry into a special prize drawing, is available at **sfopera.com/simulcast.** Please note that parental discretion is advised as the production contains violence, nudity, and suggestive behavior.



The simulcast of *Carmen* is sponsored by Taube Philanthropies. *Opera at the Ballpark* is supported by Platinum Sponsor Chevron and Gold Sponsors United Airlines, Charles Schwab & Co., Inc., and PG&E. San Francisco Opera simulcasts are made possible through the pioneering technology of the Company's Koret/Taube Media Suite.

Diane B. Wilsey Center for Opera Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, February 12, 2016



Wilsey Center for Opera Dinner for Donors, March 3, 2016

 Ororbhy eg Brad Jeffrie
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Diane B. Wilsey & General Director Designate Matthew Shilvock PHOTOS: DREW ALTIZER

Schubert's Winterreise Matthias Goerne, baritone; Markus Hinterhäuser, piano; William Kentridge, concept and video STEFAN COHEN



To great fanfare, San Francisco Opera's Diane B. Wilsey Center for Opera opened in February. Occupying 38,000 square feet of the fourth floor and basement of the War Memorial Veterans Building, the center includes administrative offices, costume studio, two public exhibition galleries, Company archive, education studio, and the state-ofthe-art Dianne and Tad Taube Atrium Theater featuring the Meyer Sound Constellation® acoustic system. The award-winning Bay Area architectural firm Mark Cavagnero Associates led the design and renovation of the Wilsey Center complex, creating a dynamic new space for performances and community events and consolidating most of the Company's operations into a single campus in the vibrant and emerging arts district of San Francisco's Civic Center.

This spring also saw at the Wilsey Center the inaugural season of SF Opera Lab, an experimental new forum for vocal music presented in an intimate theatrical context. SF Opera Lab began in March with South African artist William Kentridge's acclaimed production of Schubert's *Winterreise*—a West Coast premiere. Additionally, the Taube Atrium Theater was host to four Schwabacher Debut Recitals.

Ana Sokolović's Svadba-Wedding Stefan Cohen



The Triplets of Belleville Cine-Concert with live music SCOTT WALL



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Andrea Ludwig, Jacqueline Woodley, Liesbeth Devos, Krisztina Szabó in Svadba-Wedding STEFAN COHEN

ARIA (Arts Resources in Action) Festival, an allday, free community open house for families SCOTT WALL



Backstage at the ARIA Festival SCOTT WALL



SAN FRANCISCO OPERA



Notes from the General Director

Touchability

This is the last of these columns I will write after a decade at the San Francisco Opera and 33 years at the Houston Grand Opera. These words come from one who believes opera is a tremendously powerful and humanizing art form, and one who will remain passionately committed to its future well-being.

I was bitten by the opera bug by hearing arias sung by our greatest opera singers on *The Voice of Firestone, The Bell Telephone Hour,* and *The Ed Sullivan Show*. Sunday evenings on network prime time, if you can believe it! I also was very taken by the Mario Lanza film *The Great Caruso*. Something about those arias touched an indefinable core of my being, and tears came to my eyes.

So in college when my glee club director suggested I might have the vocal chops to be an opera singer, I already had a sense of what that "touching" meant. I took him up on his suggestion with a vengeance. A life in opera would be something to cherish! Over the next six years, I attended scores of complete opera performances, both at the old Met and the New York City Opera at the 55th Street mosque. I followed both companies' moves to Lincoln Center and appreciated each one's approach to the art form-one a great international company and one a struggling American company that did Floyd's Susannah, Strauss' Ariadne auf Naxos, and Kern's Show Boat on adjacent nights. Does all this sound familiar? When my singing aspiration cratered, and I had the opportunity to be employed by Houston Grand Opera at age 28, the seeds of an opera company that could in one year offer Susannah, Sweeney Todd, The Trojans and Die Meistersinger took root. It did not flower until I came to San Francisco, because Houston could not handle The Trojans or the Ring, at least in my time.

Wotan's Farewell from Wagner's *Die Walküre* does me in, but so does "Bill" in *Show Boat*. What is common to these two "numbers"? The great Leonard Bernstein may have put his finger on it when he quipped, "There are two kinds of music: good and bad." I embrace his lack of musical pretension. What is this "thing" that people feel in Wotan's Farewell and "Bill"? What is this "touching" and who is "touchable"? My great concern is that the two generations who have been consumed with the sound of heavy-metal and rap music, and have had no formal music education, have a numb spot where this "touchability" should or could be. Or maybe it is there, deep inside, waiting for the right moment. How do we get our music out there? How do we preempt the numbness?

This is what has to happen:

- Get our beautiful music "out there" any way that we can. At the ballpark, via email, on the internet, in the elevator! The great arias are our best calling cards.
- Offer introductory promotions and pricing to get people in to experience "the real thing" in the opera house. No empty seats should go unused.
- Collaborate with key artists and their publicists to "create stars" through all possible means and media.
- Create compelling productions that "make news" either through their artists or their subject matter, thereby driving people into the theater because the price of a ticket is considered "worth it." *Nina Stemme and*
- Introduce family and friends to the opera experience at every opportunity.
- Advocate that classical music be taught and experienced from pre-K through Grade 12.

There are so many cultural changes at work out there that are serving to marginalize our beloved art form. First among them is the all-consuming pervasiveness and economic incentives of popular culture. We will survive only by being talked about and experienced, and by cultivating touchability among the public by those of us in charge with creating and producing the art form. At stake is nothing less than our capacity to empathize with others and ourselves.



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Schwabacher Summer Concerts

Thursday, July 7, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, July 9, 2 p.m. San Francisco Conservatory of Music (50 Oak Street) Performed with English supertitles \$40 and \$25 A thrilling program of scenes from beloved operas including *Lohengrin*, *Arabella*, *Le Comte Ory*, and *Dialogues des Carmélites*, among others.

Transformations by Conrad Susa, with libretto by Anne Sexton Thursday, July 21, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, July 23, 2 p.m. San Francisco Conservatory of Music Performed in English with English supertitles \$65 and \$45

Così fan tutte

by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, with libretto by Lorenzo Da Ponte Thursday, August 4, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, August 6, 2 p.m. San Francisco Conservatory of Music Performed in Italian with English supertitles \$65 and \$45

Merola Grand Finale

Saturday, August 20, 7:30 p.m. War Memorial Opera House \$45, \$35, \$25

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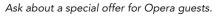


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SAN FRANCISCO OPERA Profile Barbara Rominski Director of Archives

Barbara Rominski-as of February, San Francisco Opera's firstever director of archives-has always considered herself to be a curious person with a natural affinity for libraries and the arts. While pursuing an undergraduate degree in the history of art from UC Berkeley, she was encouraged to follow her interests with a career in libraries and archives. "It was quite a revelation to me that I could have a job that allowed me to combine books, history, and art-the things that I love most," she says.

After 13 years as head of the library, archives, and records management at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Rominski feels fortunate to establish a public archive in another Bay Area cultural institution: the Edward Paul Braby San Francisco Opera Archive at the



new Diane B. Wilsey Center for Opera. The sunny office space and reading room connects directly into the public corridor on the fourth floor of the War Memorial Veterans Building and opens up the archives to public programming, open houses, and collaboration with other departments.

"The Wilsey Center was a significant draw in my coming to the Opera," she says. "Archives are traditionally in a basement, back in a corner, in a warehouse, tucked away somewhere and almost forgotten. The fact that the Opera has positioned the archives physically within a public venue speaks volumes about the institution's commitment to its history."

Creating Greater Access

Among the records in Rominski's purview are over nine decades of photographs, audio and video recordings, program books, correspondences, production blueprints, 3-D set replicas, and—perhaps her favorite objects—watercolors and pastel drawings of set designs and costumes. "They are quite beautiful in and of themselves with incredible attention to detail," she says. "It truly highlights that opera is not one art form; there are many art forms up on the stage, with the visual arts playing a significant role."

Preservation of these materials is Rominski's highest priority. In particular, digitization of the Company's oldest photographs and programs, as well as audio and video recordings dating from the 1930s that are in danger of being lost, will allow greater access to the materials by researchers and the broader public.

"The opera community is a devoted group that is as curious about the past as it is the present," she says. "The more archival material we can make accessible in our public spaces like the beautiful photographs installed in the Gockley and the Hume Family galleries at the

Wilsey Center—as well as digitally through the online performance database, the better!"

Voices for Posterity

One of Rominski's most exciting challenges is the Opera's 2022–23 centennial season. Similarly to how she established the SFMOMA archives in advance of the museum's 75th anniversary, she will also help prepare for the Company's big bash. Specifically, she would like to see her department take the lead in creating content, perhaps an oral history program focusing on those who have been connected to San Francisco Opera over the years. "SFMOMA ran a massive oral history program in advance of its 75th anniversary... incredibly rich interviews which were mined for publications, educational use, marketing, and ultimately offered up on the internet for free, in transcript form and in partial audio and video clips," Rominski says. "I am certain that there are equally rich voices and stories from the Opera community that we would benefit from hearing and, in turn, preserving long into the future."



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BRAVO, DAVID GOCKLEY!

"In David you see the perfect paradigm of someone who both lives and breathes the creativity of the art form but also exudes this great responsibility for how you make it happen."

> —Matthew Shilvock, General Director Designate

avid Gockley has surely seen more curtain calls than most anyone given the 45 years he has devoted to the world of opera. But this summer he'll be the recipient of bravos and bouquets when he takes his own curtain call at the War Memorial Opera House at a gala concert on June 16—*Celebrating David!* After more than ten years as the general director of San Francisco Opera, Gockley steps down at the end of the summer season. But his legacy—in San Francisco and across the opera world—is secure.

Gockley has reshaped American opera like no other impresario. Over four decades-as general director at Houston Grand Opera from 1972 to 2005 and at San Francisco Opera from 2006 to 2016-Gockley has presided over world premieres of 45 commissions from the greatest American composers, including groundbreaking works by John Adams, Leonard Bernstein, and Philip Glass. He has devoted his life to opera, nurturing and promoting artistic excellence on the stage while maintaining an astute grasp of the economics of this complex art form; he has pushed to broaden and diversify audiences with innovations such as free, outdoor simulcasts. On his watch, the 13 simulcasts in the Bay Area have collectively drawn more than 250,000 opera fans. Gockley also pioneered programs to cultivate new singers and oversaw the creation of the Wortham Theater Center in Houston and the Diane B. Wilsey Center for Opera here in San Francisco, which opened earlier this season as a dynamic new venue for educational programs and smaller-scale chamber opera. On the eve of retirement, Gockley is still looking ahead to keep the tradition he loves alive and flourishing.

"David has found exquisite ways to balance the progression of the art form and the stability of that art form," said Matthew Shilvock who takes over in August as San Francisco Opera's new general director. "In David you see the perfect paradigm of someone who both lives and breathes the creativity of the art form but also exudes this great responsibility for how you make it happen."

From his first season in charge at the Houston Grand Opera beginning in 1972, Gockley's sense of assurance, his understanding of his mission, and his ability to articulate his vision seemed fully formed. Whether or not he was self-conscious about his relative youth at the age of 29, Gockley embraced the fact that he was an American trying to champion opera in a very American city, Houston, which in the early 1970s was about to boom as an oil town. Gockley recalls thinking to himself, *I'm going to prove that this city with its lack of tradition, its people from all over the world, its wildcatter mentality and image, could do something in the classic arts that would really be a jewel in its crown*. But where did Gockley develop this precocious confidence, this belief in American opera?

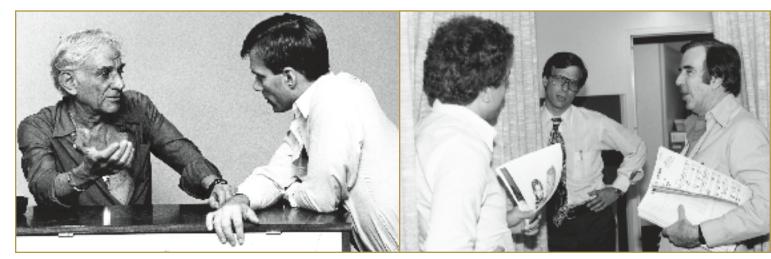
Born on July 13, 1943, Gockley grew up in Wayne, Pennsylvania, a middle-class suburb of Philadelphia. His father, Warren, inspired Gockley's love of sports and competition, but it was his mother, Betty, who created a musical environment for her children: David and his younger sister, Joan. Betty played the piano and the Hammond organ at home, and was especially fond of musical comedy. The family also tuned into *The Voice of Firestone*, a television show that showcased classical and Broadway singers. In the late '50s no one seemed perturbed by the appearance of opera stars on prime time television. Gockley sang in his school chorus and found he had a good voice. Later, during his years at Brown University, Gockley met a pivotal figure in his life, a young associate professor named Erich Kunzel who invited him to join the glee club. Kunzel recognized Gockley as a talented baritone and urged him to listen to more classical music. Gockley was hooked, and even sang an hour-long concert version of Gershwin's Porgy and Bess during the glee club's spring tour. Gockley continued to pursue singing as a professional goal after he graduated. He spent three consecutive summers as an apprentice at the Santa Fe Opera where initially a singing career seemed to beckon. Meanwhile, his life in New York afforded him the opportunity to see just about everything on offer at the Metropolitan Opera and New York City Opera. Gockley recalls being particularly spellbound by the new theatrical work of the NYCO's star directors, Frank Corsaro and Tito Capobianco. Gockley's wife at that time, soprano Patricia Wise, sang regularly with the company. It was a cruel blow when one of Gockley's singing teachers handed down the following verdict: "David, I think you need to take a break from this. A very long break."

A crushing moment for an aspiring artist, yet Gockley managed to survive it. He took a graduate business degree at Columbia University, now setting his sights on a career in arts administration. When an opportunity opened up at the Houston Grand Opera in late 1970, Gockley jumped at the chance, left New York, and drove to Texas to become the business manager at the HGO, then a sleepy, 15-year-old company, modest in size and scope. But on Gockley's watch all that would soon change. The city of Houston was undergoing a massive transformation: it was about to become the petroleum capital of the world, and as its wealth grew so did its desire for social and cultural legitimacy. By 1972, the dynamic Gockley had impressed the HGO board enough to land the top job as general manager. It took a young man's confidence to take risks at the musical frontier, to "enter that risky, seldomtrod road of producing new opera," as Gockley put it then.

Gockley defined his style from the beginning-programming and commissioning new work by American composers-no doubt inspired by what he'd seen and heard at Santa Fe Opera and NYCO. Early on, Gockley commissioned an opera from the composer Carlisle Floyd whose neo-Romantic, musically accessible operas epitomized what Gockley thought of as "audience-friendly." It was the beginning of a long-running collaboration and friendship between the two men, which would result in several key works at HGO: Bilby's Doll (1976), Willie Stark (1981), and Cold Sassy Tree (2000). "I loved the atmosphere in Houston because David created a lot of excitement and interest in the city, and also he raised the level of production markedly so that you would not mistake that company for the one he inherited," recalled Floyd. "One of the things that David contributed to was the elevation of production standards for new operas. That fit right in with his idea that the first production of an American opera should be as well presented as a European opera. And nowadays we take that as a norm."

Significantly, Gockley viewed opera through the lens of "music theater." After all, he had grown up in a broad tradition where a musical

Damian Fowler is the author of the book American Impresario— David Gockley's Life in Opera (Chronicle Books).



David Gockley has presided over world premieres of 45 commissions from the greatest American composers, including (left) Leonard Bernstein's A Quiet Place in 1983 and (right) Carlisle Floyd's Willie Stark in 1981.

god like Leonard Bernstein was lauded for his own musical *West Side Story* as well as his conducting of Mahler. "[David] was part of his own age," said Fredericka Hunter, the longtime owner of the Texas Gallery, and one of Gockley's closest friends. "He'd been a singer himself, loved musicals and opera, and he wasn't a snob." This attitude led to a number of important productions, including Scott Joplin's *Treemonisha* in 1975, which in turn led to a sumptuous production of *Porgy and Bess* in 1976, conducted by the HGO's music director, John DeMain. It was the first time an American opera company had staged the work. After a high-profile run on Broadway, the production toured the United States and Europe, winning a Grammy and a Tony Award. Gockley recognized that his company's production of *Porgy* had become the national and international calling card for Houston Grand Opera. Meanwhile, the checkbooks opened back in Houston. Gockley had created a world-class company.

An important element of this success was Gockley's commitment to American singers. Early on, he worked closely with the young artist agent Matthew Epstein who would help him select and sign up singers for HGO productions, including Catherine Malfitano, Frederica von Stade, Richard Stilwell, and Patricia Wells. And Gockley took this further, teaming up with Carlisle Floyd to create the Houston Opera Studio (later to become the Houston Grand Opera Studio), designed to provide a 40-week educational and professional training program for young singers. It also proved advantageous to the HGO by providing a colony of singers who would perform small roles and understudy the large roles. Over the years, the HGO Studio has created many prestigious alumni, including Joyce DiDonato, Denyce Graves, Ana María Martínez, Eric Owens, and Heidi Stober. "Houston was the place where I really figured myself out as a singer," said DiDonato who attended the HGO Studio from 1996–98. "It was during those years where I found my foundation and my voice as a person and a singer. Without that, I have no doubt that I would definitely not be where I am today."

With momentum on his side, Gockley successfully orchestrated a push to build a new space in the middle of Houston. He insisted on two theaters, one smaller theater for chamber works and a larger one to be modeled to similar proportions as Covent Garden or Munich. The Gus. S. Wortham Theater Center opened on May 9, 1987-a \$72 million center built with entirely private funds-an impresario's dream, perhaps, and, according to Gockley, one of his proudest achievements. The opening of the 1987-88 season showcased the range and ambition of the company with a mix of classic and brandnew. The main event, that traditional standard-bearer for an opening gala, was Verdi's Aida, starring Mirella Freni and Plácido Domingo, with the smaller house offering an innovative take on Mozart's Abduction from the Seraglio. But the talk of the town-indeed, of the opera intelligentsia-was a new work by John Adams called Nixon in China. Directed by Peter Sellars, Adams' propulsive, minimalist work with its unlikely libretto by Alice Goodman proved to be mesmerizing, even if it failed to win over all the critics. Adams credits Gockley for taking a considerable risk on this "crazy idea." "They say that with opera 'anything that can go wrong will.' But perhaps it was David's amused curiosity and his wonderful lightness of touch that allowed Nixon to come into being with a minimum of trouble. I don't recall the usual crisis atmosphere that normally accompanies a premiere," said Adams. "He believed in us and believed in the project." The relation-

"I realized a long time ago that his passions are actually channeled through the opera. He expresses his deepest feelings and emotions through the voices and characters of the opera usually on stage in front of you." —Director Francesca Zambello

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David Gockley with Plácido Domingo in 1987

ship that was forged in the mid-1980s with Adams and Sellars continues to this day.

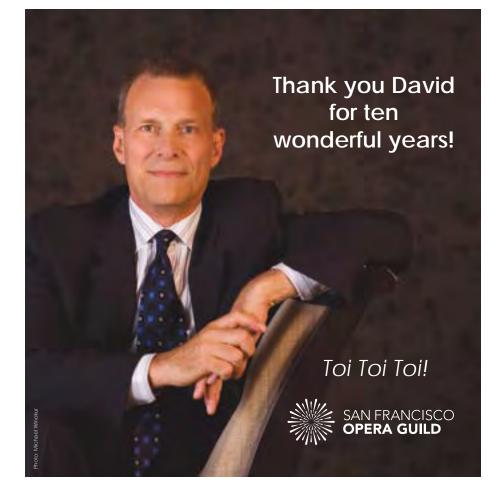
Gockley's commitment to new work, productions, and singers has never waned over the years. From Leonard Bernstein's A *Quiet Place* to Rachel Portman's *The Little Prince*, from Philip Glass' Appomattox to Bright Sheng's upcoming Dream of the Red Chamber, Gockley continues to add to the impressive roster of commissions he started building in the '70s. "He conditioned his audience to expect a new opera every year," said Jake Heggie whose audience-friendly works have long appealed to Gockley. Gockley has commissioned Heggie's *The End of the Affair* and, in a co-commission with Dallas Opera, *Moby-Dick*.

When Gockley arrived in San Francisco to become its sixth general director in 2006, he brought with him this same commitment to the notion of building American opera, the same great ego-interest in the whole production, and the same populist inclinations to keep the core opera audience happy. Many will recall when Gockley made his first local appearance in San Francisco after his appointment was announced in 2005, he wore a San Francisco Giants baseball cap, an amusing sartorial touch that seemed to telegraph his understanding of opera as "a populist form of entertainment," as the writer Joshua Kosman observed in an in-depth San Francisco Chronicle profile. Gockley made good on this implicit promise when he inaugurated Opera at the Ballpark, an outdoor simul-

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FOR YOUR DEDICATION AND SUPPORT OF THE ARTS FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT cast of operas organized in partnership with the San Francisco Giants at their home at AT&T Park. "I think he reinstated the San Francisco Opera into the heart of the city," said Matthew Shilvock. These HD simulcasts from the War Memorial Opera House were made possible by another innovation: a \$4 million in-house video production facility, the Koret/Taube Media Suite—the first of its kind in an American opera house.

Gockley has long maintained his connection to what he calls the "chestnuts" in the canon, the *Butterflys*, *Traviatas*, and *Toscas*, keeping them in the right proportion to the new works on offer. Gockley said it was a goal to reestablish Italian repertory into the San Francisco Opera season (more fully than it had been in prior years), to burnish the great Italian tradition of the company's founder, Gaetano Merola, to connect the present with the past. With the appointment of Music Director Nicola Luisotti in 2009, Gockley signaled a shift in this direction. And the Italian commitment continues this summer with the presentation of Verdi's *Don Carlo*, one of Gockley's favorite operas of all time (he ranks it in his top five), with Maestro Luisotti conducting a stellar international cast.

Over the course of his career, Gockley has managed to balance a necessary rational approach to staging these costly productions with his deep passion for the art form. He understands that opera is "an exotic and irrational entertainment"-citing Samuel Johnson-but that hasn't stopped him from embracing the next opera and another one. So why do it? Gockley's longtime friend and collaborator Francesca Zambello has a theory about what makes the man tick: "I realized a long time ago that his passions are actually channeled through the opera. He expresses his deepest feelings and emotions through the voices and characters of the opera usually on stage in front of you." She may be right. To hear Gockley talk about his experience of producing Berlioz's The Trojans at San Francisco Opera in 2015 is to hear a man mesmerized by the sheer power of



SFJAZZ

opera—"five hours of amazingly emotional experience," he called it. The impresario as opera fan. The mezzo-soprano Susan Graham who headlined in the opera agreed. "It was a harmonic convergence...underpinned all the way by David," she said.

Surely Gockley will miss all of this glorious show business—poring over new librettos, overseeing set designers and stagehands as they create fantastical sets, dealing with demanding divas. Won't he? "I have in my life had the luxury of being able to look forward, had the permanence in my work to continually build on what I've done before without a period of not being involved," said Gockley, as though analyzing his soon-to-be new status for the first time. "I'm concerned about what it will be like not to have this kind of burden, not to have this kind of responsibility, not to have this kind of ego boost when everything goes well and people say to you 'Oh, great production, great show!' To be out of that? I might miss it terribly—although I'm not there yet." 🌐

Clockwise: With Luciano Pavarotti in 1987; Meredith Monk in 1991; Tad Taube at 2015's Opera at the Ballpark; Richard Bonynge and Joan Sutherland in 1986

Right: Philip Glass and David Gockley



WORLD PREMIERES & COMMISSIONS BY DAVID GOCKLEY

San Francisco Opera World Premieres

Dream of the Red Chamber, Bright Sheng and David Henry Hwang, September 2016 Two Women (La Ciociara), Marco Tutino and Fabio Ceresa, 2015 Dolores Claiborne, Tobias Picker and I.D. McClatchy, 2013 The Gospel of Mary Magdalene, Mark Adamo, 2013 The Secret Garden, Nolan Gasser and Carey Harrison, 2013 Heart of a Soldier, Christopher Theofanidis and Donna Di Novelli, 2011 The Bonesetter's Daughter, Stewart Wallace and Amy Tan, 2008 Appomattox, Philip Glass and Christopher Hampton, 2007

Houston Grand Opera World Premieres

Send (who are you? I love you), Michael John LaChiusa, 2006 Strega Nona, Mary Carol Warwick and Mary Ann Pendino, 2006 Lysistrata, or the Nude Goddess, Mark Adamo, 2005 The Princess and the Pea, Mary Carol Warwick and Mary Ann Pendino, 2005 Salsipuedes, a Tale of Love, War and Anchovies, Daniel Catán and Eliseo Alberto / Francisco Hinojosa, 2004 The End of the Affair, Jake Heggie and Heather McDonald, 2004 The Velveteen Rabbit, Mary Carol Warwick and Kate Pogue, 2004 The Little Prince, Rachel Portman and Nicholas Wright, 2003 Sibanda!, Michael Remson, 2003 The Emperor's New Clothes, Mary Carol Warwick and Kate Pogue, 2001 Cold Sassy Tree, Carlisle Floyd, 2000 Resurrection, Tod Machover and

Laura Harrington with additional materials by Braham Murray, 1999

Little Women, Mark Adamo, 1998 Cinderella in Spain/Cinderella en España, Mary Carol Warwick and Kate Pogue, 1998 Jackie O, Michael Daugherty and Wayne Koestenbaum, 1997 Florencia en el Amazonas, Daniel Catán and Marcela Fuentes-Berain, 1996 The Tibetan Book of the Dead, Ricky Ian Gordon and Jean-Claude van Itallie, 1996 Puppy and the Big Guy, Sterling Tinsley and Kate Pogue, 1995 Harvey Milk, Stewart Wallace and Michael Korie, 1995 The Outcast (fully realized version), Noa Ain, 1994 The Dracula Diary, Robert Moran and James Skofield, 1994 TEXAS!, Mary Carol Warwick and Kate Pogue, 1993 The Achilles Heel, Craig Bohmler and Mary Carol Warwick, 1993 Desert of Roses, Robert Moran and Michael John LaChiusa, 1992 ATLAS: an opera in three parts, Meredith Monk, 1991 The Passion of Jonathan Wade (new version), Carlisle Floyd, 1991 New Year, Sir Michael Tippett, 1989 Where's Dick?, Stewart Wallace and Michael Korie, 1989 The Making of the Representative for Planet 8, Philip Glass and Doris Lessing, 1988 Nixon in China, John Adams and Alice Goodman, 1987 A Quiet Place, Leonard Bernstein and Stephen Wadsworth, 1983 Starbird, Henry Mollicone and Kate Pogue, 1980 Willie Stark, Carlisle Floyd, 1981 Bilby's Doll, Carlisle Floyd, 1976 The Seagull, Thomas Pasatieri and

Kenward Elmslie, 1974

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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.**

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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**.

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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.**

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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**.

Carmen: Emily Laurance

Don Carlo: Laura Stanfield Prichard

Jenůfa: Robert Hartwell

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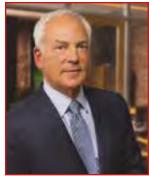
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Koret Foundation (Production Sponsor, Jenůfa)

San Francisco Opera is grateful to the Koret Foundation for its generous financial support of 15 mainstage productions, including *Jenufa*. The Opera is also indebted to the Foundation for helping to bring OperaVision and simulcast programs to broader audiences, and for being the first private foundation funder of Orpheus, San Francisco Opera's next generation initiative. "Koret is proud to continue its partnership with the Opera, and to support their commitment to enriching the Bay Area's cultural landscape through exceptional programming," says Jeffrey A. Farber, Koret CEO.

Bernard and Barbro Osher (Production Sponsors, Jenůfa)

A native of Maine, Bernard Osher became involved with San Francisco Opera as a subscriber nearly fifty years ago, shortly after moving here from New York. He and his wife Barbro, a native of Sweden, have supported every aspect of the Company's work, from artist appearances to production facilities. Established in 1977, The Bernard Osher Foundation has funded virtually every major arts organization in the area, including youth programs. Higher education initiatives include community college support, Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes on 119 campuses nationwide, and Osher Centers for Integrative Medicine at several of the nation's leading teaching hospitals, and at the Karolinska institute in Stockholm, Sweden. Bernard is a longstanding member of the Opera's Board of Directors, serving on the Chairman's Council. Barbro is Honorary



Consul General of Sweden in San Francisco, and serves as Chairman of the Board of the Osher Foundation.



Dianne and Tad Taube (Production Sponsors, Jenůfa)

"Tad and I are pleased to support San Francisco Opera's production of *Jenůfa* featuring the Company debut of Malin Byström in the title role, and the incomparable Karita Mattila making her role debut as one of the most vivid characters (Kostelnička) in all of opera" says Dianne Taube, a San Francisco Opera Board member since 2003. In partnership with the Koret Foundation, Dianne and Tad provided lead funding for the Opera's Koret/Taube Media Suite, the first permanent high-definition, broadcast-standard facility installed in an American opera house. The Taubes are active philanthropists, providing significant cultural support to the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews (Warsaw); the Exploratorium; San Francisco Symphony; the San Francisco Zoo; and numerous academic institutions including Stanford University, the University of

California, and the University of San Francisco. San Francisco Opera is deeply grateful to Dianne and Tad for their generous financial support of 15 mainstage productions, and for supporting the Diane B. Wilsey Center for Opera through their naming of the Atrium Theater.

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Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem/Conductors Fund, Great Interpreters of Italian Opera Fund, and Emerging Stars Fund (Sponsors, Maestro Montanaro and Brian Jagde, Carmen; Malin Byström, Jenůfa; Maestro Luisotti, Don Carlo)

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 the renewal of another generous



three-year commitment, Jan and Maria have expanded their support of opera artists through the establishment of two new funds in addition to the Great Interpreters of Italian Opera Fund. The Conductors Fund will help ensure the continued appearances of Maestro Nicola Luisotti and other Italian conductors, and the Emerging Stars Fund will help bring rising young talents to the stage.



Joan and David Traitel/Great Singers Fund

(Sponsors, Ana María Martínez and Mariusz Kwiecien, Don Carlo; Karita Mattila, Jenůfa) "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 to attract the world's best 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 2015–16 Season, Joan explains, "There are so many! Karita Mattila, Ana

María Martínez, and Mariusz Kwiecien will each bring their own special brand of musical beauty and artistry and dynamic stage presence to these productions. We are so pleased that the Fund can enable their appearance. 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."

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Edmund W. and Jeannik Méquet Littlefield Fund (Production Sponsor, *Don Carlo*)

San Francisco Opera lost a beloved champion in May 2013, with the passing of Jeannik Méquet Littlefield. As Board member, donor and subscriber, Mrs. Littlefield provided distinguished support and leadership for decades. The Littlefield name has become especially familiar to opera fans since she made her historic commitment to San Francisco Opera in October 2006. The announcement from the stage about her gift of \$35 million is a vivid memory for those in the audience, not to mention the standing ovation led by the opera orchestra. The creation of the Edmund W. and Jeannik Méquet Littlefield Endowment Fund provided a permanent source of income for the Company and a legacy of support for generations to come. Mrs. Littlefield once related a story of

how her life-long passion for opera began. "Opera was very popular in France when I was growing up, and my father often hummed the melodies. I liked opera even before I saw a production—I was just crazy about it!" Verdi's *Don Carlo* is firmly rooted in the 19th-century French culture so dear to her, in its glorious music and tragic subject based on important events in the history of France. The Littlefield family is delighted to support *Don Carlo*—their 20th production since 2002—as part of their Company Sponsorship.

Thomas* and Barbara Wolfe (Production Sponsor, Don Carlo)

Along with her late husband Tom, Barbara Wolfe has been a long time opera fan and supporter of the San Francisco Opera since 1985. Mozart, operas in the classical Italian tradition, and the works of Wagner are particular favorites. The Wolfes have sponsored many San Francisco productions, including *Tannhäuser, Tristan und Isolde, The Magic Flute, Mefistofele,* and *Norma*.

Barbara is a Trustee of Mills College and serves of the board of the San Francisco Opera Association. Through their private foundation and personally, the Wolfes have supported educational programs and scholarships at several primary and secondary schools, graduate scholarship programs at Mills College, UC Davis Veterinary School, The UCSF Foundation, and the ARCS program in Northern California.



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2016 REPERTORY

CARMEN

Georges Bizet May 27, 28, 29, 31; June 1, 17, 23, 26, 30; July 2, 3 Production made possible by John A. & Cynthia Fry Gunn

DON CARLO

Giuseppe Verdi

June 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 29 Production made possible, in part, by John A. & Cynthia Fry Gunn, Edmund W. and Jeannik Méquet Littlefield Fund, Leslie & George Hume, Thomas* & Barbara Wolfe

JENŮFA

Leoš Janáček

June 14, 19, 22, 25, 28; July 1 Production made possible, in part, by The Bernard Osher Endowment Fund, Koret Foundation, Dianne & Tad Taube, The Thomas Tilton Production Fund

ANDREA CHÉNIER

Umberto Giordano

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Music by Bright Sheng Libretto by David Henry Hwang and Bright Sheng September 10, 13, 18, 23, 27, 29

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THE MAKROPULOS CASE

Leoš Janáček October 14, 18, 23, 26, 29 Production made possible, in part, by The Bernard Osher Endowment Fund and The Thomas Tilton Production Fund

AIDA

Giuseppe Verdi November 5, 8, 11, 14, 17, 20, 23, 27, 30; December 3, 6 Production made possible, in part, by John A. & Cynthia Fry Gunn, the San Francisco Opera Guild, Chevron

MADAME BUTTERFLY Giacomo Puccini

November 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 22, 26, 29; December 1, 4 Production made possible, in part, by the Burgess & Elizabeth Jamieson Fund

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All performances feature English supertitles. Repertoire, casts, dates, and ticket pricing are subject to change.

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Leoš Janáček JENÚFA

SAN FRANCISCO OPERA

David Gockley, General Director

Nicola Luisotti, Music Director Caroline H. Hume Endowed Chair *Jenůfa* is made possible, in part, by The Bernard Osher Endowment Fund, Koret Foundation, Dianne & Tad Taube, and The Thomas Tilton Production Fund.

Ms. Byström's appearance is made possible by the Jan Shrem & Maria Manetti Shrem Emerging Stars Fund.

Ms. Mattila's appearance is made possible by a gift to the Great Singers Fund from Joan & David Traitel.

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JENŮFA

ACT I

In a quiet Moravian village, Jenůfa waits anxiously to hear if her beloved Števa is to be drafted, for she is carrying his child. Števa's stepbrother, Laca, secretly loves Jenůfa but tries to hide his feelings by making offensive comments about her to his grandmother—who owns the nearby mill—and to the mill's foreman. The shepherd boy Jano enters and thanks Jenůfa for teaching him to read. Števa is free of military duty, and he staggers in with a boisterous crowd, breaking into a rowdy dance. Jenůfa is distraught over Števa's cavalier attitude.

The noise incurs the displeasure of Jenůfa's stepmother, Kostelnička. She is a stern widow with considerable moral authority and is the church's sacristan. Remembering her own drunken husband, she tells Števa he can marry Jenůfa only after a year of sobriety. Grandmother Buryjovka sends everybody away, leaving Števa alone with Jenůfa. He is petulant at her plea for marriage. After he leaves, Laca returns, quarreling with Jenůfa. Torn between love and jealousy, he slashes her cheek with a knife. She runs into the house, and the foreman accuses Laca of defacing Jenůfa.

ACT II

While everyone thinks she is in Vienna working as a servant, Jenůfa has remained hidden at home and given birth to a boy. Her proud stepmother cannot bear the shame and has sent secretly for Števa. After giving Jenůfa sleeping medicine, Kostelnička tells Števa about the baby and begs him to wed Jenůfa and claim his son. But he refuses to take a disfigured bride and is engaged to Karolka, the mayor's daughter. Jenůfa's distraught stepmother turns to Laca who is eager to marry the girl, but he is so shocked about the baby that Kostelnička pretends it is dead. Needing to validate her claim, she takes the child and heads for the frozen millstream.

When Jenůfa wakes, she prays for her child, but her stepmother tells her she has been in a coma for two days, during which time the baby died. She also tells her about Števa's coming marriage. Laca returns, offering marriage to Jenůfa, who reminds him she has neither wealth nor honor. Conquered by grief, she agrees to become his wife.

ACT III

It is two months later and Jenůfa is about to marry Laca. Among the guests are the mayor and his wife and Števa with his coquettish fiancée, Karolka. Barena and some other girls arrive with flowers, and Grandmother Buryjovka blesses the couple. Suddenly, Jano runs in to say a drowned baby has been found in the thawing millstream. Kostelnička becomes hysterical, while Jenůfa identifies the body as that of her child. Everyone now turns on Jenůfa, but Laca defends her, and her stepmother's confession abruptly ends the mystery. Before Kostelnička is led away, Jenůfa forgives her, and offers Laca his freedom. The couple, now in love, resolves to start a new life together.

First performance: Brno, National Theatre; January 21, 1904

First performance in the United States: New York, Metropolitan Opera; December 6, 1924

First San Francisco Opera performance: November 21, 1969

Jenůfa has been performed in four previous seasons at San Francisco Opera. For complete information on all past casts, visit **archive.sfopera.com.**

Personnel: 12 principals, 48 choristers; 60 total

Orchestra: 3 flutes (one doubling piccolo), 3 oboes (1 doubling English horn), 3 clarinets (1 doubling bass clarinet), 3 bassoons (1 doubling contrabassoon), 4 horns, 2 trumpets, 1 piccolo trumpet, 3 trombones, 1 tuba, 1 timpani, 1 percussion, 1 harp; Regular (40) strings (12 first violins, 9 second violins, 7 violas, 7 cellos, 5 basses); **66 total**

Opera in three acts by **Leoš Janáček** Libretto by the composer Based on a play by **Gabriela Preissová**



(Sung in Czech with English supertitles)

Conductor Jiří Bělohlávek Director Olivier Tambosi **Production Designer** Frank Philipp Schlössmann Lighting Designer Gary Marder Chorus Director Ian Robertson Dance Master Lawrence Pech Fight Director **Dave Maier** Assistant Conductor Joseph Marcheso **Musical Preparation** Marie-France Lefebvre Maureen Zoltek **Curt Pajer** John Churchwell Fabrizio Corona Prompter Matthew Piatt Diction Radoslava Biancalana Supertitles Yveta Synek Graff Assistant Director Stephanie Havey Stage Manager Lisa-Marie Shuster Costume Supervisor Kristi Johnson Wig and Makeup Jeanna Parham A production of Hamburg State Opera

TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 2016 AT 7:30 PM SUNDAY, JUNE 19 AT 2 PM WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22 AT 7:30 PM SATURDAY, JUNE 25 AT 7:30 PM TUESDAY, JUNE 28 AT 7:30 PM FRIDAY, JULY 1 AT 7:30 PM **CAST** (in order of appearance)

Grandmother Buryjovka Jenůfa Laca Klemeň Jano Foreman at the mill Kostelnička Buryjovka Števa Buryja Barena The maid The mayor of the village The mayor's wife Karolka A woman's voice A man's voice Kostelnička's aunt

Jill Grove Malin Byström* William Burden Sarah Tucker* Matthew Stump† Karita Mattila Scott Quinn* Toni Marie Palmertree† Laura Krumm Anthony Reed† Zanda Švēde† Julie Adams† Angela Moser Torlef Borsting Buffy Baggott

Recruits and villagers

*San Francisco Opera debut

†Current Adler Fellow

TIME AND PLACE: Late nineteenth-century Moravia

ACT I: At the Buryja mill

-INTERMISSION-

ACT II: Kostelnička's home, five months later

-INTERMISSION

ACT III: Kostelnička's home, two months later

Latecomers will not be seated during the performance after the lights have dimmed. Patrons who leave during the performance will not be re-seated until intermission. 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 two hours and fifty-five minutes.

From Village to World: Leoš Janáček's

Rooted in the Moravian countryside, the small villages, farms, and streams of Janáček's native land, Jenůfa embraces the universal themes of forgiveness and redemption. It is the Czech composer's first and, arguably, greatest masterpiece.

"The Mill Stream" by Fritz Thaulow (1847–1906)

tart with the lay of the land. Encompassed in the Austro-Hungarian Empire's wide borders in the years before the Great War are people of many bloodlines. Some are satisfied with Hapsburg rule, others hate it. Here, in the heart of Europe, we find the three Czech territories. Largest is Bohemia, with its capital, Prague. Immediately south of Bohemia and three-quarters its size lies Moravia; its provincial capital is Brno. To the northeast is Silesia, with mixed cultural allegiances, Moravian among them. It was in Moravian Silesia that Leoš Janáček was born in 1854, in the village of Hukvaldy, where his father taught in a one-room school. Throughout his life, until he died in 1928, Janáček filled his music with Moravia's essences. Its folk tunes and dialects drench his work, all but infusing it with the fragrances of its countryside—the spice of mown hay, the pungent dollops mounded on its roads. Janáček arrived at fame late but captured it with music unlike any other, music that discovers the profundities inherent in simplicities, and in the people shaped by the soil. These are the people of his first great hit and greatest opera, *Jenůfa*.

20

Hukvaldy's coordinates place it over two hundred miles southeast of Prague and a hundred miles northeast of Brno, distances that in those days only the most ambitious of townsfolk dreamt of covering. Leoš's father understood that his son's gift for music needed to escape village boundaries. So the eleven-year-old boy journeyed to Brno to begin formal musical training at the Queen's Monastery, where an endowment enabled children of poor families to study. His education never stopped. It turned into a search for ways to capture what he called *truth*.

We sometimes think of Janáček as a provincial composer who spent his career outside the Western European mainstream. Yet his training included stints at the conservatories in Leipzig and Vienna. He kept abreast of the wider music world in a way that his countryman Antonín Dvořák, whom he knew and revered, never did, to say nothing of Bedřich Smetana, whose work Janáček found too Czech, insisting that he himself wished to create a music representative of all the Slavs. As conductor Jaroslav Vogel points out in his biography of the composer, Janáček believed "the old Moravian folk music was closest to this ideal."

Janáček came of age during a period of intense Czech nationalism, when Prague was a city of two languages, where the upper middle classes spoke German with their peers and Czech to the servants. Fluent in German, Janáček nonetheless hated what it symbolized, the rule emanating from Vienna. He may have surprised even himself when he fell for the daughter of a prominent Czech-German family, Zdenka Schulzová, eleven years his junior, a lady to his tramp. For all the ardor of Janáček's courtship, their marriage soon disintegrated into an on-again, off-again union marred by the willful misunderstandings and eagerly dispensed



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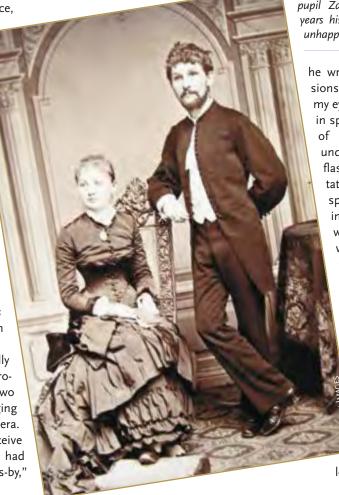
friendly

Proud to be the Official Airline of the San Francisco Opera. fly the friendly skies cruelties signaling the end of love. The birth of their daughter Olga in 1882 was followed by a divorce,

an annulment of the divorce two years later, and, in 1888, the birth of a son, Vladimir.

Through these years Janáček was a teacher first, a composer in his spare time. Because he was both musician and patriot, he was led inevitably to the music of the people he championed. Starting in 1886, Janáček made his first ethnographic studies, visiting Moravian villages and notating the songs and melodies he found. "Song is not only something of beauty and delight," he said, "but something from which we are to learn the truth of life." He took special note of the fact that, as Mirka Zemanová says (in her study Janáček: A Composer's Life), "the melodic shape of [Moravian folk songs] is dictated by the words."

Finding tunes in words seems hardly a discovery, but Janáček discerned a profound relationship between these two modes of communication, both emerging from the body's depths, from the viscera. This understanding led him to conceive what he called "speech melody." "I had been listening to the speech of passers-by,"



On July 13, 1881 in Brno, Janáček married his pupil Zdenka Schulzová who was eleven years his junior. It proved to be a mostly unhappy marriage.

he wrote later, "reading the expressions on their faces, following with my eye every raised voice.... I felt that in speech melodies there were lines of inner growth, kept secret. I understood from them sorrow or a flash of joy, determination or hesitation...." He maintained that speech melodies, including the intonations a speaker gives a word, or the rhythm with which a word is spoken, "are the expression of the whole state of the organism." As New-Age goofy as this may sound, Janáček's studies of speech melody led him to treat the vocal line as no composer had done. "Speech motifs are my windows into the soul."

> With a commitment to folk music and a theory of how speech and music could reinforce each other, Janáček invented an intellectual basis for his art. Two

Chree Jenufas

Starting in 1895, Janáček labored on Act I of *Jenůfa* for two years, then set the opera aside. He returned to it late in 1901 and completed the score on January 18, 1903. The work made a sensation at its premiere in Brno's National Theatre on January 21, 1904 (although the house orchestra lacked flutes, harp, bass clarinet, and English horn). Even after a 1908 revision, *Jenůfa* was denied stage time at Prague's National Theatre until 1916—not because Prague dismissed Moravia as a backwater (as Janáček believed), but because Karel Kovařovic, Prague's house director, nursed a grudge. In 1887, in one of his deftly worded reviews, Janáček had savaged Kovařovic's opera *The Bridegroom*. Only after the two men reconciled did *Jenůfa* play in Prague, and to huge acclaim. But that 1916 version included Kovařovic's cuts and re-orchestrations. In 1996, conductor Sir Charles Mackerras (San Francisco Opera Principal Guest Conductor from 1993 to 1996) and musicologist John Tyrrell published an edition of the 1908 revision, reflecting the composer's own final work on the opera. The Mackerras/Tyrrell edition, today the standard performing version of *Jenůfa*, is presented here.



Jenůfa is also known by its original title Její pastorkyňa (Her Stepdaughter).



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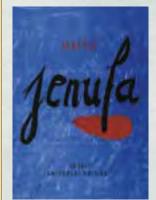


Chronology of Leoš Janáček and Czech History

1853 Publication of Karel Jaromír Erben's collection of Czech folk stories



- 1854 Janáček born in the village of Hukvaldy (Moravian Silesia)
- 1865 Starts as a choirboy at Brno monastery
- 1866 Premiere of Bedřich Smetana's A Bartered Bride
- 1880 Engaged to Zdenka Schulzová, begins position at Brno's Teachers' Institute
- 1881 Becomes director of the Brno Organ School; National Theatre opens in Prague
 1882 Birth of daughter Olga
- **1884** Founds the musical journal Hudební listy; opening of the Brno Provisional Theatre
- 1886 Makes his first ethnographic studies in Moravian villages
- 1890 Death of two-year-old son Vladimir
- 1894 Premiere of the one-act opera The Beginning of a Romance; Czech Philharmonic founded



- 1895 Begins work on his third opera *Jenůfa*
- 1903 Death of Olga
- **1904 Premiere of Jenůfa in Brno;** death of Antonín Dvořák
- 1916 Successful debut of Jenůfa in Prague
- 1917 Meets his new muse, 26-year-old Kamila Stösslová
- 1918 Foundation of Czechoslovak Republic
- 1921 Káťa Kabanová premiere
- 1924 Premiere of The Cunning Little Vixen
- 1926 The Makropulos Case premiere
- 1928 Painter Alfons Mucha bestows his Slav Epic to the city of Prague; Janáček dies in Ostrava at age 74



Olga Janáčková

Kamila Stösslová with her son Otto



From the 1969 San Francisco Opera premiere of Jenůfa: Felicia Weathers as Jenůfa; Glade Peterson as Laca Klemeň; and Irene Dalis as Kostelnička Buryjovka with members of the San Francisco Opera Chorus

operas served as studies for something greater. First came *Šárka*, then *The Beginning of a Romance*. Neither captured much attention. In 1895, at forty-one, Janáček enjoyed little fame beyond Moravia. But that year he began work on a third opera, the greater thing that those first two stage works helped prepare. This new opera was *Jenůfa*. It would carry his name far beyond Czech borders.

Actually it was not called Jenůfa, but rather Její pastorkyňa, after the play by Gabriela Preissová on which Janáček based his libretto. Její pastorkyňa—literally, Her Stepdaughter. Max Brod called the work Jenůfa in his German translation, and Jenůfa stuck in Englishspeaking countries. Yet in relieving the opera of its inert original title, Brod obscured that title's truth. For Her Stepdaughter is apt. Jenůfa is a story of two women, the one to whom that pronoun her refers, and the other the stepdaughter, Jenůfa herself. The her is the Kostelnička—that is, the village sacristan. In keeping with that churchly office, Janáček's Kostelnička is a serious woman. An aging widow when we meet her, we gather her life has included just a single amorous chapter, marriage to a violent drunkard. We know her only by her title; her name remains unspoken, like that of a malign spirit. She wears her sour disposition as a badge and has little patience for men, especially those who, like her stepdaughter Jenůfa's boyfriend Števa, refuse to bid their adolescence farewell.

Artists are admonished to treat subjects they know. *Jenůfa*'s characters are lifted from Janáček's boyhood milieu: village folk whose aspirations are limited by circumstances and who understand how ready their neighbors are to judge them. Janáček also brought a more tragic first-hand knowledge to this opera, enabling him to sympathize with his bereft heroine. His son had died at two and a half. His daughter, only twenty, died a month after *Jenůfa* was complete. Janáček said he would bind his score "with the black ribbon of the long illness, pain and cries of my daughter Olga and my little boy Vladimir." In *Jenůfa*, he continued, "I have painted in black on black: gloomy music—such as was my own spirit."

Not such gloomy sounds as one might expect. For all its bite, this music is filled with compassion, though never with sentimentality. Here, writes Zemanová, "speech melodies and folk music influences merged into a style which has no analogy in Western European music."

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This opera, part verismo and not at all grand, lacks arias and set pieces. Its orchestra is restrained, breaking out occasionally with overwhelming results, as in the last hammering chords of Act II, those blows spaced just far enough apart to make us scream for the resolution Janáček withholds until the final exclamation mark. In *Jenůfa*'s lines you will find more angles than curves. But although this score brims with stabbing rhythms (predating *The Rite of Spring* by almost a decade), it has more than its share of melodic beauty. The music flows rhapsodically and the action is cinematic, unfolding as though in a single take.

The music is a tissue derived from speech, and just as no phrase in conversation is ever repeated with the same intonation or stress, Janáček's speech motifs do not repeat or even develop so much as they metamorphose. This weaves a tightly knit web of almost subliminal correspondences, allowing us to orient ourselves within the musical context without knowing exactly why. A few examples: Jenufa's Act II prayer is essentially a continuation of the music in which she addressed her baby son thirty minutes earlier. When the Kostelnička pleads with Števa to acknowledge his child, she foreshadows Jenufa's prayer, especially the words, "Jesus, the fruit of your womb." Learning that her child has died, Jenufa expresses her sorrow and acceptance in a vocal line anticipating Laca's Act III reconciliation with Števa. Toward the opening of Act III, as Jenufa tells Laca he deserves a more worthy wife, the orchestra briefly suggests the harmony and phrase that will play so prominent a role in the epilogue, when the lovers pledge themselves to each other. As in life, all is bound together.

Jenůfa, says Vogel, "is passion itself." Passion drives each plot acceleration—Jenůfa's pregnancy, the Kostelnička's refusal to allow her stepdaughter's marriage until Števa proves he can stay sober, the thrust of Laca's knife across Jenůfa's cheek, the baby's murder. But passion and love often blend badly. At the end, passion subsides and love remains. Although Jenůfa has addressed her prayers to the Blessed Virgin from start to finish, it is human love that saves Jenůfa's two women. The Kostelnička will not sacrifice her stepdaughter to the villagers who believe Jenůfa has murdered her child. At last, the stepmother understands the extent of her self-absorption and where it has led, and she confesses to the murder. Now Jenůfa broadens her heart in forgiveness, weary of misunderstandings that isolate and that can kill. This tale rooted in the Moravian countryside expands to encompass the world.

Epilogue. Jenůfa and Laca alone. Never have their nerve endings been more exposed. She prepares to free Laca of any responsibility he may feel for her. Laca wants none of that and matches Jenůfa's generosity with his own. They exchange words—call them vows—over a sighing orchestral line full of nostalgia and promise. That music reveals a future. Jenůfa and Laca will look back on this moment, the start of their life together. "What do we care about the world, if we have each other?" Laca asks. But the world awaits them. Assured of that much, we watch the curtain fall.

Larry Rothe is author of the San Francisco Symphony history Music for a City, Music for the World and co-author of For the Love of Music.

More about Janáček and Jenůfa

Books

Leoš Janáček, *Janáček's Uncollected Essays on Music.* Selected, edited, and translated by Mirka Zemanová (Marion Boyars). An eclectic collection of Janáček's superb writing.

Jaroslav Vogel, *Leoš Janáček: A Biography.* Revised and edited by Karel Janovicky, translated by Geraldine Thomsen-Muchová (Norton). A classic though not especially appealing study, occasionally marred by an inclination to hagiography.

Hans Hollander, *Janáček: His Life and Work*. Translated by Paul Hamburger (John Calder). A loving, perceptive appreciation by an associate of the composer.

Mirka Zemanová, Janáček: A Composer's Life (Northeastern University Press). Engaging and straightforward.

Recording

Jenůfa (Erato). Karita Mattila's Jenůfa displays the title character's full range, from susceptibility to strength; Anja Silja is the tortured Kostelnička. Bernard Haitink conducts the Chorus and Orchestra of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden.

Videos

Jenůfa (Kultur Video). From the 1989 Glyndebourne Festival production, this for-the-most-part realistic staging by Nikolaus Lehnhoff features two wonderful principals, Roberta Alexander in the title role and Anja Silja as the Kostelnička. Andrew Davis conducts the London Philharmonic and the Glyndebourne Chorus.

Jenůfa (Opus Arte). Although some of Stéphane Braunschweig's minimalist staging is controversial, the cast includes no weak link, starting with Amanda Roocroft as a touchingly vulnerable Jenůfa and Deborah Polaski as a deeply disturbing Kostelnička. Miroslav Dvorský is a convincing Laca, and Nikolai Schukoff's Števa is equal parts scoundrel and weakling. Ivor Bolton conducts the Orchestra and Chorus of Madrid's Teatro Real.

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SHENG AND HWANG Dream of the Red Chamber

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DONIZETTI **Don Pasquale**

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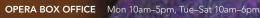


Photo: San Francisco Opera production of Rigoletto/Cory Weave



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NICOLA LUISOTTI Music Director

CONDUCTOR'S NOTE BY JIRÍ BĚLOHLÁVEK

Audiences and musicians have fond memories of the last time maestro Jiří Bělohlávek appeared with the San Francisco Opera, leading the Company's triumphant 2010 production of Leoš Janáček's Makropulos Case. The current music director of the Czech Philharmonic, Bělohlávek has long championed Janáček's music and has earned acclaim and plaudits around the world for his interpretations and recordings of diverse repertoire.

What makes Janáček's music so distinctly Czech?

I think we could say that everything is very Czech in Janáček's music. He was in his early years strongly involved in the research of folk music, Moravian and Slavic music particularly. At the same time he was mesmerized by the fact that spoken language has a melodic line. He had an excellent ear, so he was able to catch very subtle details of the melodic lines of speech. Through the years of observing this phenomenon so closely, he was able to transform it into his own musical language. That's what makes him absolutely unique, incomparable with anyone else. His musical vocabulary also incorporates the elements of Czech dances and folk music, yet very seldom does he use actual folk song in his composition. He's just taking the characteristic features of it and transforms them into his own melodic lines.

But didn't other Czech composers such as Dvořák and Smetana incorporate folk music?

Yes, of course, but Dvořák and Smetana were still working in the model of Romanticism. Janáček's music is way ahead, completely unlike Romanticism or verismo. His is a very specific style which we still perceive today as very contemporary despite it being a hundred years old. Actually, the good proof of how unique his style was is the fact that despite Janáček having a composers' school in his hometown of Brno, and he had a lot of pupils, no one has continued his path. It was impossible.

Jenůfa was Janáček's third opera and his breakthrough work. What makes this particular opera so different from the ones that came before?

I think in *Jenůfa*, Janáček was for the first time in full mastery of his own compositional style. The whole dramatic development, especially in the second act, is built on his composing method: melodic lines based on the natural rhythms of the Czech language, as well as his use of *sčasovka* in the orchestra. *Sčasovka* was Janáček's term for repeating rhythmic patterns, quasi ostinatos that create some of the music's harmonic underpinning. Sir Charles Mackerras, Janáček's great advocate, used to say that Janáček was actually the first minimalist. The root is already there.

Janáček's librettos are astonishingly different from one another in subject matter and atmosphere. But one common thread (with the exception of *From the House of the Dead*) are strong women protagonists, such as Jenůfa, Káťa Kabanová and Emilia Marty.

Yes. Tortured and suffering women, in particular. When composing *Jenůfa*, Janáček was strongly influenced by the fatal suffering of his daughter Olga. [She died in 1903 from typhoid complications at age 20.] Her death was for Janáček's soul a shaking pain. He was devastated. This merciless infliction was a very powerful scar in his life, but at the same time a strong source of inspiration. The suffering of his daughter became Jenúfa's, and Janáček dedicated *Jenůfa* to her memory.

Do you have any favorite musical moments in Jenůfa?

From the very first note to the end! The whole structure of the opera, the architecture is masterly done. Of course, there are extremely strong individual moments as well. I love the final duet between Jenufa and Laca very much. It's a smile over the tears. It's incredibly, wonderfully simple; the harmonies are not very complicated. It's really just pure emotion and tenderness. And, of course, the Kostelnička monologue in the second act is an extremely powerful and dramatic piece of music.

Some have described Janáček's music as cinematic.

What does "cinematic" mean? Personally, as an aside, I hate the idea of pairing pictures to music. Half a year ago we gave a concert with the Czech Philharmonic for our sponsor, and we had a special request of using video projections to accompany the music, what was called "video mapping." Of course, visual artists can create really wonderful, beautiful pictures, but unfortunately those ones have had nothing to do with the music we were playing. It was really distracting.

Nowadays there is a strong tendency to visualize everything. I'm a very strong opponent to all this. I'm concerned by anything that takes people from the listening; people are losing the tender abilities to distinguish subtle details, and I'm convinced that the music has to be listened to—not talked about, and for sure not to be explained through visuals!

What advice would you give opera-goers hearing *Jenufa* for the first time?

This is music that speaks directly to the soul—that is Janáček's genius—and the only condition is to come with open ears and an open heart. My only encouragement is listen, listen, listen.



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ARTIST PROFILES



JIŘÍ BĚLOHLÁVEK (Prague, Czech Republic) Conductor Conductor laureate of the BBC Symphony Orchestra, Jiří Bělohlávek made his San Francisco

Opera debut with the Company's 2010 production of Janáček's The Makropulos Case. In 2012, he was named music director and artistic director of the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, with whom he has recorded extensively for Chandos Records, and he has served as principal guest conductor of the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra since 2013. He appears regularly with major orchestras, including the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, Vienna Symphony, Philharmonia Orchestra, London Philharmonic, and Tokyo's NHK Symphony. In North America, he conducts the symphony orchestras of San Francisco, Washington D.C., St. Louis, Montreal, and Minnesota. Career highlights include conducting Káťa Kabanová, Jenůfa, Eugene Onegin, and Rusalka at the Metropolitan Opera; Rusalka, The Bartered Bride, and Martinu's Julietta at Paris Opéra; Eugene Onegin at Royal Opera, Covent Garden; Tristan und Isolde and Rusalka at the Glyndebourne Festival; The Queen of Spades at Zurich Opera; and Rusalka at the Vienna State Opera. He is scheduled to conduct The Makropulos Case this summer at the BBC Proms.



MALIN BYSTRÖM

(Helsingborg, Sweden) Jenůfa Malin Byström makes her San Francisco Opera and role debuts as Jenůfa. In recent seasons, the

Swedish soprano has sung the title role of *Arabella* at the Metropolitan Opera; Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni* at the Salzburg Festival and at the Royal Opera, Covent Garden; Marguerite in *Faust* at the Metropolitan Opera and Covent Garden; Fiordiligi in *Così fan tutte* at Baverian State Opera and Covent Garden; Elettra in *Idomeneo* at Covent Garden and the Drottningholm Court Theatre; and Mathilde in *Guillaume Tell* in concerts under the baton of Antonio Pappano with Orchestra dell'Academia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia in Rome and at BBC Proms in London. She has sung Donna Anna with René Jacobs in Baden-Baden (released on DVD), in Leipzig, Göteborg, and at Amsterdam's Concertgebouw. This fall, she is scheduled to sing Donna Anna and Donna Elvira in *Don Giovanni* at the Metropolitan Opera.



KARITA MATTILA (Perniö, Finland) Kostelnička Buryjovka Finnish soprano Karita Mattila is making her staged role debut as Kostelnička. Her San Francisco Opera

debut was as Ilia in the 1989 production of Idomeneo and subsequently she has appeared with the Company as Eva in Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg, in her role debut as Elsa in Lohengrin, and in the title roles of Kát'a Kabanová and Manon Lescaut. Her most recent appearance with the Company was as Emilia Marty in The Makropulos Case in 2010. Mattila has sung the title role of Jenufa at the Metropolitan Opera, Hamburg State Opera, Finnish National Opera, and Bavarian State Opera; Lisa in The Queen of Spades, Leonore in Fidelio, Tatyana in Eugene Onegin, Chrysothemis in Elektra, and the title roles of Salome and Tosca at the Metropolitan Opera; Elisabeth in Don Carlos and the title role of Arabella at the Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris: and Amelia in Un Ballo in Maschera, Marie in Wozzeck, and the title role of Ariadne auf Naxos at the Royal Opera, Covent Garden. In 2010, Mattila starred in the world premiere of Emilie du Châtelet by Kaija Saariaho at the Opéra National de Lyon. She will appear as Kostelnička at the Metropolitan Opera this fall.

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WILLIAM BURDEN (Miami, Florida) Laca Klemeň Tenor William Burden returns to San Francisco Opera following his appearances in the

world premieres of

The Gospel of Mary Magdalene and Heart of a Soldier. His repertoire includes the

title roles of Les Contes d'Hoffmann, Faust, Pelléas et Mélisande, The Rake's Progress, Roméo et Juliette, Béatrice and Bénédict, Candide, and Acis and Galatea; Captain Vere in Billy Budd, Aschenbach in Death in Venice, Don José in Carmen, Pylade in Iphigénie en Tauride, Gerald in Lakmé, Edgardo in Lucia di Lammermoor, Nemorino in L'Elisir d'Amore, Nerone in L'incoronazione di Poppea, Ferrando in Cosi fan tutte, Narraboth in Salome,



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and Lensky in *Eugene Onegin*. This past season, Burden made his role debut at the Washington National Opera as Loge in *Das Rheingold* and returned to the Lyric Opera of Chicago for the world premiere of Jimmy López's *Bel Canto*. Burden's recordings include Beethoven's Symphony No. 9 with Michael Tilson Thomas and the San Francisco Symphony (SFS Media) and *Musique adorable: The Songs of Emmanuel Chabrier* (Hyperion).



SCOTT QUINN (Marshall, Texas) Števa Buryja Making his San Francisco Opera debut as Števa Buryja in *Jenůfa*, tenor Scott Quinn also debuted this past season

with Danish National Opera and Arizona Opera. Recently he performed the role of Alfredo in *La Traviata* at the Lyric Opera of Kansas City, the Duke of Mantua in Rigoletto at Atlanta Opera, Pirelli in Sweeney Todd at Houston Grand Opera, Lt. B.F. Pinkerton in Madama Butterfly at Chautauqua Opera, and Ferrando in Così fan tutte at Fort Worth Opera. After completing his final year as a member of the Houston Grand Opera Studio, Quinn sang Alfred in Die Fledermaus, Mr. Erlanson in A Little Night Music, and Borsa in Rigoletto. He is also a former artist in residence at the Dallas Opera where his roles included Tybalt in Roméo et Juliette, Roderigo in Otello, and Lord Cecil in Roberto Devereaux. A former participant in the Merola Opera Program, Quinn is scheduled to appear next season as Albert Gregor in San Francisco Opera's production of The Makropulos Case.



JILL GROVE (San Antonio, Texas) Grandmother Buryjovka This past season, mezzo-soprano Jill Grove made returns to Houston Grand Opera as

Ježibaba in *Rusalka*, the Lyric Opera of Chicago as Margret in *Wozzeck*, and Pittsburgh Opera as Baba the Turk

in The Rake's Progress. Other recent appearances include Klytaemnestra in Elektra at Michigan Opera Theatre and Ježibaba at New Orleans Opera. Grove is a frequent guest at the Lyric Opera of Chicago where she has also sung the Witch in Hansel und Gretel, Die Amme in Die Frau ohne Schatten, Amneris in Aida, Erda in Götterdämmerung, and Countess Geschwitz in Lulu. At the Metropolitan Opera, her performances include Erda in *Götterdämmerung* and Das Rheingold, Magdalene in Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg, Madelon in Andrea Chénier, Pantalis in Mefistofele, Emila in Otello, and Cornelia in Giulio Cesare. A sought-after concert soloist, Grove has performed with the San Francisco Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, New York Philharmonic, National Symphony, Atlanta Symphony, Utah Symphony, and Houston Symphony. In the fall, she will return to San Francisco Opera to sing the role of Madelon in Andrea Chénier.



MATTHEW STUMP (Goshen, Indiana) Foreman at the Mill Bass-baritone Matthew Stump is a second-year San Francisco Opera Adler Fellow and graduate of the

2014 Merola Opera Program, where he appeared as the Commendatore in Don Giovanni. He made his Company debut as a Trojan Soldier and Sentry in Les Troyens in 2015, followed by performances of Hans Foltz in the fall's production of Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg. He has appeared in the title role of *Sweeney* Todd, the Prime Minister in Cendrillon, the Pirate King in The Pirates of Penzance, and Capulet in Roméo et Juliette at the University of North Texas as well as the title role of Le Nozze di Figaro, Don Alfonso in Così fan tutte, and Frank in Street Scene at Luther College, where he holds a bachelor's degree. He holds awards from the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and Dallas Opera Guild.



(Houston, Texas) Jano Making her San Francisco Opera debut, soprano Sarah Tucker was a national semifinalist at the 2014 Metropolitan

SARAH TUCKER

Opera National Council Auditions

and just completed her second year as a member of the Arizona Opera Studio where she appeared as Micaëla in *Carmen*, Rosalba in *Florencia en el Amazonas*, and Zerlina in *Don Giovanni*. She will soon make her debut at Opera Philadelphia, where she will reprise the role of First Memory in Lembit Beecher's *War Stories: I Have No Stories to Tell You*,

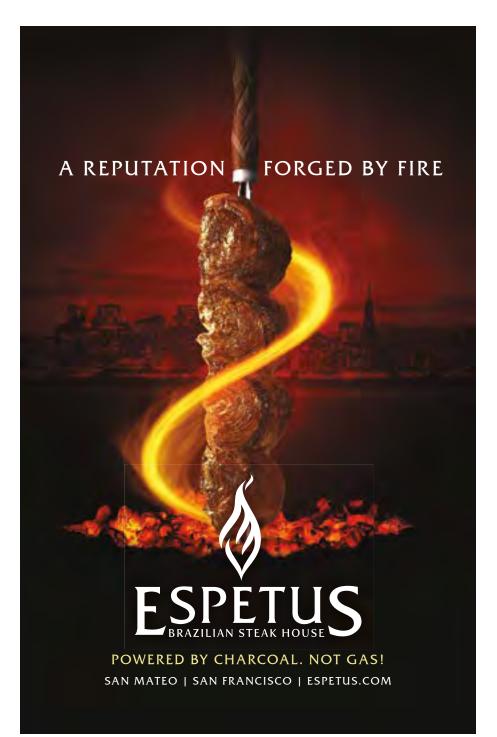


which she first premiered with Gotham Chamber Opera at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. Tucker is a recent graduate of the University of Cincinnati College Conservatory of Music (CCM). She will appear this fall as Micaëla in Utah Opera's production of *Carmen*.



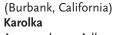
TONI MARIE PALMERTREE (Fleetwood, Pennsylvania) Barena Soprano Toni Marie Palmertree is a firstyear San Francisco Opera Adler Fellow

and a participant of the 2015 Merola Opera Program where she was featured



in the Schwabacher Summer Concert. Her operatic repertoire includes Rosalinde in Die Fledermaus, Alison in Wandering Scholar, the High Priestess in Aida, the title role of Susannah, Musetta and Mimì in La Bohème, and Alice in Falstaff. Her many awards include The Richard F. Gold Career Grant by the Shoshana Foundation, The Metropolitan Opera National Council District Awards (Pittsburgh), finalist in the National Opera Association Voice Competition, the Classical Singer Voice Competition, and the International Moniuszko Voice Competition in Warsaw, Poland. She took first place in the Long Leaf Opera of North Carolina Voice Competition, the Kennett Square Symphony Voice Competition, and the Marcella Sembrich Competition.

JULIE ADAMS



A second-year Adler Fellow, Julie Adams made her Company debut as Mimì in San Francisco Opera's La Bohème for Families

and most recently appeared as First Lady in this fall's *The Magic Flute*. She is a winner of the 2015 Elizabeth Connell prize for aspiring dramatic sopranos, 2015 Sarah Tucker Study Grant, and the 2014 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. She participated in the 2014 Merola Opera Program, where she performed the role of Blanche DuBois in A Streetcar Named Desire. During her studies with César Ulloa at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, she sang the roles of Blanche in Les Dialogues des Carmélites, Mimì in La Bohème, Fiordiligi in Così fan tutte, and Lauretta in Gianni Schicchi. Next season at San Francisco Opera, Adams is scheduled to perform as Kristina in The Makropulos Case, Kate Pinkerton in Madame Butterfly, and Mimì in La Bohème.



ZANDA ŠVĒDE (Valmiera, Latvia) The Mayor's Wife Latvian mezzosoprano Zanda Švēde is a third-year San Francisco Opera Adler Fellow and an alumna of the 2013

Merola Opera Program. She made her

Company debut in 2014 as Flora Bervoix in La Traviata and returned as Tisbe in La Cenerentola. She also created the role of Lena in the 2015 world premiere of Marco Tutino's Two Women (La Ciociara) and appeared during the 2015–16 Season as Alisa in Lucia di Lammermoor and the Third Lady in The Magic Flute. Roles in her repertoire include the title role of Piazzolla's María de Buenos Aires, Endimione in La Calisto, and the title role of Massenet's Cléopâtre. On the concert stage she has appeared as a soloist in Pergolesi's Stabat Mater, Vivaldi's Gloria, and Liszt's Missa Coronationalis. Švēde studied voice at the Latvian Academy of Music in Riga; the Manhattan Summer Voice Festival in New York; Scuola Italia in Urbania, Italy; and the Tyrolean Opera Program in Austria.



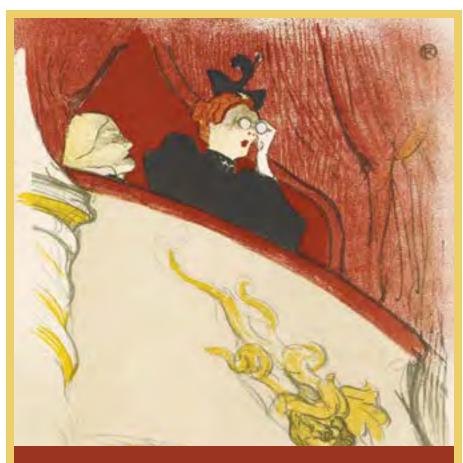
LAURA KRUMM (Iowa City, Iowa) The Maid Mezzo-soprano Laura Krumm is a 2013 graduate of San Francisco Opera's Adler Fellowship Program. Krumm

has appeared in several roles on the Company's main stage, including Rosina in the family matinee performances of The Barber of Seville, Countess Ceprano and Page in Verdi's Rigoletto, and a Maid in the world premiere of Tobias Picker's Dolores Claiborne. For the San Francisco Opera she created the role of Martha in the world premiere of Nolan Gasser's The Secret Garden and she sang Laura in Jack Perla's Love/Hate at the ODC Theater in association with the San Francisco Opera Center. Krumm also recently debuted with the Berkeley Symphony in two projects: a performance of Kaija Saariaho's Adriana Songs, a song cycle for mezzo-soprano and chamber orchestra, and an excerpt from Jake Heggie's Camille Claudel: Into the Fire, the song cycle which she originally covered for Joyce DiDonato's world premiere performance of the work with the Alexander Quartet.



ANTHONY REED (Alexandria, Minnesota) Mayor of the Village Bass Anthony Reed made his San Francisco Opera debut in various roles in 2015's *Les Troyens*.

A second-year San Francisco Opera Adler Fellow and alumnus of the 2014 Merola Opera Program, he also performed earlier this San Francisco Opera season as the Speaker and Second Armored Man in *The Magic Flute*, Hans Schwartz in *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*, and Doctor Primus in Gordon Getty's Usher House. Roles in his repertory include Sarastro in *The Magic Flute*, Truffaldin in Ariadne auf Naxos, Don Basilio in II Barbiere di Siviglia, Dulcamara in L'Elisir d'Amore, Don Magnifico in La Cenerentola, and



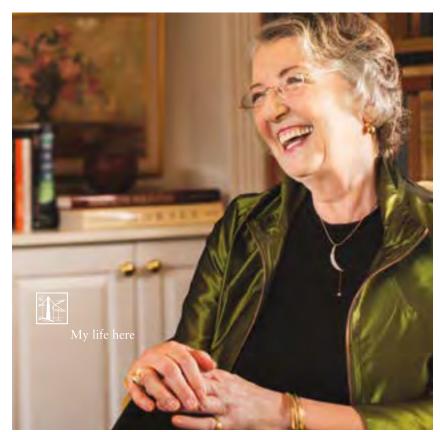
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Quality First Communities. License No. 380540292 COA #177 EPSF724-01UC 050116 the Four Villains in *Les Contes d'Hoffmann*. Reed received a 2011 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions Regional Encouragement Award and has been a young artist at the Wolf Trap Opera Studio and the Seagle Music Colony, in addition to his studies at the Curtis Institute of Music and the University of Wisconsin.



ANGELA MOSER (San Francisco, California) A woman's voice Soprano Angela Moser has sung with the San Francisco Opera Chorus for numerous productions since

2002, and made her acting solo debut with the Company as a Seeker in Mark Adamo's The Gospel of Mary Magdalene in 2013. Operatic roles include Donna Anna in Don Giovanni, Giulietta in Les Contes d'Hoffmann, and Madame Herz in Der Schauspieldirektor. Concert repertoire includes Mahler's Resurrection Symphony, the Verdi Requiem, Mozart Requiem, Vivaldi Gloria, Haydn Coronation Mass, Poulenc Gloria, Orff's Carmina Burana, and the Fauré Requiem. Moser holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Dominican University of California and a Master of Music degree from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music.



BUFFY BAGGOTT (Fair Oaks, California) Kostelnička's aunt A member of the San Francisco Opera Chorus, mezzosoprano Buffy Baggott recently appeared as Maria in the

Company's world premiere of Marco Tutino's *Two Women (La Ciociara*) and Hecuba/Ghost of Cassandre in *Les Troyens*. She has sung roles with Lyric Opera of Chicago, LA Opera, Canadian Opera Company and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Other Bay Area credits include performances with the Stockton Symphony, Opera San Jose, Sacramento Opera, and West Edge Opera. Baggott has completed two apprenticeships with Santa Fe Opera and is an alumna of Chicago's Lyric Opera Center for American Artists, now known as the Ryan Opera Center.



TORLEF BORSTING

(Hilo, Hawaii) **A man's voice** A member of the San Francisco Opera Chorus, baritone Torlef Borsting made his Company debut in 2006 as a Soldier

in *The Maid of Orleans* and returned as a Scythian in *Iphigénie en Tauride*, Wilmer McLean in Philip Glass' *Appomatox*, Flora's Servant in *La Traviata*, and a Custom House Office in *La Bohème*. Most recently, he appeared as a Moroccan Soldier in the world premiere of Marco Tutino's *Two Women (La Ciociara)* and as a member of the Quintet and Ensemble in *Sweeney Todd*. Other Bay Area credits include roles with Opera San Jose, Opera San Luis Obispo, Sacramento Opera, Eugene Opera, and Opera Parallèle.



OLIVIER TAMBOSI

(Paris, France) **Director** Previously at San Francisco Opera, Olivier Tambosi directed the Company's *Manon Lescaut* in 2006, *The Makropulos Case*

in 2010, and Falstaff in 2013. He formed Austria's first independent opera group, the Neue Oper Wien, in 1989 and was the company's artistic director until 1993. Between 1993 and 1996, he was artistic director for opera at the Stadttheater in Klagenfurt. Since then he has directed more than a hundred opera productions worldwide in a broad repertoire that stretches from Baroque opera to contemporary music theater. He has worked for the opera houses of New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Houston, London, Dublin, Graz, Barcelona, Florence, Zagreb, Helsinki, Hamburg, Munich, Hannover, Nürnberg, Guadalajara, Matsumoto, Bern, and Lucerne. Among his most recent productions are Così fan tutte in Munich, The Man of La Mancha in Vienna, The Merry Widow in Graz and María de Buenos Aires in Biel. His next projects will be Amleto at the Bregenz Festival, Manon Lescaut at the State Opera Hannover, Jenufa at the Metropolitan Opera, and Falstaff in San Diego.

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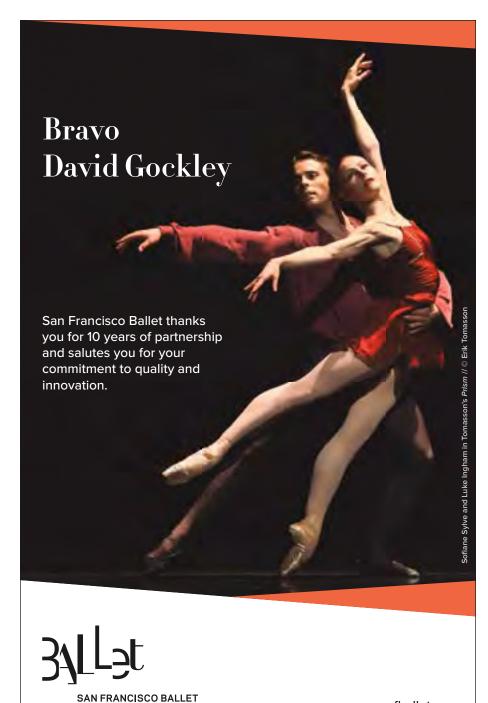
David, thank you for your vision, leadership,

and dedication. Opera in this city and worldwide is all the better for your efforts. Bravo!



FRANK PHILIPP SCHLÖSSMANN (Bad König im Odenwald, Germany) Production Designer Set and costume designer Frank Philipp Schlössmann made his San

Francisco Opera debut in 2006 with Manon Lescaut and returned to the Company with 2010's The Makropulos Case and 2013's Falstaff. His production of Jenůfa appeared at the Metropolitan Opera and his diverse international operatic credits include The Love of Three Oranges, The Knight of the Roses, The Turn of the Screw, and The Bartered Bride at Komische Oper Berlin; Tannhäuser at Teatro Bellini in Catania, Sicily; Macbeth at Opera Strasbourg; La Traviata at Opera Leipzig; Jenůfa, Lucia di Lammermoor, and La Bohème at Hamburg State Opera; Capriccio at Opera Amsterdam; Le Nozze di Figaro and La Fanciulla del West at Tokyo's New National Theatre; Jenůfa at



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the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden; and Wagner's *Ring* cycle at the Bayreuth Festival from 2006 to 2010. His current engagements include *Amleto* at Bregenz Festival, *La Wally* at Volksoper Vienna, and *Tristan und Isolde* in Bayreuth.



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

debut with Mefistofele in 2013 and his lighting designs most recently appeared in the Company's Luisa Miller, Lucia di Lammermoor, Il Barbiere di Siviglia, Carmen, and Don Carlo. Marder's other work includes 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; and Samson et Dalila, Il Barbiere di Siviglia, Carmen, Peter Grimes, Un Ballo in Maschera, and Norma at San Diego Opera. Marder previously 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 ten 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. He currently serves as artistic director of the San Francisco Boys Chorus.

HELGI TOMASSON, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



LAWRENCE PECH (San Francisco, California) Dance Master Lawrence Pech is in his nineteenth season as dance master and resident choreographer for

San Francisco Opera. He has created period and interpretive dances on more than sixty 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 two of his own dance companies and has choreographed more than fifty ballets, thirty musicals, and numerous selfproduced evenings of music and dance around the world.



DAVE MAIER (Great Neck, New York) Fight Director Resident fight director for San Francisco Opera, Dave Maier made his Company debut

in 2013 with Les Contes d'Hoffmann. His work has most recently appeared in the Company's Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg, Sweeney Todd, Luisa Miller, The Magic Flute, Lucia di Lammermoor, Carmen, and Don Carlo. Maier has directed fight scenes for American Conservatory Theater, Berkeley Repertory Theater, San Jose Repertory, Aurora Theatre, Marin Theatre Company, and Magic Theatre, among others. He is a five-time recipient of the San Francisco Bay Area Drama Critics Circle Award for Fight Direction, as well as an adjunct faculty member at the University of California Santa Cruz and St. Mary's College of California. He currently teaches combat-related courses at Berkeley.

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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, the Gunns' inspired generosity is helping make possible four productions—*Sweeney Todd, Lucia di Lammermoor, Carmen,* and *Don Carlo*.

John 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 Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of Stanford Hospital Care. 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.



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Founded in 1977 as the San Francisco Affiliate Artists Opera program, Adler Fellowships are two-year performance-oriented residencies for classical music's most promising young artists. Now in its 38th year, this internationally acclaimed training program has launched the careers of many of the artists working on and off stage this season. We are grateful to all of our Adler Sponsors for their support, received from August 1, 2014 through April 22, 2016. For more information on sponsorship opportunities and Adler events, please call (415) 565-3225.



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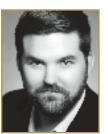
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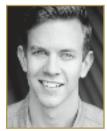
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For more information or to join:

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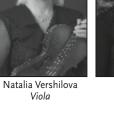








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Most photos by John Martin. Not pictured: Lev Rankov, First Violin.

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69



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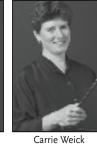


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Mezzo-Soprano



Mezzo-Soprano



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Daniela Mack in the 2015 San Francisco Opera production of The Barber of Seville

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The San Francisco Opera Guild Legacy Society honors those who have included San Francisco Opera Guild in their will, trust or other estate plans. For more information on how you can support San Francisco Opera Guild through your estate planning please call (415) 565-3291.

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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.

SAN FRANCISCO OPERA 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. Wheelchairaccessible 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.

LISTENING DEVICES Assistive listening devices are available at the North and South Lobby coat checks. ID deposit required.

LIVE TITLES: TEXT-TO-VOICE SUPERTITLES Headsets that provide a spoken version of the supertitles are available at the North Lobby coat check.

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.

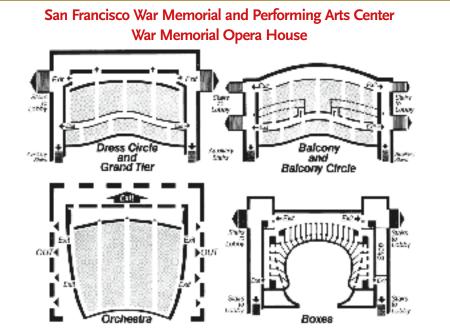
OPERA GLASSES may be rented for \$5 at the North Lobby coat check. ID deposit is requested.

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 401 Van Ness Ave., Room 110, (415) 621-6600 (8 AM-5 PM, Monday–Friday).

TAXI SERVICE Patrons desiring a taxi after a performance should come to the Grove Street Taxi Ramp located on the south side of the Opera House. Accommodations are provided on a first come, first served basis, and cannot be guaranteed as service is based on availability of licensed taxis. Staff will be on hand to assist.



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



Our community's commitment to arts and culture says a lot about where we live. The opera brings us together from the moment the lights go down and the curtains come up.

Wells Fargo is honored to return as the season sponsor of the San Francisco Opera.

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