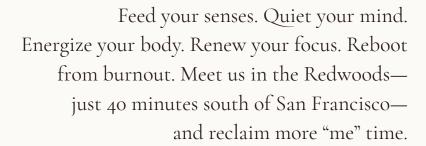






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Vol. 100, No. 6 • 2022–23 Season • June/July 2023 Jeffery S. McMillan, *Editor* Adam Snellings, *Art Director* Susan L. Wells, *Design Consultant* Jeanette Yu, *Editorial Consultant* Katy Zolfaghari, *Creative Project Manager*

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FEATURES

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A TRIUMPHANT SUCCESS! BY MATTHEW SHILVOCK
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TRUE AND ABIDING LOVE BY AMON MIYAMOTO

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One of the world's most popular operas, *Madama Butterfly* resonates with audiences and artists on and off the opera stage, setting records at San Francisco Opera, inspiring bilingual touring productions and Broadway shows, and influencing major rock albums.

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WELCOME FROM THE BOARD OF SAN FRANCISCO OPERA

Welcome to the summer season of San Francisco Opera's centennial year! We're thrilled to be celebrating our 100th birthday with a season of premieres and exciting new productions that showcase the extraordinary artistry of this Company. Opera is a uniquely compelling, entertaining, and emotionally thrilling art form, and our mission is to make every performance in the War Memorial Opera House an event that will touch you deeply and that you'll

This summer we continue our centennial celebration with three very different operas exploring varied stories, in addition to our star-studded *100th Anniversary Concert* on June 16. We present a fascinating new perspective on Puccini's *Madame Butterfly*, a journey to the fairy-tale world of Strauss' *Die Frau ohne Schatten* for the first time in 34 years, and a beautiful new work exploring the relationship between Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera by Bay Area composer Gabriela Lena Frank.

Thank you for all you do to make this level of bold creativity and artistic excellence possible. If you are inspired to make a special centennial gift in support of this season, we encourage you to read more from our general director, Matthew Shilvock, on page 62. Your support is greatly needed and appreciated.

Thank you for being a part of something quite extraordinary, and we hope you enjoy this magnificent season!

Sincerely,

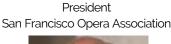
John A. GunnChairman of the Board
San Francisco Opera Association

remember for years to come.





Keith B. Geeslin President







PS. FROM KEITH GEESLIN

This is my last season as President of the San Francisco Opera Association. I have been privileged to serve in this role for a decade, through times of great challenge and great artistic triumphs. Our spectacular Centennial Season requires an immense investment of time, talent, and resources, and your dedication and support make it possible. The Opera couldn't have weathered the pandemic, and certainly wouldn't be approaching the future so optimistically, without our steadfast community of devoted opera lovers. It's wonderful to be sharing the power of live musical experiences together again and to witness this community's passion for San Francisco Opera, a company which means so much to me. Thank you!

San Francisco Opera Association

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John A. & Cynthia Fry Gunn



TERRENCE MCCARTHY

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 then-General Director David Gockley, including new operas and productions, multimedia projects, and outreach programs, and they have proudly continued that support for General Director Matthew Shilvock. This season, the Gunns' inspired generosity is helping make possible four productions-Antony and Cleopatra, Eugene Onegin, La Traviata, and El último sueño de Frida y Diego. The Gunns invite everyone to give and join them as a member of San Francisco Opera's donor community. John comments, "Opera is a dynamic art form, and all of us play a role in keeping it a meaningful part of our social fabric. With you we can propel San Francisco Opera into its next 100 years

of artistic history." 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 a former trustee of Stanford University and is Chairman Emeritus of the Advisory Board for the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research. Cynthia currently serves as a trustee of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, is a former overseer of Stanford's Hoover Institution, and has been a member of the advisory board of Family and Children Services and the board of the Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health. 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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Donor Spotlight

DREW ALTIZER PHOTOGRAPHY

Barbara A. Wolfe (Production Sponsor, Die Frau ohne Schatten)

Barbara Wolfe has been a longtime opera fan and supporter of San Francisco Opera. Works of Mozart and Wagner, and operas in the classical Italian tradition are particular favorites. Most recently, Barbara supported the Company's new productions of *La Traviata*, *Don Giovanni*, and *Tosca* as well as the 2018 *Ring* cycle. With her late husband Tom, Barbara also sponsored *Tannhäuser*, *Tristan und Isolde*, *The Magic Flute*, *Mefistofele*, *Norma*, and *Don Carlo*. Barbara serves on the boards of the San Francisco Opera Association and San Francisco SPCA and was a longtime trustee at Mills College. She has supported educational programs and scholarships at several primary and secondary schools, graduate scholarship and fellowship programs at UCSF Foundation, and the Achievement Rewards for College Scientists program in Northern California. Barbara is also a supporter of the

Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, as well as numerous humanitarian and animal welfare organizations.



DEW ALTIZED DUOTOCDADUV

Jerome L. & Thao N. Dodson (Production Sponsor, *Die Frau ohne Schatten* and *Madame Butterfly*)

"A fiery horse with the speed of light, a cloud of dust, and a hearty, 'Hi-Yo, Silver!"

Those words, accompanied by the galloping excitement of Rossini's *William Tell* Overture, transfixed a young Jerry Dodson as he listened to *The Lone Ranger* on the family radio in Oak Park, Illinois. Just as Bugs Bunny's *Rabbit of Seville* had done for many, a lighthearted entertainment sparked a future operatic devotion.

That little boy grew up to attend Berkeley in the 60s, serve with the Foreign Office in Vietnam where he and Thao met, and attend Harvard Business School. Eventually, the couple married, settled in the Bay Area, and raised a family. In the 1980s, Jerry was a pioneer in the field of socially responsible investing with little interest in opera. But in

1992, when San Francisco Opera decided to celebrate Rossini's bicentennial with the rarely performed *Guillaume Tell*, Thao, already an opera lover, suggested to Jerry that they go.

Tell was praised for its striking Mansouri production, and the Dodsons began attending regularly. They became season ticket holders in 1999 and supporters, "in a small way," as Jerry puts it. A friendship with David Gockley, which endures to this day, led to a larger role as Company Sponsors. "I so admired what he did for the opera, but it was not very good for my pocketbook," Jerry laughs. Jerry also lends his financial expertise to the audit committee.

In 2016, Dodson considered the import of Gockley's departure. He met with Matthew Shilvock and joined the Board that year. "We hit it off right away!" Jerry says. He felt a similar affinity with Keith Geeslin, President of the San Francisco Opera Association. Eager to continue support, the Dodsons see the Centennial Season as a perfect time to revitalize and energize the Company within the San Francisco community. The initial fire ignited by *William Tell* continues to burn brightly.



KRISTEN LOKEN

Bob Ellis (Production Sponsor, *El último sueño de Frida y Diego*)

Bob has been a longtime supporter of contemporary opera since he became a member of the board of directors in 2001. He has supported all of John Adams' new productions for San Francisco Opera, beginning with the commission of *Doctor Atomic* in 2005 and continuing with *Girls of the Golden West* in 2017 and, and this past fall's *Antony and Cleopatra*. Along with Gabriela Lena Frank's *El último sueño de Frida y Diego*, other production sponsorships have included Douglas Moore's *The Ballad of Baby Doe*, Olivier Messiaen's *Saint François d'Assise*, and the 2011 premiere of Francesca Zambello's production of Wagner's *Ring* cycle. He has also served on the boards of Opera Parallèle, OPERA America, and Central City Opera.

Donor Spotlight

Louise Gund (Production Sponsor, Die Frau ohne Schatten)

Louise Gund has a lifelong passion for the arts and is both a photographer and a theatrical producer. She has produced twelve Broadway plays and musicals, winning a Tony Award and Drama Desk Award for All the Way, and receiving three additional Tony Award nominations. A subscriber to San Francisco Opera since 2010, Louise has served on the Opera's board of directors since 2013. She has also served on the boards of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, Cal Performances, Earthjustice, and the Berkeley Community Chorus and Orchestra. In addition to her major support of these organizations, she is an environmental activist and a staunch advocate on behalf of women's and children's issues. She was awarded the San Francisco Opera Spirit of the Opera Award in 2019 for devoted service to the Company, and was the inspiration

behind the Opera's Producers Circle. Louise is passionate about enabling creativity to flourish, telling stories of meaning, and ensuring a vibrant future for the arts.



Burgess & Elizabeth Jamieson (Production Sponsor, Madame Butterfly)

Libby and Burgess Jamieson have made an extraordinary commitment to San Francisco Opera for more than three decades by supporting traditional classical productions. Their ongoing generosity has ensured an enduring place on the War Memorial Opera House stage for such applauded and memorable works as Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg, Il Trittico, La Bohème, Madame Butterfly, Turandot, Tosca, and La Traviata. They consider their sustained support of the arts, and especially of San Francisco Opera, as a means of preserving important cultural links for future generations. "Libby and I believe in the enduring love of great works appealing to seasoned and new audiences alike and which attract the next generation of opera lovers,"

Burgess says. "We are so pleased to play a role in bringing *Madame Butterfly* to the stage. We have a special fondness for supporting Puccini operas and look forward to this grand production, especially as it features Music Director Eun Sun Kim, who will conduct such outstanding artists as Karah Son, making her Company debut, and Michael Fabiano." With more than 45 years of experience in private and public investment management, Burgess is active on the San Francisco Opera's Board of Directors and its investment committee.



Koret Foundation (Production Sponsor, El último sueño de Frida y Diego)

San Francisco Opera is deeply grateful to Koret Foundation for its support of El último sueño de Frida y Diego. This funding is part of the Foundation's generous three-year grant in support of new works in this Centennial Season and beyond. "Koret is pleased to celebrate San Francisco Opera's Centennial Season with this exciting new work and looks forward to more opportunities to bring new voices and stories to the opera stage," says Jeffrey A. Farber, Koret Foundation CEO. Koret has been a longtime supporter of San Francisco Opera's transformational stage productions, as well as education and community programs. Most recently, Koret supported the reopening of the Opera House after the pandemic with a generous grant in support of Beethoven's Fidelio in 2021. "We are honored by Koret's longstanding partnership which helps us bring the

best quality opera to the broadest audiences in ways that are reflective of and relevant to our community," says General Director Matthew Shilvock.

Donor Spotlight



RAY "SCOTTY" MORRIS

Bernard & Barbro Osher (Production Sponsor, Die Frau ohne Schatten)

A native of Maine, Bernard Osher became involved with San Francisco Opera as a subscriber over 50 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 to audience building programs. Established in 1977, The Bernard Osher Foundation has funded virtually every major arts organization in the area, including youth programs. Higher education initiatives include scholarships for community college students in California and Maine and for baccalaureate students at universities in every state and the District of Columbia; Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes, serving adults on 125 campuses nationwide; and Osher Centers for Integrative

Health at ten of the nation's leading medical schools 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 for California and serves as Chairman of the Board of the Osher Foundation. Together they recently established the Osher Audience of the Future Fund, which gives San Francisco Opera an incredible resource to connect art and audiences together in new ways, ensuring that the Osher Theatre (War Memorial auditorium) remains a vibrant, energized, and full-to-the-rafters building in which to experience transformational opera.



Denise Littlefield Sobel (Production Sponsor, El último sueño de Frida y Diego)

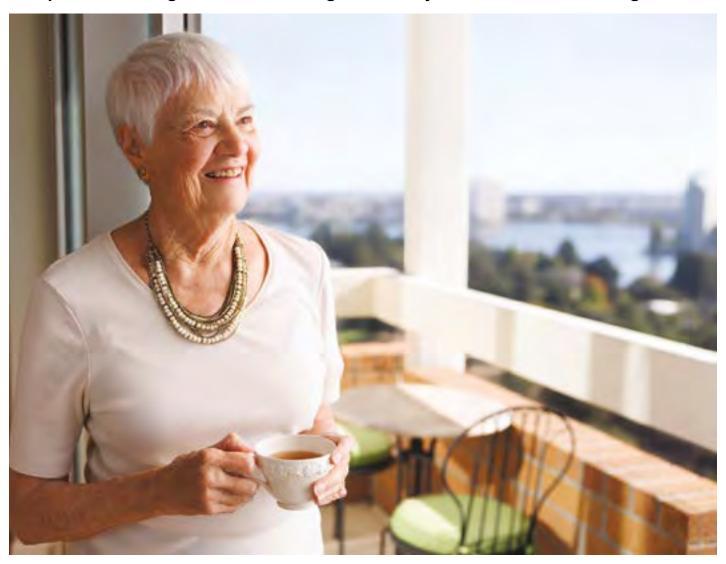
Denise Littlefield Sobel is a philanthropist with a longstanding interest in the visual and supporting arts. She is at the forefront of several initiatives to promote diversity within the arts, and serves on several diversity committees for various nonprofits. Supporting DEI at San Francisco Opera has been a particular passion. When Matthew Shilvock first told Denise that SF Opera was commissioning El Sueño di Frida y Diego, its first opera in Spanish, she eagerly offered her support. In addition to supporting San Francisco Opera, she is an active supporter of numerous cultural institutions around the world, including several museums, such as The Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, SFMoMA, the National Museum of Women in the Arts, the Musée d'Orsay in Paris. She is Chair of the Board of Trustees at the Clark Art Institute in Williamstown, MA. A passionate

advocate for diversity in dance and choreography, she supports a wide range of companies, including Alvin Ailey, ABT, Fall for Dance at NY City Center, Jacob's Pillow, the Joffrey, Joyce, Kyle Abraham's A.I.M., and, of course, the San Francisco Ballet. At the Paris Opera and Ballet, she continues to promote the expansion of a health center for dancers. In 2019, the French government presented Sobel with the country's highest civilian honor, naming her a Chevalier of the Légion d'honneur, in recognition of her extraordinary contributions to French culture. In 2013, Sobel created the Tikkun Olam Foundation, Inc. where she serves as President, focusing on women's health, gender justice, and reproductive rights. A native of San Francisco and a resident of New York City, Sobel is active in several charities in both cities and has served on other nonprofit boards, including the American Red Cross of Greater New York, which honored her with the 2022 Humanitarian Award, Congregation Rodeph Sholom, and Chicago's Auditorium Theatre, where she has been honored for her ongoing support of dance programs and historic preservation. The youngest child of Edmund Wattis Littlefield and Jeannik Méquet Littlefield, she continues her parents' wonderful legacy of support of San Francisco Opera through her own philanthropy, and management of the Edmund W. and Jeannik Méquet Littlefield Endowment Fund, which provides a permanent and unrestricted source of income for the Company. In 2021, she and her brother, Ed Littlefield, Jr., received the Crescendo Award, bestowed by the San Francisco Opera Guild, for their family's half-century support of San Francisco Opera.

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Jan Shrem & Maria Manetti Shrem



aria Manetti Shrem has enjoyed extraordinary success in business, in particular in the fashion industry, where she played a major role in establishing Gucci as a truly global force. Today, her focus is philanthropy, and she has made no secret of the fact that she and her husband, Jan Shrem, aim to give away the bulk of their wealth in their lifetimes.

"I want to give with my warm hands, not after passing," Manetti Shrem says. "And we want to inspire other wealthy people to give now. For me, the art of living is the art of giving." Since the mid-1990s, Manetti Shrem has contributed generously in the San Francisco Bay Area, New York, the U.K., and Italy, where she was born, in Florence.

Maria and Jan have been San Francisco Opera supporters since 1985 and have provided significant support for opera artists through the establishment of four major funds. Through the Great Interpreters of Italian Opera Fund, they support many classic works of the Italian repertoire, including this season's *La Traviata* and *Madame Butterfly*. Through the Conductors Fund, appearances of renowned conductors are assured at San Francisco Opera, this season for *Eugene Onegin* and *Orpheus and Eurydice*. Through the Emerging Stars Fund, Jan and Maria help bring some of opera's most exciting rising talents to the stage. And finally, the Luminaries Concert Fund enables

San Francisco Opera to bring legendary artists to the stage for special events and performances.

Maria counts sopranos Renée Fleming and Nadine Sierra, tenor Michael Fabiano, and baritone Lucas Meachem as personal friends and was especially close to Luciano Pavarotti, treating the legendary tenor as family whenever he performed in San Francisco. Beyond their support for education, fine arts, and music, the Manetti Shrems have been generously supporting causes in medical research and science, focusing on communities of need, particularly the elderly and children. A few years ago, the president of Italy bestowed upon Maria Manetti Shrem the title of Grand Officer of the Order of the Star of Italy for her consistent support of cultural collaboration between Italy and the U.S. In June 2022, the Mayor of San Francisco, London Breed, along with the City and the County, proclaimed "June 22 Manetti Shrem Day for Philanthropy."

In December 2022, she received The Spirit of the Opera award for her devotion to San Francisco Opera, her high level of commitment to advancing the success of the Company and her ongoing support of the art form. She is the 2023 UC Davis Medal recipient for her profound arts legacy and passion for creating opportunities for exploration and education.

El Círculo de Frida y Diego

San Francisco Opera is honored to recognize donors for their support of Gabriela Lena Frank and Nilo Cruz's *El último sueño de Frida y Diego* and their participation in this special giving circle—**El Círculo de Frida y Diego**. From the names of the levels, to the gift amounts and benefits, each level was created to reflect an important part of the opera and inspire a deeper connection to the work. This community-based effort welcomes new supporters who, together, are helping to bring this work to life. There is still time to join El Circulo by calling (415) 565–3212. Donors will be added to our digital recognition and will receive a special commemorative pin! Please see page 24 for more details. This listing reflects gifts received through May 10, 2023.

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The collective support of San Francisco Opera's generous donor family keeps world-class opera on the stage and brings community programs to students and families. Each year, support from individuals like you accounts for 75% of the revenue needed to create transformative opera.

With gratitude, we recognize donors below in bold who have made increased gifts to support our Centennial Season. Listed gifts were received between August 1, 2021 and May 7, 2023. We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of our donor listings. If we have misspelled or omitted a name, please accept our apology and notify us at (415) 565-3212 so that we may update our records accordingly.

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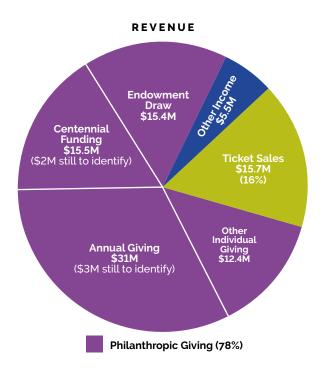


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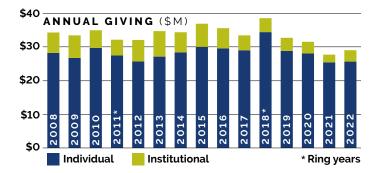
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Incredible passion fuels the very business model of opera. From the Renaissance to now, this most gloriously all-encompassing art form has thrived because of the passionate generosity of patrons, be they monarchs, governments, or, in the case of the United States, individuals like YOU! The fusion of singing, music, and theater requires a significant financial investment, but the impact is transformational, creating experiences that linger in our hearts and souls for decades.

Opera economics are exceptionally fragile and have become ever more so over the decades. The percentage of our costs covered by sales has diminished from the 1960s, to a point where **only 16% of our costs are covered by tickets**. For every \$100 you spend on a ticket, we have to bring in an additional \$500 from other sources. Government support is only 0.5% of our budget and corporate support has, with a few loyal exceptions, largely disappeared over the last decade. As another form of donor support, around 15% of our budget comes from our endowment.



The very existence of this company is in the hands of you. Individual donors give with spectacular generosity to ensure our survival, allowing us to sustain the 1,000 or so employees who come through the Company each year. Your support allows us to protect the quality of our art, but the trends are concerning.



- As indicated above, our annual fund has remained ostensibly flat for over 15 years, while costs have escalated by around 3% a year.
- The 20% decline of subscription during the pandemic caused a related drop in donors.
- To attract new audiences, we need new products. Our future demands that we invest in new ways of engaging with the public as we have done this Centennial Season. Such experimentation adds to the philanthropic need but is critical to our survival.

The possibilities of this season are thrilling! We are bringing to life two new operas, three new productions, two new coproductions, a traveling *Bohème* in a shipping container, bold new ticket programs, a full season of livestreams, and so much more. Eun Sun Kim is taking the musical values of the Company to an extraordinary level. And we are seeing an unprecedented number of new ticket buyers coming through the doors.

We have an urgent need for additional philanthropy to make possible this bold season. We still have \$5M of new funds to raise before July 31 to ensure that this Centennial Season be both an artistic and a financial triumph. Your help can get us there.

I humbly ask you to reach as deeply as you are able to in support of this extraordinary Centennial Season. No gift is too small or large. If you have already given, please consider an additional gift in support of the Centennial. If you have not yet given, there has never been a better chance to become a part of this company. The Ann and Gordon Getty Foundation for the Arts is generously matching new and increased gifts made before July 31 such that your gift will be tripled in impact. We also have some very exciting new giving programs like El Círculo de Frida y Diego (see page 24).

The success of this season, artistically and financially, will do much to set the foundation for the future of the Company. You have held the legacy of San Francisco Opera in your hearts and hands for the last hundred years. Please help us carry forward that legacy by making an extraordinary gift in support of the Centennial and affirming the vital importance of this moment in our storied history.



Thank you for believing in the future of San Francisco Opera. To donate, please visit sfopera.com/give or call (415) 565-3212.

El Círculo de Frida y Diego

Join a special new giving circle, available exclusively for new and increased gifts to support Gabriela Lena Frank and Nilo Cruz's El último sueño de Frida y Diego, presented by San Francisco Opera in June 2023.



COLIBRÍ (Hummingbird) \$70

Symbolizing communication and a visit from our deceased loved ones, just as Diego was visited by Frida at age 70 when the opera begins.

- Hummingbird pin to show your support
- · Digital donor recognition



CEMPASÚCHIL (Marigold) \$301

Symbolizing the pathway home as deceased loved ones follow its fragrance to find their way. The Opera House at 301 Van Ness is our home, making a gift of \$301 particularly meaningful.

- · Prior benefits plus curator-led talk and viewing of Pan American Unity, on display at SFMOMA
- Recognition in our Summer 2023 program book (usually reserved for donors giving \$1,000 or more)

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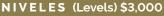
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CORAZÓN (Heart) \$1,907

Inspired by Frida Kahlo's birth year, 1907. The story of the opera is a rebirth, as Frida comes back to life and her corazón beats once more.

- · Prior benefits plus group mural tour in San Francisco
- · Educational panel and donor reception



Inspired by the more than 3,000-year tradition that has given Día de los Muertos its full richness and cultural meaning in today's time. Niveles are the three levels of existence in the tradition of the ofrenda (offering): el cielo (heaven), la tierra (earth), and el purgatorio (purgatory).

- Prior benefits plus papel picado magnet commemorating the opera
- · Cocktails for 2 during intermission (opera tickets sold separately)
- Exclusive access to a pre-dress rehearsal and talk with the artistic team



LOS RIVALES (The Rivals) \$9,760

Diego Rivera's 1931 painting *The Rivals* was purchased at \$9.76 million in 2017. At the time, this set the record for the highest price for an artwork by any Latin American artist.

· Prior benefits plus exclusive final dress rehearsal invitation for 2 on June 11, 2023



LA CASA AZUL (The Blue House) \$24,700

Frida Kahlo's famous house, number 247, features prominently in the opera.

· Prior benefits plus invitation to opening night cast party for 2 (opera tickets sold separately)



MILAGROS (Miracles) \$50,000

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NEW SAN FRANCISCO OPERA CO-PRODUCTION

Madame Butterfly

OPERA IN THREE ACTS BY GIACOMO PUCCINI

LIBRETTO BY LUIGI ILLICA AND GIUSEPPE GIACOSA BASED ON THE WORKS OF JOHN LUTHER LONG AND DAVID BELASCO

This production is made possible, in part, by
Jerome L. and Thao N. Dodson
Margareta and Staffan Encrantz
Burgess and Elizabeth Jamieson
Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem,
through the Great Interpreters of Italian Opera Fund

JUNE 3, 6, 9, 18, 21, 24, 27; JULY 1, 2023

The performance will last approximately two hours, forty-five minutes, including one intermission.



THE FUTURE OF OPERA

Madame Butterfly

We begin in America, about thirty years after the story of the opera. An ailing Pinkerton hands his son, Trouble, a document explaining his early years in Japan. As Trouble reads, we are taken back in time as the story comes to life.

ACT I

The marriage broker Goro tells Lt. Pinkerton, United States Navy, about the house that Pinkerton has rented to occupy with his bride-to-be, the geisha Cio-Cio-San (Butterfly). Soon they are joined by the U.S. Consul at Nagasaki, Sharpless, who is surprised by the marriage contract Pinkerton has signed: It is valid for 999 years but can be annulled at the end of each month. Sharpless encourages the lieutenant to seriously consider the step he is about to take. Pinkerton asks Sharpless to join him in a series of toasts, among them one to the real wedding and the real American wife he will surely have one day. Just then, the voice of Butterfly is heard as she and her geisha friends ascend the hill. She is the happiest girl in Japan and comes to answer the summons of love. Butterfly talks of her unhappy family and tells Sharpless that she is fifteen and a geisha. She shows Pinkerton some of her possessions, among them the dagger with which her father had committed hara-kiri at the Mikado's orders. Butterfly tells Pinkerton that she is willing to give up her own gods and adopt his religion. The Imperial Commissioner and Official Registrar perform the civil wedding ceremony. Sharpless leaves with a word of caution that he believes Butterfly is seriously in love, but Pinkerton has already turned to his new relatives, urging them to celebrate his happiness. Butterfly's uncle, the Bonze, arrives. He has heard that Butterfly has renounced her religion, and he calls all her relatives to renounce her. Pinkerton orders them away and then tries to comfort the weeping Butterfly. Smiling through her tears, she tells him that although everyone else has rejected her, she is happy only with Pinkerton. As night falls, Pinkerton realizes how much he loves Butterfly.

-INTERMISSION-

ACT II

We begin briefly in the hospital room of the elderly Pinkerton. Adult Trouble is still reading about his own past. He is now to the point in the story where Pinkerton has sailed away and three years have passed.

Butterfly and her maid Suzuki are living in poverty in the house on the hill. Butterfly still believes that Pinkerton will return to her, as he promised, but Suzuki doubts it. Goro brings Sharpless to Butterfly to read her a letter from Pinkerton, but she insists on receiving him as an honored guest. Her hospitality interferes with his efforts to read the letter. They are joined by Goro's client Prince Yamadori, who hopes to marry Butterfly. She

brushes aside his offer, insisting that she is already married. Yamadori leaves and Sharpless at last produces the letter, but Butterfly is so carried away by the thought that Pinkerton has written she fails to grasp the meaning of his words. Sharpless asks her what she would do if Pinkerton never came back. Become a geisha again, she answers—or better, die. Sharpless suggests she reconsider Yamadori's proposal, at which Butterfly goes out and returns with Pinkerton's child, Trouble. She assures Sharpless that Pinkerton would never abandon such a beautiful child. Moved, Sharpless promises to inform Pinkerton of his son and leaves. Suzuki shouts at Goro, who has been saying that nobody knows who the child's real father is. Butterfly threatens him with her father's dagger and drives him away. A cannon shot is heard, and Butterfly takes up the telescope and recognizes Pinkerton's ship. Sure that her faith will be rewarded, Butterfly prepares for Pinkerton's arrival, and she and Suzuki decorate the house with flowers. Butterfly, Suzuki, and the child wait and watch overnight for Pinkerton's return.

ACT III

Again we start in the elderly Pinkerton's hospital room. Pinkerton is doing better but is plagued by remorse. Adult Trouble watches his father's struggle, and we cut back to the morning after Butterfly's vigil for Pinkerton. She carries off the sleeping child. Sharpless, Pinkerton, and an unknown American woman arrive in the garden, and Sharpless tells Suzuki that the woman is Pinkerton's new wife, Kate. He hurries off, leaving Sharpless and Kate to confront Butterfly, who enters quickly and realizes the reason for Pinkerton's visit: the couple has come to take the child away. Butterfly instructs them to return for the child in half an hour. She takes her father's dagger and is determined to end her life when her child interrupts her. Butterfly hugs him close and then sends him out to play. Left alone, Butterfly performs ritual suicide. Pinkerton, back in America, cries out as he reunites with his grown son.

First performance: Teatro alla Scala, Milan; February 17, 1904 First performance in the United States: Columbia Theater, Washington, D.C.; October 15, 1906

First San Francisco Opera performance: September 26, 1924 Madame Butterfly has been performed in 38 previous seasons at San Francisco Opera. For a complete record of all past casts, please visit archive.sfopera.com.

Personnel: 17 principals, 34 choristers (4 offstage only), 4 supernumeraries, 5 dancers: **60 total**

Orchestra: 3 flutes, 3 oboes, 3 clarinets, 2 bassoons, 4 horns, 3 trumpets, 3 trombones, 1 timpani, 3 percussion, 1 harp, 40 strings (12 first violins, 9 second violins, 7 violas, 7 cellos, 5 basses): **66 total**

Backstage: 1 percussion, 1 viola d'amore

Conductor

Eun Sun Kim

Director

Amon Miyamoto *

Associate Director

Miroku Shimada

Set Designer

Boris Kudlička

Costume Designer

Kenzō Takada 1

Associate Costume Designer

Sonoko Takeda '

Lighting Designer

Fabio Antoci *

Projection Designer

Bartek Macias

Chorus Director

John Keene

Assistant Conductor

Dennis Doubin

Prompter

Matthew Piatt

Musical Preparation

Bryndon Hassman

Noah Linquist

Yang Lin †

John Churchwell

Fabrizio Corona

Diction

Alessandra Cattani

Supertitles

Jerry Sherk

Francesca Zambello

Assistant Director

Morgan Robinson

Stage Manager

Darin Burnett

Assistant Stage Managers

Collette Berg, Victoria Klockenga,

Jonathan S. Campbell

Choreographer/Dance Master

Colm Seery

Fight Director

Dave Maier

Technical Supervisor

Erik Walstad

Costume Supervisor

Galen Till

Hair and Makeup

Jeanna Parham

New Co-Production between

San Francisco Opera, Tokyo Nikikai Opera

Foundation, Semperoper Dresden,

and Royal Danish Opera

SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 2023 • 7:30 PM TUESDAY, JUNE 6 • 7:30 PM

FRIDAY, JUNE 9 • 7:30 PM

SUNDAY, JUNE 18 · 2 PM

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21 · 7:30 PM

SATURDAY, JUNE 24 · 7:30 PM

TUESDAY, JUNE 27 · 7:30 PM SATURDAY, JULY 1 · 7:30 PM

Madame Butterfly

Opera in three acts by **Giacomo Puccini**Libretto by **Luigi Illica** and **Giuseppe Giacosa**

Based on the works of **John Luther Long** and **David Belasco**

(Sung in Italian with English supertitles)

CAST

(in order of appearance)

Elder Lieutenant B.F. Pinkerton Evan Miles O'Hare *

Kate Pinkerton Mikayla Sager +

Suzuki Hyona Kim

Adult Trouble John Charles Quimpo *

Lt. B.F. Pinkerton Michael Fabiano

Moisés Salazar + (July 1)

Goro Julius Ahn

Sharpless Lucas Meachem

Cio-Cio-San (Madame Butterfly) Karah Son *

The Imperial Commissioner Andrew Thomas Pardini

The Official Registrar Jere Torkelsen
Uncle Yakuside Kevin Gino *

Cousin Crystal Kim *

Mother Silvie Jensen

Aunt Whitney Steele

The Bonze Jongwon Han *†
Prince Yamadori Kidon Choi *

Trouble (Cio-Cio-San's Child) Viva Young Maguire

Shadow Dancer Chiharu Shibata

Nurse, Doctor, Sailors, Geishas, Relatives, Bonzo Men, Soldiers

TIME AND PLACE: Early 20th century, Nagasaki

With flashes forward to a room in Pinkerton's home in America, thirty years later

ACT I

A house and garden overlooking the Bay of Nagasaki

-INTERMISSION-

ACT II

The same, three years later

ACT III

The same, three years later

The performance will last approximately two hours, forty-five minutes.

^{*} San Francisco Opera debut

† Current Adler Fellow



am pleased to have been entrusted with directing the globally renowned opera *Madame Butterfly* at San Francisco Opera. Based on the 1898 short story by John Luther Long, whose sister-in-law Sarah Correll first heard the story while in Japan, this work was first adapted into a hit play by San Francisco native David Belasco. Puccini saw the production in London and adapted it into his beloved 1904 opera, *Madama Butterfly*.

In recent years, the image of women who exist to serve men is criticized as being nothing more than a convenient male fantasy. In response to this criticism, I thought it was necessary to focus again on the image of Madame Butterfly that the original author depicted. Butterfly is a strong, independent woman who asserted herself, pursued her own dreams, and was self-reliant.

With this image in mind, I decided to start the story in 1929 when Pinkerton is 60 years old. Badly injured from the war, the former Navy lieutenant is tormented by guilt about the fate of Madame Butterfly. His American wife, Kate, and his son, Trouble, are both deeply concerned for his health, and Trouble is confused by his father's behavior toward him. As the matchmaker Goro predicted years before, the boy has grown to be a very sensitive young man, experiencing discrimination as a biracial person in America. His foster mother, Kate, a pious Christian who does not talk about Madame Butterfly at all,

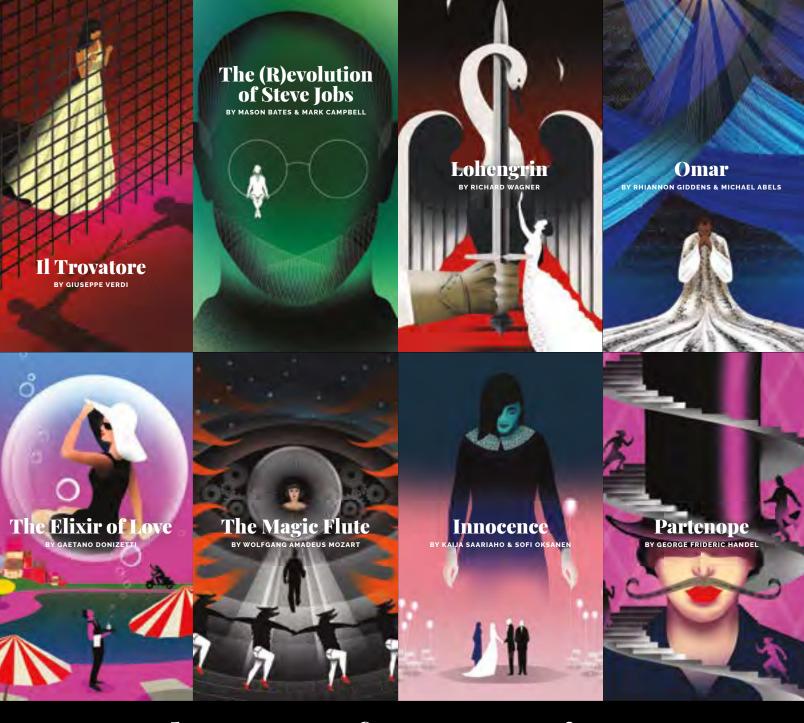
only increases the young man's confusion and suffering as he forges his identity as a biracial person.

When Kate leaves the hospital, Pinkerton takes out the diary he kept as a young man in Japan and hands it to his son. The stage unfolds as the son reads the diary and becomes entranced, moving into his father's world as he imagines it.

This story is about two people from different cultures and backgrounds who try to understand each other and live together through love. Pinkerton did not fully comprehend where Cio-Cio-San was coming from and the situation she was in. For Cio-Cio-San, Pinkerton was the only path to freedom and hope. This love endured even after her death, through the birth of their child.

Madame Butterfly highlights the clash of cultural and family issues but also the abiding strength of love. The biracial son in America is also on a journey to find where he belongs. Can he forgive his father's mistakes by finding himself? Can he understand his mother's love for Pinkerton? This story illustrates the tremendous obstacles that true love can and must overcome. And it underscores the importance of valuing love as the key to a true understanding of people from different cultures and backgrounds.

This production can be considered a sequel or spin-off of Puccini's opera. We aim to make viewers feel even just a hint of the ecstasy and the agony of true and abiding love.



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The Radicalism of Madama Butterfly

BY WILLIAM BERGER

"Butterfly, in Puccini's hands, was more than modern. ... It was radical, and it still is."

veryone in the world has an opinion on *Madama Butterfly*. It is one of those rare operas that has cast a shadow well beyond the opera house. It has been filmed as an opera and a drama several times, updated with variations in different forms (from *Miss Saigon* to *M. Butterfly*), and hovers as an archetype over countless other renditions (including the 1987 film *Fatal Attraction*, a warning that identifying too closely with opera can be fatal to marriages, people, and pet bunnies). *Madama Butterfly* is an inescapable trope in our world.

What of the opera itself, though? Can we assess it separately from all that has sprung forth from it? True, the fuzz around the classics is part of what defines them, but we must periodically focus our attention on the core itself in order to preserve it from being overwhelmed by its context. David Belasco produced his one-act play Madame Butterfly: a Tragedy of Japan in New York in 1900 and later that year in London, where Puccini saw it. The composer's La Bohème (1896) was conquering the world's stages, as was his scandalous *Tosca*, launched earlier in 1900. What would be next? Although he did not understand English at all, Puccini was so moved by Belasco's Butterfly that he decided it would be the subject of his next opera. He absorbed enough of the "music" of the story to recognize his next opera in it—especially in Belasco's directorial coup of an 11-minute silent interlude in which Cio-Cio-San, Madama Butterfly, sat perfectly still in an overnight vigil. She waits silently for her errant lover Pinkerton to disembark his American battleship in Nagasaki harbor and return to her in the morning. (He will return in the morning but only to retrieve the child she's borne him and return to the States with his "real," American wife).

In Belasco's play, the only visible activity on stage was accomplished by the newfangled technology of electric lighting. As the sun set, the lights of the port town in the distance were lit and then died down, and the sun rose. Audiences were enraptured by this scene every night, but

only Puccini's mind metamorphosed the experience into the "Humming Chorus" at the end of Act II.

Puccini's choice of Madame Butterfly was an ode to modernity on several levels. There was stagecraft and then-new technology, not as afterthoughts but as central to the very conception of the work. It was an American play about Americans emerging, if not galumphing, onto the world stage. And the play was an example of thentrendy Realism, which seemed the way of the future in the arts (much to the annoyance of the era's retro Romantics and incomprehensible Symbolists). It's a mistake to define Realism as an exact dramatic analog of the operatic verismo for which Puccini and others (Mascagni et al.) were noted—but they are closely related in spirit as well as in their component parts. Both concentrate on real people—real in the sense that you might imagine meeting characters somewhere given circumstances (who doesn't know a Rodolfo and a Marcello from *La Bohème* in their own life?). They both reject the great figures from history or legend preferred by Romantics or the shadowy fantasy figures of the Symbolists. Both Realists and Veristi set their works in recognizable places, where people went to unglamorized work (e.g., the market women schlepping in the snow in the background of Act III of *La Bohème*).

Butterfly, in Puccini's hands, was more than modern. It was radical, and it still is. Cio-Cio-San is one of opera's most convincing characters. Giacosa and Illica (also Puccini's brilliant librettists for *La Bohème* and *Tosca*) expanded the play into a full-length opera. Her humanity expanded with her role. She speaks frankly and even sharply to a wealthy Japanese prince; she barks orders at her maid Suzuki like one to the manner born; and she even calls out Sharpless, the American consul, on his avoidance of direct answers. "But first, answer my question," she demands of him.

This personality separates Cio-Cio-San from the impossibly virtuous exoticist heroines of 19th-century Romantic operas (for example, Delibes' *Lakmé* or Bizet's *The Pearl Fishers*). The nationalities in *Madama Butterfly* all

behave, collectively speaking, in a plausible human mix of good and bad. The official bad character is an American named Benjamin Franklin Pinkerton of the battleship Abraham Lincoln, no less. I would think that the fiercest denunciations of this opera along ethnic lines should come from the sort of "anti-woke" white Americans who cannot bear to admit that some of us do, on occasion, behave badly—except I doubt such people pay much attention to Italian libretti. *Meno male* (just as well), or else this opera would face a ban in a dozen American states. Or perhaps they simply wouldn't expect anything else from the pen of David Belasco, a flamboyant Jewish Latino from—you guessed it—San Francisco.

What, then, do we make of this monumental title character? Part of her fascination lies in the contrast between her turbulent inner life and the deferential "small person" she presents to the world. Her outward humility is built into the libretto, the stage directions, and even the music (with small steps represented in rapid pentatonic

context of Colline's quasi-liturgical music, "Vecchia zimarra" becomes a universal lamentation for loss itself, conferring all the dignity applied to holy relics and great personages on quotidian objects and small people.

Only a very small fraction of the *Madama Butterfly* audience will be 15-year-old girls and an even smaller fraction—if any—will be geishas. Yet everyone in the audience will feel the issues at stake in said character's troubled journey, imminent self-destruction, and implied rebirth in glorified form ("butterfly"). It's in the music, which is a different matter than the synopsis alone. The scope of the role's musical demands (ask any soprano) confers grandeur on Cio-Cio-San: Once she enters the stage (hitting a high C) she hardly leaves again, singing almost the whole time. She has two seriously "big voice" moments in Act II: first, she shows Sharpless the secret child she's had by Pinkerton; second, she sees Pinkerton's ship in the harbor and firmly believes, against all evidence, that he is coming back to her. Sheer

"Cio-Cio-San is one of opera's most convincing characters. ... Her humanity expanded with her role."

figures). Approached uncritically (that is, without judicious analysis) it can rely on clichés that collectively become reductive and dehumanizing. But a more thorough consideration of the role—by the performer, the production, and the audience alike—will make it clear that Butterfly (like Verdi's Aida before her) evinces dignity of the individual. Given full rein, that dignity will outshine collective characterization every time.

Verismo does not mean we in the audience should believe that the people on stage actually are their characters. They are, through artistry (and a minimum of artifice, which was associated with the Romantic style) meant to convey that character's experience. Director Roberto Rossellini, noted for verismo in film, defined it as "simply an artistic form of the truth." In La Bohème, for instance, Colline's understated yet stunning aria "Vecchia zimarra" is, on the surface, a lament to his "old overcoat" with which he must now depart at a pawnbroker's shop. But of course it is not merely that. Considered in the

vocal power is Puccini's way of vindicating her inner life. The climax is her final line "Addio, amore mio!" ("Farewell, my love") which she sings to her son before her ritual suicide. It thunders out a theme (Japanese but harmonized in a European manner on European instruments) associated with her father's suicide and the sword he used to restore his own honor. It is as triumphant as anything in opera.

Cio-Cio-San's suicide, like Tosca's and several others in opera, is the unquestionable moral victory. It is a true suicide of a real person that, rendered through "artistic" means, becomes the exact opposite of an actual suicide. Her decisive and devastating act becomes a truth beyond Realism.

.Author, lecturer, and radio producer Wiliam Berger is a frequent contributor to San Francisco Opera's program books. Many of his past essays for the Company are included in his recent anthology, Seeking the Sublime Cache: Opera Articles Selected and Written by William Berger.

The Butterfly Effect



COURTESY OF MUSEUM OF PERFORMANCE + DESIGN

Founded in the 1930s by Japanese tenor Yoshie Fujiwara, the **Fujiwara Opera Company** launched Good Will Tours of the United States after World War II. In August 1953, the company presented *Madame Butterfly* at San Francisco's Curran Theatre in a bilingual production performed in Japanese except for the American characters of Pinkerton, Sharpless, and Kate Pinkerton who were performed by Americans singing in English. Fujiwara's performances were enthusiastically received and occurred within weeks of San Francisco Opera's presentation of the opera in Italian featuring Licia Albanese in the title role.

The widespread popularity of Puccini's opera has inspired innovative opera productions along with several non-operatic retellings that dialogue with its familiar story such as the Broadway musical Miss Saigon and David Henry Hwang's acclaimed stage play M. Butterfly (which has been made into a film and a new opera by composer Huang Ruo). Below are a few Butterfly resonances that are worth exploring.



One of the Fujiwara Opera Company's greatest stars in Japan and on their U.S. tours was soprano Michiko Sunahara. She made her professional debut at Tokyo's Imperial Theatre for an audience of American troops before launching an international operatic career that included a triumph at the Opera Comique in Paris. In 1958, she represented the Fujiwara Company on the Ed Sullivan Show performing "Un bel dì, vedremo" in costume. Check YouTube!



Thanks to their hit single "Buddy Holly," **Weezer** became one of the leading indie rock bands of the 1990s. While on tour, the group's songwriter and front man, Rivers Cuomo, listened incessantly to a recording of *Madama Butterfly* featuring soprano Maria Callas. He observed parallels between B.F. Pinkerton in the opera and his own touring rockstar lifestyle. His inspiration led to Weezer's sophomore effort, *Pinkerton*. The album's references to *Madama Butterfly* and Japanese culture baffled critics and fans leading to underachieving sales for the multi-platinum group. In recent years, *Pinkerton* enjoyed a renaissance and is now regarded as one of rock's greatest concept albums of the last 30 years.



MADAMA BUTTERFLY RECORD HOLDERS AT SAN FRANCISCO OPERA

Cio-Cio-San

Dorothy Kirsten: 9 seasons (1948–1969) Licia Albanese: 8 seasons (1941–1961) Patricia Racette: 3 seasons (2006–2014)

Suzuki

Herta Glaz: 6 seasons (1939–1951) Zheng Cao: 5 season (1997–2007)

Katherine Hilgenberg: 3 seasons (1957–1960) Margaret Roggero: 3 seasons (1953–1956)

B.F. Pinkerton

Luis Lima: 3 seasons (1980–1999) Richard Lewis: 3 seasons (1955–1957) Charles Kullman: 3 seasons (1937–1948)



SAN FRANCISCO OPERA'S MOST PERFORMED OPERAS (BY NUMBER OF SEASONS)

1. Puccini: *La Bohème* (45)

2. Puccini: Madama Butterfly (38)

2. Puccini: Tosca (38)

4. Verdi: *Aida* (35)

5. Bizet: Carmen (34)

5. Verdi: Rigoletto (34)

7. Verdi: La Traviata (33)

8. Rossini: Il Barbiere di Siviglia (28)

8. Donizetti: Lucia di Lammermoor (28)

10. Mozart: Don Giovanni (26)

11. Leoncavallo: *Pagliacci* (23)

11. Verdi: Il Trovatore (23)

13. Wagner: Die Walküre (21)

14. Gounod: Faust (19)

14. Massenet: Manon (19)

16. Mozart: Le Nozze di Figaro (19)

17. Verdi: La Forza del Destino (18)

17. Strauss: Der Rosenkavalier (18)

19. Mascagni: Cavalleria Rusticana (17)

19. Verdi: Otello (17)

19. Wagner: Tristan und Isolde (17)

19. Puccini: Turandot (17)

Artist Profiles

* San Francisco Opera Debut 🌖 Role Debut 🔰 Current Adler Fellow 🕠 Merola Opera Program Graduate 🐧 Merola and Adler Fellowship Graduate



EUN SUN KIM
(Seoul, South Korea)
Caroline H. Hume
Music Director of
San Francisco Opera
Conductor
San Francisco Opera

Highlights: Rusalka; Tosca; Fidelio; John Adams' Antony and Cleopatra; Dialogues of the Carmelites; La Traviata; Homecoming Concert; Eun Sun Kim Conducts Verdi; The Future Is Now: Adlers in Concert; Opera Ball: The Centennial Celebration; Opera in the Park **Recent and Upcoming: 100th** Anniversary Concert, Il Trovatore, Lohengrin, The Magic Flute (San Francisco Opera): La Bohème (Metropolitan Opera, Vienna State Opera, Milan's Teatro alla Scala); Tosca (Lyric Opera of Chicago); Turandot (Houston Grand Opera): Roberto Devereux (LA Opera); Verdi Requiem (Dutch National Opera); concerts with The Philadelphia Orchestra, Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Seoul Philharmonic, Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Los Angeles Philharmonic Principal Guest Conductor of Houston Grand Opera Instagram: @ESKConductor



KARAH SON '
Soprano
(Seoul, South Korea)
Cio-Cio-San
(Madame Butterfly)
Recent and
Upcoming: Cio-Cio-

San in *Madame Butterfly* (Warsaw, Leipzig, Gothenburg, Turin, Sydney, Kansas City, Stuttgart, Montpellier, Bologna, Angers, Nantes, Rennes, Cincinnati, Detroit); Mimì in *La* Bohème (Sydney), Verdi Requiem (Seoul); Concerts (Gewandhaus Leipzig)



MICHAEL FABIANO
Tenor
(Montclair, New Jersey)
Lieutenant B. F.
Pinkerton
San Francisco Opera

Highlights: Rodolfo in La Bohème; Chevalier des Grieux in Manon; title role of Don Carlo; Gennaro in Lucrezia Borgia; Verdi Requiem; Rodolfo in Luisa Miller; Cavaradossi in Tosca; Opera Ball: The Centennial Celebration Recent and Upcoming: Soloist in 100th Anniversary Concert (San Francisco Opera); Cavaradossi in *Tosca* (Paris Opera, Madrid's Teatro Real, Metropolitan Opera, LA Opera, Barcelona's Gran Theatre del Liceu, Vienna State Opera); Rodolfo in La Bohème (Madrid, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Metropolitan Opera); Don José in Carmen (Les Théâtre de la Ville de Luxembourg, Washington National Opera, Santa Fe Opera); Calaf in Turandot (Rome Opera); Lensky in Eugene Onegin (Naples' Teatro di San Carlo); title role of Les Contes d'Hoffmann (Bilbao' ABAO-OLBE, Paris); Ismaele in Nabucco (Madrid); Maurizio in Adriana Lecouvreur (Opera Australia); Des Grieux in Manon (Metropolitan Opera); An Evening with Michael Fabiano seasonopening gala (Michigan Opera Theatre); title role of Don Carlo (Paris); Alfredo in La Traviata (Madrid); Riccardo in Un Ballo in Maschera (Madrid); Ruggero in La Rondine (Naples); Faust in Mefistofele (Metropolitan Opera); title role of Gounod's Faust (London's Royal Opera Covent Garden); title role of Werther (Opera Australia); Duke in Rigoletto (Berlin State Opera); Carlo VII in Verdi's Giovanna d'Arco (Madrid); recitals in Turku, Finland and Waterford, Virginia; concerts with

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MOISÉS SALAZAR 14+
Tenor
(Santa Ana, California)
Lieutenant B. F.
Pinkerton
San Francisco Opera
Highlights: Aldeano

#2/Muchacho in Gabriela Lena Frank and Nilo Cruz's *El último sueño de Frida y Diego* Recent and Upcoming: Remendado in *Carmen* (Palm Beach Opera); First Priest/First Armored Man in *Die Zauberflöte* (Palm Beach Opera); Tebaldo in *I Capuleti e i Montecchi* (Palm Beach Opera)
San Francisco Opera Adler Fellow 2023 Merola Opera Program 2022



HYONA KIM

Mezzo-Soprano
(Seoul, South Korea)

Suzuki

San Francisco Opera

Highlights: Lady

Wang in Bright Sheng

and David Henry Hwang's *Dream of the Red Chamber*

Recent and Upcoming: Amneris in Aida (Dortmund Opera); Suzuki in Madame Butterfly (Dortmund, Royal Danish Opera); Tzippie in Oliver Knussen's Wo die Wilden Kerle Wohnen (Dortmund); title role of Ernest Guiraud, Paul Dukas, and Camille Saint-Saëns' Frédégonde (Dortmund); Ortrud in Lohengrin (Dortmund); Nancy Tang in John Adams' Nixon in China (Dortmund); Tannhäuser (Metropolitan Opera)



EUCAS MEACHEM ◊
Baritone
(Raleigh,
North Carolina)
Sharpless
San Francisco Opera
Highlights: Title role

of Eugene Onegin; title role of Don Giovanni; Figaro in Il Barbiere di Siviglia and The Barber of Seville; Papageno in The Magic Flute; Count Almaviva in Le Nozze di Figaro; Frank/Fritz in Die Tote Stadt

Recent and Upcoming: Soloist in

100th Anniversary Concert (San Francisco Opera); Sharpless in Madame Butterfly (London's Royal Opera Covent Garden); title role of Don Giovanni (Ravinia Festival, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Dresden); Escamillo in Carmen (Canadian Opera Company, Paris Opera, Turin's Teatro Regio); De Siriex in Fedora (Metropolitan Opera); Count Almaviva in Le Nozze di Figaro (LA Opera); Guglielmo in Così fan tutte (Dallas Opera); Marcello in La Bohème (Metropolitan Opera); title role of Nabucco (Oper im Steinbruch); Athanaël in Thaïs (Milan's Teatro alla Scala, Minnesota Opera); Silvio in Pagliacci (Chicago); Germont in La Traviata (Washington National Opera); Figaro in Il Barbiere di Siviglia (Houston Grand Opera); Zurga in Les Pêcheurs de Perles (Bilbao Opera) Co-founder of Perfect Day Music Foundation Winner of San Francisco Opera's Emerging Star of the Year 2016 Grammy Award for Best Opera Recording (Corigliano's The Ghosts of Versailles) San Francisco Opera Adler Fellowship 2004, 2005 Merola Opera Program 2003 Website: lucasmeachem.com



JULIUS AHN
Tenor
(Seoul, South Korea)
Goro
San Francisco Opera
Highlights: Goro in
Madame Butterfly;

Pang in Turandot Recent and Upcoming: Goro in Madame Butterfly (Cincinnati Opera, Canadian Opera Company, Atlanta Opera, New Orleans Opera); Borsa in Rigoletto (Dallas Opera, Opera Philadelphia); Kaspar in Amahl and the Night Visitors (On Site Opera); Mime in Das Rheingold (Atlanta); Guang in Byron Au Young and Aaron Jafferis' Stuck Elevator (Nashville Opera); Second Priest in The Magic Flute (Metropolitan Opera); Spoletta in *Tosca* (Cincinnati); Gherardo in Gianni Schicchi (Tulsa Opera); Baldolfo in Falstaff (Opera Omaha); Antenore in Zelmira (Washington Concert Opera)



KIDON CHOI *
Baritone
(Seoul, South Korea)
Prince Yamadori
Recent and
Upcoming: Voices of
the Nightwatchmen

in Die Frau ohne Schatten (San Francisco Opera); Prince Yamadori in Madame Butterfly (Metropolitan Opera); Herald in Otello (Metropolitan Opera); Castro in La Fanciulla del West (Metropolitan Opera); The Four Villains in Les Contes d'Hoffmann (Korea National Opera); Scarpia in Tosca (Opera San José); Montano in Otello (Cleveland Orchestra); Germont in La Traviata (Wolf Trap Opera); Jack Rance in La Fanciulla del West (Korea); Tonio in Pagliacci (North Carolina Opera); Marcello in La Bohème (Opera Idaho); title role of Rigoletto (Wolf Trap Opera)



JONGWON HAN †
Bass-Baritone
(Seoul, South Korea)
The Bonze
San Francisco
Opera Highlights:
Colline in Bohème

Out of the Box

Recent and Upcoming: Voices of the Nightwatchmen in *Die Frau ohne Schatten* (San Francisco Opera); The Bonze in *Madame Butterfly* (Palm Beach Opera); bass soloist in Handel's *Messiah*; concerts in Osaka, Seoul and New York Adler Fellowship Program 2023



ANDREW THOMAS

PARDINI Description

Baritone
(Modesto, California)

The Imperial

Commissioner

San Francisco Opera

Highlights: Flora's Servant in La Traviata Recent and Upcoming: Sciarrone in Tosca (Livermore Valley Opera); baritone soloist in 40th Anniversary Gala (Opera Modesto); Marcello in La Bohème (San Francisco Opera Guild); Giuseppe Palmieri in Gilbert & Sullivan's The Gondoliers (Winter Opera Saint Louis); Schaunard in La Bohème (Gulfshore Opera, Opera North, Salt Marsh Opera); Dancaïre in Carmen (Opera Orlando); Dr. Falke in Die Fledermaus (Orlando); Edmund Bertram in Jonathan Dove's Mansfield Park (Modesto); The Pirate King in The Pirates of Penzance (Saint Louis); Silvio in Pagliacci (Salt Marsh Opera); Der Dritte Edle in Lohengrin (Opera Southwest); Tobia Mill in La Cambiale di Matrimonio (Opera Southwest) Current member of San Francisco Opera Regular Chorus



MIKAYLA SAGER 1/1+
Soprano
(Vancouver, Canada)
Kate Pinkerton/
Elder Kate Pinkerton
San Francisco Opera
Highlights: Soloist in

Eun Sun Kim Conducts Verdi; Sister Felicity in Dialogues of the Carmelites; Mimì in Bohème Out of the Box

Recent and Upcoming: Keeper of the Gates of the Temple in *Die Frau ohne Schatten* (San Francisco Opera); Frida Image #1 in Gabriela Lena Frank and Nilo Cruz's *El último sueño de Frida y Diego* (San Francisco Opera); concert (UC Davis Symphony Orchestra); Giannetta in *L'Elisir d'Amore* (Festival Napa Valley)
San Francisco Opera Adler Fellow 2022, 2023

Merola Opera Program 2021



JERE TORKELSEN
Baritone
(San Francisco,
California)
The Official Registrar
San Francisco Opera
Highlights: Brigadier

General John A. Rawlins in Philip Glass' Appomattox; The Imperial Commissioner in Madame Butterfly; A Journalist in Lulu; A Steersman in Tristan und Isolde Recent and Upcoming: Polyphemus in Handel's Acis and Galatea; Charlemagne in Pippin

Current member of San Francisco Opera Regular Chorus



Tenor
(Diamond Bar,
California)

Yakuside

Recent and

Upcoming: Alfred in

Die Fledermaus (Pocket Opera); Camille in Die Lustige Witwe (Pocket Opera); Rodolfo in La Bohème (San Francisco Opera Guild) Current member of San Francisco Opera Regular Chorus



CRYSTAL KIM ')
Soprano
(Seoul, South Korea)
Cousin
Recent and
Upcoming: Soprano
soloist in Ives' Fourth

Symphony (San Francisco Symphony); soprano soloist in Beethoven's Ninth Symphony (Symphony Silicon Valley); soprano soloist in Finzi's *In Terra Pax* (Nova Vista Symphony) Current member of San Francisco Opera Regular Chorus



SILVIE JENSEN D Mezzo-Soprano (San Francisco, California) Mother San Francisco Opera Highlights:

Lehrbuben in *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*

Recent and Upcoming: Scheherazade (Mendocino Music Festival); Selysette in Ariane et Barbe Bleue (West Edge Opera); Nurse in Boris Godunov (San Francisco Symphony); alto soloist in Bach's St. Matthew Passion (SFS); alto soloist in Bach's Magnificat (SFS); Maddalena in Rigoletto (Modesto Opera) Current member of San Francisco Opera Regular Chorus

Website: silviejensen.com



WHITNEY STEELE ♪
Mezzo-Soprano
(Portland, Oregon)
Aunt
Recent and
Upcoming: Tessa in
The Gondoliers

(Lamplighters Music Theatre); Siebel in Faust (North State Symphony); Zerlina in Don Giovanni (North State Singers); Nicklausse in The Tales of Hoffmann (Pocket Opera); Quartet Chorus in Everest (Opera Parallèle)
Current member of San Francisco Opera Regular Chorus



JOHN CHARLES
QUIMPO ')
(Aklan, Philippines)
Adult Trouble
Recent and
Upcoming: Leaf
Coneybear in The 25th

Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee
(Landmark Musical Theatre); Chris and
Dance Captain in The Boy from Oz
(Theatre Rhinoceros); TJ and Assistant
Dance Captain in Sister Act (Theatre
Rhinoceros); Bernstein in Dogfight
(Redwood City Players); Ed in Mga Bata
Sa Selda 43 (Bindlestiff Studio)
Website: johncharlesquimpo.com
Facebook: @jcqtribe
Instagram: @jcqtribe



EVAN MILES O'HARE *)
(Walnut Creek,
California)
Elder Pinkerton
Recent and
Upcoming:
Alexander, Chief

Commissioner in *Pride Jewel*; host of *Haunted Objects* (YouTube); acting projects for Reelz TV, commercials, print work; singer-songwriter



CHIHARU SHIBATA
(Sapporo, Japan)
Shadow Dancer
San Francisco
Opera Highlights:
Wu Ching-Hua in
John Adams' Nixon

in China; solo dancer in *Aida*; Duncan in *Macbeth*

Recent and Upcoming: Tenured dancer with San Francisco Opera



AMON MIYAMOTO *
(Tokyo, Japan)

Director

Recent and

Upcoming: Madame

Butterfly (Dresden,
Tokyo); Le Nozze di

Figaro (Osaka, Yamagata, Tokyo, Tottori, Oita); Parsifal (Tokyo, Strasbourg, Mulhouse); Die Zauberflöte (Tokyo); Le Pavilion d'Or (Strasbourg, Mulhouse); Fanatic Artist Hokusai (Tokyo, Nagano, Osaka, Kagawa, Ishikawa); The Karate Kid—The Musical (St. Louis); Ikiru (Tokyo, Toyama, Hyogo, Fukuoka, Nagoya); Chocolate Donuts (Tokyo); Priscilla—Queen of the Desert (Tokyo); Inosan Musicale (Tokyo); Shinshun Kabuki: Nihon Mukashi Banashi (Tokyo); YUGEN (Paris)



MIROKU SHIMADA *
(Kanagawa, Japan)
Associate Director
Recent and
Upcoming: Associate
Director for Madame
Butterfly (Tokyo,

Dresden); *Eugene Onegin* (Matsumoto Festival); *Die Zauberflöte* (Taichung City); Director of Yutaka Makino's *Anju to Zushio* (Toyko)



BORIS KUDLIČKA
(Bratislava, Slovakia)
Set Designer
San Francisco Opera
Highlights: Elektra
Recent and
Upcoming: Set

designer of Madame Butterfly (Minamoto: Tokyo's Nikikai Opera, Semperoper Dresden; Treliński: Warsaw, Mariinsky Theatre); La Forza del Destino (Warsaw, Metropolitan Opera); Karol Szymanowski's King Roger (Warsaw, Stockholm); Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg (Vienna State Opera); Boris Godunov (Tokyo's New National Theatre); *Iolanta* (Mariinsky, Metropolitan Opera); Otello (London's Royal Opera Covent Garden); Stanisław Moniuszko's Halka (Vienna's Theater an der Wien; Warsaw); La Traviata (Warsaw); Die Zauberflöte (Tokyo's Bunka Kaikan); Paul Hindemith's Cardillac (Warsaw); Die Tote Stadt (Brussels' La Monnaie, Warsaw); Orfeo ed Euridice (Opera Wrocławska); The Fiery Angel (Warsaw, Aix-en-Provence); Eugene Onegin (Warsaw, Dubai); Bluebeard's Castle (Metropolitan Opera); Turandot (Warsaw); Toshirō Mayuzumi's Kinkakuji (Strasbourg) Director of Carmina Burana (Warsaw's Wielki)



KENZŌ TAKADA '
(Himeji, Japan)
Costume Designer
Recent and
Upcoming:
Costume designer
for Madame Butterfly

(Tokyo, Dresden, Copenhagen); Pioneer designer of clothing lines, perfumes, skincare, and interior decoration. Founder of the luxury brands Kenzo and K3. Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters and Chevalier of the Légion d'Honneur (France)



SONOKO TAKEDA *
(Tokyo, Japan)
Associate Costume
Designer
Recent and
Upcoming: Costume
Associate for Madame

Butterfly (Semperoper Dresden); Orfeo ed Euridice (New National Theatre Opera)
Costume Design for Onbashira
(Nagano Opera)
Costume Production Direction for Kaguya (Tokyo Ballet)
Facebook: @sonoko.takeda



FABIO ANTOCI *
(Dresden, Germany)
Lighting Designer
Recent and
Upcoming: Die Nase
(Semperoper
Dresden); La Traviata

(Dresden); Anno Schreier's *Turing* (Nürnberg State Theater); *L'Orfeo* (Dresden); *Pique Dame* (Dresden) Head of the Lighting-Audio-Video Department and Lighting Designer at Semperoper Dresden



BARTEK MACIAS (Kraków, Poland) Projection Designer San Francisco Opera Highlights: Video Designer for Elektra Recent and

Upcoming: La Forza del Destino
(Warsaw, Metropolitan Opera); Boris
Godunov (Tokyo's New National Theatre);
Paul Hindemith's Cardillac (Warsaw);
Parsifal (Tokyo's Bunka Kaikan,
Strasbourg); Stanisław Moniuszko's Halka
(Vienna's Theater an der Wien; Warsaw);
Karol Szymanowski's King Roger
(Warsaw); Toshirō Mayuzumi's Kinkakuji
(Strasbourg); The Fiery Angel (Aix-enProvence, Warsaw); Die Tote Stadt
(Brussels' La Monnaie); Elektra (Karlsruhe)



COLM SEERY
(Dublin, Ireland)
Choreographer
San Francisco
Opera Highlights:
Movement Director
of John Adams'

Antony and Cleopatra; Revival Choreographer of Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg, Andrea Chénier, Bright Sheng and David Henry Hwang's Dream of the Red Chamber; Dance Master of Don Giovanni, Eugene Onegin, La Traviata, Orfeo ed Euridice

Recent and Upcoming: Choreographer of *Die Frau ohne Schatten* (San Francisco Opera); Gabriela Lena Frank and Nilo Cruz's *El último sueño de Frida y Diego* (San Francisco Opera); Choreographer of *Idomeneo* (Staatsoper Berlin); Britten's *Gloriana* (Madrid's Teatro Real); *Ariodante* (Vienna State Opera, Israeli Opera) Associate Choreographer of *Andrea Chénier* (London'sRoyal Opera Covent Garden)

Revival Choreographer of *La Traviata* (Barcelona's Liceu, Welsh National Opera); *Giulio Cesare* (Glyndebourne Festival Opera); *L'Elisir d'Amore* (Glyndebourne); *Rinaldo* (Glyndebourne)



JOHN KEENE
(Lancaster,
Pennsylvania)
Chorus Director
San Francisco Opera
Highlights: Don
Giovanni; Bright

Sheng and David Henry Hwang's *Dream* of the Red Chamber, Eun Sun Kim
Conducts Verdi; John Adams' Antony and
Cleopatra; Eugene Onegin; Dialogues of
the Carmelites; La Traviata; Orpheus and
Eurvdice

Recent and Upcoming: San Francisco Opera Chorus Director (Die Frau ohne Schatten, Gabriela Lena Frank and Nilo Cruz's El último sueño de Frida v Diego: 100th Anniversary Concert) Seattle Opera Head of Music Staff and Chorus Master (La Bohème, Die Walküre, Jonathan Dove's Flight, Tosca, Rigoletto, La Cenerentola, Eugene Onegin, Porgy and Bess, The Turn of the Screw, Il Trovatore, Carmen, Madame Butterfly, Il Barbiere di Siviglia, Così fan tutte, Béatrice et Bénédict. Aida) Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition and San Francisco Conservatory of Music Voice Concerto Competition judge Instagram: @keenejohn



DAVE MAIER
(El Cerrito, California)
Fight Director
San Francisco Opera
Highlights: John
Adams' Antony and
Cleopatra; Carmen;

Tosca; the Ring cycle; Pagliacci; Rigoletto; Romeo and Juliet; Billy Budd Recent and Upcoming: Die Frau ohne Schatten (San Francisco Opera); Gabriela Lena Frank and Nilo Cruz's El último sueño de Frida y Diego (San Francisco Opera); Tosca (Opera San José); Sweat (Center Repertory Company); Poor Yella Rednecks: Vietgone 2 (American Conservatory Theater); Exodus to Eden (Oakland Theater Project); Romeo and Juliet in America (African-American Shakespeare Company); Cyrano (Aurora Theatre)

San Francisco Opera News



NEW EXHIBITION AT MUSEO ITALO AMERICANO

The vital role of San Francisco's Italian community in fostering a love for opera in the Bay Area is celebrated in a new exhibition at the Museo Italo American in the Fort Mason Center. With text by Company Dramaturg Emeritus Kip Cranna and materials from San Francisco Opera's Archives and the collections of Museum of Performance + Design, *Bravo: Celebrating San Francisco Opera, Its Italian Roots and Legacy* illuminates the art form's local genesis during the Gold Rush and the contributions of Italian Americans to San Francisco Opera's first century.

IN SONG: DANIELA MACK RELEASED JUNE 6



San Francisco Opera's award-winning video portrait series, *In Song*, continues this month with an episode featuring Daniela Mack. Filmed on location in

Buenos Aires, *In Song: Daniela Mack* follows the acclaimed mezzo-soprano's artistic journey and musically paying homage to her native Argentina. Mack returns to the War Memorial Opera House stage on June 13 as Frida Kahlo in the Company premiere of *El último sueño de Frida y Diego* by composer Gabriela Lena Frank and librettist Nilo Cruz.



Show up big. Show up small. Show up for foster kids.

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Your Guide to San Francisco Opera at the War Memorial Opera House

WELCOME! WE'RE SO PLEASED YOU'RE HERE.

CONNECT TO SAN FRANCISCO OPERA after the performance! Follow us on instagram, youtube, tiktok, or twitter @sfopera for your insider's look!











COAT CHECK

Check your coat at the north and south ends of the Main Lobby. For the safety and comfort of our audience, large bags are strongly discouraged and are subject to search.

DINING

Cafés: Enjoy a variety of sandwiches, snacks, and refreshments

- · Café Express (Lower Level, Open 2 hours before curtain)
- Dress Circle Lounge (Level 3, South, Open 1 hour before curtain)

Restaurants: Dine pre-show or reserve a table for intermission.

PRELUDE AT THE OPERA HOUSE · Lower Lounge

Prelude at the Opera House (formerly known as The Café at the Opera) offers a changing seasonal buffet (including brunch) and elevated à la carte dishes.

NORTH BOX RESTAURANT AND BAR · North Mezzanine Level

Overlooking the magnificent main lobby, North Box Restaurant offers California cuisine with global influences and is an ideal destination for pre-performance and intermission dining.

Restaurants are open two hours prior to performances.
Reservations are strongly recommended. Reserve a table online at sfopera.com/dine or by scanning the QR code,email operahousepreorder@ggcatering.com, or call (415) 861-8150 (email preferred over phone).

PRE-ORDER!

Avoid lines during intermission by pre-ordering beverages and snacks with a food and beverage server upon your arrival at any point of service.

SAN FRANCISCO OPERA SHOP

Take home a memento! Located in the South Mezzanine lobby, the Opera Shop sells branded merchandise, jewelry, books, and gift items. The Shop is open 90 minutes before performances, at intermissions, and afterward. All proceeds benefit San Francisco Opera.

ALL ARE WELCOME. HELP US MAKE SURE EVERYONE HAS A WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE!

- Turn off all electronic devices during the performance, including digital watches and cell phones. We ask this out of respect for the artists and for everyone in the theater enjoying a live, in-the-moment experience.
- Take photos before, during intermission, during the bows, or after the performance, and leave cameras and recording devices off during performances.
- Enjoy food and drinks purchased onsite pre-show and during intermission, before entering the theater. You may bring drinks into the theater, but please be mindful of your fellow patrons.
- As a courtesy to those who may have fragrance allergies, please avoid wearing perfume or cologne.
- Get to know and enjoy this wonderful community of opera lovers. Say hello to one another pre-show, at intermission, or leaving the theater.

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

FIRST AID STATION

Our First Aid Station is located on the South Lower Level. In case of emergency, please ask the nearest usher to assist you.

ACCESSIBILITY

San Francisco Opera is committed to providing easy access for all of our patrons. If you need assistance for a future performance, please contact the Opera Box Office prior to your visit so that we can ensure your comfort.

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

LARGE-PRINT CAST SHEETS AND SYNOPSES

Visit the North Lobby coat check for large-print versions.

LISTENING DEVICES

Assistive listening devices are available at the North Lobby coat check. 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.

OPERA GLASSES

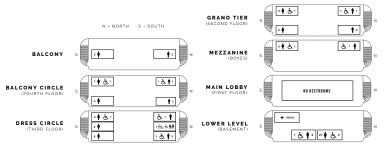
See the action up close and rent a pair of opera glasses for \$5 at the North Lobby coat check. ID deposit is requested. Credit card only.

LOST AND FOUND

Items may be turned in or 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).

RESTROOMS

Restrooms are located on all levels of the Opera House except on the Orchestra Level (Main Lobby).



RIDESHARE

Direct your rideshare service to pick up and drop off using the white loading zone at 455 Franklin Street (located behind the Opera House).

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. Taxis cannot be guaranteed as service is based on availability of licensed taxis. Please note the Taxi Ramp is not staffed.

IMPROVING YOUR SAFETY

Meet Your Civic Center Ambassadors!

As you leave the theater, be on the lookout for friendly community ambassadors in orange vests or coats along Grove Street. These ambassadors are there to assist you and escort you to and from the Opera House on performance days and evenings from 6:30–11:30pm.



SAN FRANCISCO WAR MEMORIAL AND PERFORMING ARTS CENTER WAR MEMORIAL OPERA HOUSE

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

The San Francisco War Memorial acknowledges that we are on the unceded ancestral homeland of the Ramaytush Ohlone who are the original inhabitants of the San Francisco Peninsula. As guests, we recognize that we benefit from living and working on their traditional homeland. We wish to pay our respects by acknowledging the ancestors, elders and relatives of the Ramaytush Community and by affirming their sovereign rights as First Peoples.

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*Senior Production Staff Member

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Roberto Kalb '
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Jamielyn Duggan
Marian Luna Faustino
Blanche Hampton
Livanna Maislen
Micah Moch
Christopher Nachtrab
Jekyns Peláez
Chiharu Shibata
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* Solo Role

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Mariya Borozina
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Maya Cohon
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+ = Leave of absence

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Jamielyn Duggan ^
Blanche Hampton ^
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t Tenured Dancer
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Concertmaster



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Concertmaster



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Barbara Riccardi First Violin



Dian Zhang First Violin



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Regular Substitute



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Martha Simonds Associate Principal Second Violin



Beni Shinohara Assistant Principal Second Violin



Eva Karasik Second Violin



Leslie Ludena Second Violin



Maya Cohon Second Violin



Craig Reiss Second Violin



Heeguen Song Second Violin Regular Substitute



Carla Maria Rodrigues Principal Viola



Joy FellowsActing Associate
Principal, Viola



Patricia Heller Viola



Jonna Hervig Viola



Natalia Vershilova Viola



Elizabeth Prior Viola Regular Substitute



Thalia Moore Acting Principal Cello



Peter Myers Acting Assistant Principal, Cello



Nora Pirquet Acting Assistant Principal, Cello



Emil Miland Cello



Victoria Ehrlich Cello



Ruth Lane Cello



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Jonathan Lancelle Associate Principal Bass

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Shinji Eshima Bass



Julie McKenzie Principal Flute



Stephanie McNab Flute & Piccolo



Mingjia Liu Principal Oboe



Gabriel Young
Acting Principal
Oboe



Jose Gonzalez Granero Principal Clarinet



Joanne Burke Eisler Assistant Principal Clarinet



Anthony Striplen Clarinet & Bass Clarinet



Rufus Olivier Principal Bassoon



Daniel MacNeill Bassoon



Michael Severance Bassoon & Contrabassoon



Kevin RivardPrincipal
Horn



Keith Green Horn



Brian McCarty Associate Principal Horn



Adam Luftman Principal Trumpet



John Pearson Trumpet



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Samuel Schlosser Principal Trombone



David RidgePrincipal
Bass Trombone



Zachariah Spellman Tuba/Cimbasso



John Burgardt Timpani



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Tracy Davis Orchestra Manager



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Most photos by John Martin.
Not pictured: Jooeyon Kong (Violin), Emily Liu (Viola), Yi Zhou (Viola),
Miriam Perkoff (Cello), Evan Hillis (Bass),
Susan Kang (Flute), Benjamin Brogadir (Oboe),
Sean Krissman (Clarinet), Junghwan Lee (Clarinet), Shawn Jones (Bassoon),
Phillip Palmore (Horn), Michael Cox (Trombone),
Victor Advienko (Percussion), Annabelle Taubl (Harp),
Kevin Myers (Orchestra Operations Manager), Emma Kosht (Assistant Librarian)

San Francisco Opera Regular Chorus



Nadima Avakian Soprano



Kathleen Bayler Soprano



Cheryl Cain Soprano



Sara Colburn Soprano Leave of Absence



Claire Kelm Soprano



Crystal Kim Soprano



Elisabeth Rom Lucio Soprano



Liesl McPherrin Soprano



Angela Eden Moser Soprano



Rachelle Perry Soprano



Carole Schaffer Soprano Leave of Absence



Jesslyn ThomasSoprano



Buffy Baggott Mezzo-Soprano



Janet Campbell Mezzo-Soprano



Edith Dowd Mezzo-Soprano



Insert Stella Hannock Mezzo-Soprano



Silvie Jensen Mezzo-Soprano



Sally Mouzon Mezzo-Soprano



Sarah Nadreau Mezzo-Soprano



Erin Neff Mezzo-Soprano



Laurel Cameron Porter Mezzo-Soprano



Whitney Steele Mezzo-Soprano



C. Michael Belle Tenor



Alan Cochran Tenor



Kevin Gino Tenor



Daniel Harper Tenor



Christopher Jackson Tenor



Michael Jankosky Tenor



Phillip Pickens Tenor



Chester Pidduck



Jonathan Smucker Tenor



Andrew Truett
Tenor



William Lee Bryan Baritone



Anders Fröhlich Baritone



Andrew Thomas Pardini Baritone



John Fulton Baritone



Jere Torkelsen Baritone



Wilford Kelly Bass



Bojan Knežević Bass



William O'Neill Bass



William Pickersgill Bass



Valery Portnov Bass

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San Francisco Opera Corps Dancers



Jamielyn Duggan



Brett Conway



Blanche Hampton



Bryan Ketron Leave of Absence



Rachel Speidel Little Leave of Absence



Christopher Nachtrab



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Total Works of Art

BY GENERAL DIRECTOR MATTHEW SHILVOCK

here's a rather imposing word often used in relation to Wagner's operas:

Gesamtkunstwerk. It translates as "total work of art" and represents the complete integration of all art forms in one experience. While a philosophical German concept, it serves as a broader encapsulation of the synergy between the arts, manifested so perfectly in opera.

perfectly in opera.

This summer's operas pay homage to the integration of music and art, and the tradition of famous artists finding an outlet on the opera stage, which, in our case, is a 50-foot-wide canvas surrounded by the most ornate, gilded picture frame. It is not surprising that artists feel the urge to 'paint' on so vast a canvas. Artists like

Marc Chagall, Salvador Dalí, Maurice Sendak, Jun Kaneko, Anish Kapoor, and Monty Python animator Terry Gilliam have all felt the allure of the proscenium.

This summer, *Die Frau ohne Schatten* honors maybe the greatest artistic visionary of the opera stage: David Hockney. His expressions of art and music represent extraordinary journeys of light, color, shape, and form, as we've seen in his *Turandot*, *Magic*

Flute, Tristan und Isolde, and The Rake's Progress. These are intricately undertaken projects, often conceived with an elaborate set model on which Hockney would stage scenes with miniature characters. Hockney once noted "I stay up nights and fiddle with my opera designs. It's a bit obsessive. That's why I can't do it all the time." Jun Kaneko, whose productions of Magic Flute and Madame Butterfly we've had on our stage, went similarly deep, listening to an opera 300 times before even drawing a line.

David Hockney was joined for *Die Frau ohne Schatten* by costume designer Ian Falconer, who also designed costumes



RISTEN LOKEN

for our *Turandot*. Ian became even more famous as an illustrator, conceiving the Olivia children's books. He should have been with us this summer but tragically passed away in March aged just 63.

Another costume designer who should have been with us this summer is Kenzō Takada, the Japanese fashion designer and founder of the Parisian fashion house KENZO. He created the

costumes for our new co-production of *Madame Butterfly*. The fusion of fashion and opera has created some extraordinary visuals over the years: think Christian Lacroix's *Capuleti e i Montecchi* from 2012 or Bob Mackie's 1989 *Lulu*. For *Butterfly*, Kenzō reimagined traditional Japanese

design, with kimonos that honor the past but push into the future. Kenzō very sadly passed away from Covid in October 2020.

Our third work of the summer integrates the world of visual design into the very story of the opera. *El último sueño de Frida y Diego* is a metaphysical dreamscape in which Diego Rivera reconnects with Frida Kahlo after her death through the

medium of painting. Here, music illuminates

art in a twist on the other examples of art illuminating music.

The history of opera design is a chronicle of theatrical genius, with theatrical designers creating fantastical worlds out of a simple black box. But there is a particular magic that can happen when an artist comes into our space from outside the theater and explores their aesthetic at our epic scale. This summer we honor all those who design for the stage, particularly Kenzō Takada and Ian Falconer who cannot be with us, and we celebrate the visionary minds who conceive these expressions of total art, inviting us into something larger than life.

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