



SAN FRANCISCO
OPERA

SAN FRANCISCO OPERA PRESENTS MOZART'S *THE MAGIC FLUTE*
MAY 30–JUNE 30, 2024



Scenes from Mozart's *The Magic Flute* (photos: Cory Weaver/Lyric Opera of Chicago, Cory Weaver/LA Opera);
Original directors Barrie Kosky (photo: Jan Windszus) and Suzanne Andrade

Production by Barrie Kosky and Suzanne Andrade reimagines fairy-tale opera through aesthetics of silent film, early animation and 1920s cabaret



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

Eun Sun Kim conducts international cast featuring Amitai Pati,
Christina Gansch, Kwangchul Youn, Lauri Vasar and Anna Simińska

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

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (April 24, 2024) — San Francisco Opera's Caroline H. Hume Music Director Eun Sun Kim opens the Company's 2024 Summer Season on May 30 leading Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's *THE MAGIC FLUTE* (*DIE ZAUBERFLÖTE*). Presented in the energetic and visually stunning production by Barrie Kosky and Suzanne Andrade, the staging draws inspiration from the art of silent film, early Hollywood animation and 1920s

Berlin cabaret. Company Chorus Director **John Keene** prepares the artists of the San Francisco Opera Chorus.

The Magic Flute is one of the last operas Mozart completed before his death in 1791 at age 35, and it is one of his most adored works. The libretto by Emanuel Schikaneder, who was director of the theater outside Vienna where the opera had its first performances and created the role of the bird catcher, Papageno, follows a prince's quest for love and wisdom. Mozart created arias and ensembles for this work that are noble, heartwarming and comedic. A few of the most popular melodies in the operatic repertoire are found in his score for *The Magic Flute*, including the Queen of the Night's two stratospheric arias and the opera's famous overture.

Kosky and Andrade's award-winning production, which originated at Berlin's Komische Opera, has made stops around Europe, Asia, the Middle East, North and South America and now comes to San Francisco for the first time. With fast-paced animation, the use of intertitles instead of spoken dialogue and allusions to silent film-era icons like actress Louise Brooks and the vampire from F.W. Murnau's 1922 classic, *Nosferatu*, this visionary staging is, according to the *Los Angeles Times*, "a wonderful show ... great for opera lovers, newbies and the whole family; great for Mozart; great for reminding us of the wonders of silent cinema." **Esther Bialas** is the production designer and **Paul Barritt** designed the animation. The opera is staged by revival director **Tobias Ribitzki**.

Music Director **Eun Sun Kim** adds Mozart's sparkling, humanistic masterwork to her podium duties this season which have included works by Richard Wagner, Giuseppe Verdi and concerts. Kim, who has conducted *The Magic Flute* with multiple European companies and with Washington National Opera, leads the Company's first presentation of the opera in nearly a decade. Kim will return to Mozart in June 2025 with *Idomeneo*, one of the composer's earliest operas, after leading Verdi's *Un Ballo in Maschera*, Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde* and Beethoven's 9th Symphony this fall.

New Zealand-Samoan tenor **Amitai Pati** is Tamino, the prince who must pass several trials to be united with Pamina. Pati was Don Ottavio in Mozart's *Don Giovanni* for San Francisco Opera in 2022 and has performed Ferrando in Mozart's *Così fan tutte* at Tanglewood, Tamino in Montpellier and leading roles in Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette* and Verdi's *La Traviata* in Europe during recent seasons. He is a former San Francisco Opera Adler Fellow and member of the award-winning, multi-platinum New Zealand vocal group Sol3 Mio with his brother Pene Pati and cousin Moses Mackay.

Austrian soprano **Christina Gansch**, a standout in the Company's 2019 presentation of Handel's *Orlando* and in her return as Zerlina in *Don Giovanni*, takes on the role of Pamina. An experienced Mozartian, Gansch has appeared as Pamina, Zerlina and Servilia in the composer's late work *La Clemenza di Tito* with London's Royal Opera, Covent Garden and in Salzburg earlier this year as Servilia.

The international cast features a trio of house debuts in leading roles. Estonian bass-baritone **Lauri Vasar** joins the Company as Papageno, the bird catcher who accompanies Tamino on his quest. South Korean bass **Kwangchul Youn**, a distinguished interpreter of Richard Wagner's music dramas, is Sarastro, the leader of a brotherhood that prizes wisdom above all. Polish soprano **Anna Simińska** is the Queen of the Night who enlists Tamino to rescue her daughter and delivers two of opera's most spectacular arias.

Former Adler Fellow tenor **Zhengyi Bai** is Monostatos and the three ladies are performed by current Adler soprano **Olivia Smith** along with mezzo-sopranos **Ashley Dixon**, a former Adler, and **Maire Therese Carmack**, in her Company debut. Current Adlers **Arianna Rodriguez** (Papagena), **Jongwon Han** (the Speaker), **Thomas Kinch** and **James McCarthy** (the Armored Men) and three boy sopranos **Niko Min**, **Solah Malik** and **Jacob Rainow** (the three spirits) complete the cast.

The Wednesday, June 26 performance of *The Magic Flute* marks the Company's annual *Pride Night at the Opera* celebration and anticipates Pride weekend in San Francisco, which culminates in the Pride Parade on Sunday, June 30. For more information, visit sfopera.com/pride.

Sung in German with English supertitles, the nine performances of *The Magic Flute* are scheduled for May 30 (7:30 p.m.); June 2 (2 p.m.), 4 (7:30 p.m.), 8 (7:30 p.m.), 14 (7:30 p.m.), 20 (7:30 p.m.), 22 (7:30 p.m.), 26 (7:30 p.m.), 30 (2 p.m.), 2024.

PRE-OPERA TALKS & SAN FRANCISCO OPERA GUILD PREVIEWS

Professor of Music and program chair at Foothill College **Robert Hartwell** will present a **Pre-Opera Talk** prior to each performance inside the theater. Beginning 55 minutes prior to curtain, the 25-minute Pre-Opera Talks are open to ticket holders for the corresponding performance.

On May 23, San Francisco Opera Guild presents **Opera Previews** on *The Magic Flute* by soprano and musicologist **Rebecca Plack** online at 6 p.m. or in person in San Rafael (Marin

Chapter) at 2 p.m. Each 90-minute lecture provides in-depth insights into the opera's history, composer, story and music. For more information, visit sfopera.com/operapreviews.

POST-PERFORMANCE TALKBACK WITH EUN SUN KIM: Sunday, June 2



Eun Sun Kim in the pit and at a post-performance talkback. Photos: Stefan Cohen

Following the Sunday, June 2 matinee of Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, San Francisco Opera Music Director Eun Sun Kim will participate in a post-performance talkback. Audience members are invited to gather after the performance for a live Q&A with the conductor. Don't miss this opportunity to hear Kim discuss Mozart and *The Magic Flute*.

TICKETS AND INFORMATION

Tickets for *The Magic Flute* range from \$26 to \$426 and subscriptions for all three summer operas—Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, Kaija Saariaho's *Innocence* and Handel's *Partenope*—are available beginning at \$78. Tickets may be purchased at the San Francisco Opera Box Office (301 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco), by calling (415) 864-3330 and online at sfopera.com. San Francisco Opera Box Office hours are Monday 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Tuesday through Friday 10 a.m.–6 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m.–6 p.m. (Saturdays phone only). A \$2 per-ticket facility fee is included in Balcony 1, 2 and 3 zone prices; all other zones include a \$3 per-ticket facility fee.

Dolby Family's *Opera for the Bay* program provides \$10 tickets to all mainstage performances to Bay Area residents (home address zip code between 94000-95999) who have not purchased tickets in the past three seasons. *Opera for the Bay* tickets for *The Magic Flute* go on sale at noon on Tuesday, April 30. Visit sfopera.com/dolby for more information.

The War Memorial Opera House is located at 301 Van Ness Avenue. Patrons are encouraged to use public transportation to attend San Francisco Opera performances. The War Memorial Opera House is within walking distance of the Civic Center BART/Muni Station and near numerous bus lines, including 5, 21, 47, 49 and F Market Street. For further public transportation information, visit bart.gov and sfmta.com.

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

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

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THE MAGIC FLUTE CASTING AND CALENDAR

**American Debut *San Francisco Opera Debut †Role Debut

‡Current Adler Fellow +Merola Opera Program Graduate ++Merola and Adler Fellowship Graduate

All performances take place at the War Memorial Opera House (301 Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco).

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

PRODUCTION NEW TO SAN FRANCISCO OPERA

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

Opera in two acts. Libretto by Emanuel Schikaneder

A production of the Komische Oper Berlin

Co-produced by Los Angeles Opera and Minnesota Opera

Production by Suzanne Andrade and Barrie Kosky

Animation by Paul Barritt

Concept by "1927" (Suzanne Andrade and Paul Barritt) and Barrie Kosky

Stage Design and Costumes by Esther Bialas

Sung in German with English supertitles

Approximate running time: 2 hours, 50 minutes with one intermission

World Premiere: Vienna, September 30, 1791

First SFO Performance: October 11, 1950

Most Recent: October–November 2015

Cast:

<i>Tamino</i>	Amitai Pati ++
<i>Pamina</i>	Christina Gansch
<i>The Queen of the Night</i>	Anna Simińska *
<i>Sarastro</i>	Kwangchul Youn *
<i>Papageno</i>	Lauri Vasar **
<i>First Lady</i>	Olivia Smith †+♪
<i>Second Lady</i>	Ashley Dixon ++
<i>Third Lady</i>	Maire Therese Carmack *
<i>Monostatos</i>	Zhengyi Bai ++
<i>Papagena</i>	Arianna Rodriguez †+♪
<i>The Speaker</i>	Jongwon Han †♪
<i>First Spirit</i>	Niko Min *♪
<i>Second Spirit</i>	Solah Malik *♪
<i>Third Spirit</i>	Jacob Rainow *♪
<i>First Armored Man</i>	Thomas Kinch †+♪
<i>Second Armored Man</i>	James McCarthy †+♪

Creative Team:

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

San Francisco Opera Orchestra and San Francisco Opera Chorus

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San Francisco Opera livestreams are made possible, in part, by George and Leslie Hume.

Yamaha is the official piano of San Francisco Opera.

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

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