



## SAN FRANCISCO OPERA

### SAN FRANCISCO OPERA'S INTIMATE STORYTELLING AND MUSIC SERIES *IN SONG* NOMINATED FOR 2022 WEBBY AWARD



Scenes from *In Song* episodes with Pene Pati; J'Nai Bridges; Arturo Chacón-Cruz  
(Photos: Luke Foley-Martin (left); Taylor Ballantyne (center); Karli Evans (right))

Voting for Webby People's Voice Award Available  
through April 21 at 11:59 pm PT. Vote [here](#)

San Francisco, CA (April 11, 2022) — San Francisco Opera's *In Song*, an intimate video portrait series produced with Lumahai Productions, is one of five nominees for best "Video Series & Channels: Music" in the 26th Annual Webby Awards. Featuring notable figures from the world of opera, the Company's digital series is rooted in classical music and spans spirituals, bluegrass, Samoan, Egyptian and mariachi music. *In Song* is also included in the "Webby People's Voice Award" where the public can vote online for their favorites through Thursday, April 21 at 11:59 pm Pacific. The International Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences (IADAS), a global organization of industry experts and technology innovators, will announce the 2022 Webby Award winners on April 26.

Shot on location in cities ranging from Nashville and New York City to Auckland and Cairo, each *In Song* explores, through story and song, the diverse cultural traditions that inform an artist's personal and musical journey. Featured artists include soprano Amina Edris, mezzo-sopranos Jamie Barton and J'Nai Bridges, and tenors Arturo Chacón-Cruz and

Pene Pati. The free, 15–19-minute episodes can be viewed at [sfopera.com/insong](https://sfopera.com/insong), YouTube and Facebook.

Touted by the *New York Times* as “The Internet’s highest honor,” the [Webby Awards](#) have honored excellence in digital media since 1996. San Francisco Opera’s *In Song* was chosen for the Internet’s most coveted award from a record 14,000 international submissions. This is the first time San Francisco Opera has been nominated for a Webby.

Of *In Song*, the *Wall Street Journal* observed, “Such appealing portraits, offering insights into the artists we appreciate onstage, also help position opera as part of a rich musical continuum” and “offer a new level of accessibility to the art form.” The episodes have been viewed widely throughout the United States, but also in Egypt, Mexico and American Samoa, a testament to the universality of song, regardless of genre.

Voting for the People’s Voice Award will remain open through Thursday, April 21 at 11:59 pm Pacific. To register and cast your vote for “Video Series & Channels: Music”, visit: [vote.webbyawards.com/PublicVoting#/2022/video/video-series-channels/music](https://vote.webbyawards.com/PublicVoting#/2022/video/video-series-channels/music)

*In Song* was launched in March 2021 by Executive Producers Matthew Shilvock (San Francisco Opera General Director), Gregory Henkel (San Francisco Opera Managing Director: Artistic) and Elena Park (Lumahai Productions President & Founder). The Series Producer is Molly McBride.

Series Director: Elena Park, Series Producer: Molly McBride (Co-Director for J’Nai Bridges, Jamie Barton), Series Editor: Steven E. Mallorca, Editor & Director of Photography: Jonathan David Kane (Arturo Chacón-Cruz). Directors of Photography: Bassem El-Kashef (Amina Edris), Justin Ervin (J’Nai Bridges); Timothy Flower (Pene Pati); and Roger Pistole (Jamie Barton).

The digital series is made possible, in part, by San Francisco Opera’s Creative Edge Fund with major support from Carol and Dixon Doll; Peter Fenton and Kate Greer; and Bob Ellis.



Scenes from *In Song* episodes with Amina Edris and her uncle Mamdouh Edris; Jamie Barton and Béla Fleck; co-directors Elena Park and Molly McBride on the set (Photos: Mostafa Abdel Aty (left); Taylor Ballantyne (center, right))

*In Song* episodes include:

- *In Song: J'Nai Bridges* – Bridges invites viewers into what she calls her “village,” the community of friends and family who support her on and off the stage. Music: Spirituals and German Lieder.
- *In Song: Pene Pati* – The Samoan tenor reflects on the centrality of his family in his musical journey from New Zealand to the world’s leading opera stages. Music: Traditional Samoan and Italian songs.
- *In Song: Jamie Barton featuring Béla Fleck* - Hailing from The Pocket—a rural valley in Georgia—Barton talks about her musical roots and embracing her identity and collaborates with banjo virtuoso Béla Fleck. Music: baroque and folk music. In partnership with Hardly Strictly Bluegrass.
- *In Song: Arturo Chacón-Cruz* – The Mexican tenor leads young musicians at a mariachi academy in Miami and reflects on the importance of culture, love and determination in both music and life. Music: Spanish and Italian song and mariachi music. Spanish subtitle version available. In partnership with the Consulate General of Mexico in Miami and the Mexican American Council, Inc.
- *In Song: Amina Edris* - Filmed on location in her native Cairo, Edris recounts a childhood filled with Arabic music inspired by her oud-playing uncle who introduced her to the music of Oum Kalthoum and Maria Callas. Music: Egyptian popular song and French art song. Arabic subtitle version available.

All *In Song* episodes are free and available at [sfopera.com/insong](https://sfopera.com/insong) and on YouTube and Facebook, along with additional content including conversations between *In Song* artists and director Elena Park about the making of each episode.

The series continues this summer with the sixth episode, *In Song: Meigui Zhang*. Fast-rising Chinese soprano Meigui Zhang, a 2018 Merola Opera Program participant, is scheduled to make her San Francisco Opera mainstage debut as Dai Yu in Bright Sheng and David Henry Hwang's *Dream of the Red Chamber*, June 14–July 3.

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Yamaha is the official piano of San Francisco Opera.

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