



SAN FRANCISCO OPERA

SAN FRANCISCO OPERA PODCAST *NORTH STAGE DOOR*
Now Available at [sfopera.com](https://www.sfopera.com)



The War Memorial Opera House's North Stage Door
Photo: John Boatwright

San Francisco, CA (April 23, 2021) — The first episode of San Francisco Opera's podcast, *North Stage Door*, is now available. Named for the artist and staff entrance into the War Memorial Opera House, the audio storytelling series takes listeners backstage into the vibrant, creative environment of one of the nation's greatest opera companies. *North Stage Door* is available for free now at [sfopera.com](https://www.sfopera.com) and soon through Apple Podcasts, Spotify and wherever you get your podcasts.

The inaugural episode features an inside look at *The Barber of Seville* and the Company's return to live performance with a new production of Gioachino Rossini's enduring masterpiece at the Marin Center drive-in. *North Stage Door* showcases how the Company, which has a proud history of resiliency and innovation, has adapted to the pandemic and found a creative path forward. Special guests in the 50-minute pilot, hosted by San Francisco Opera's Chris Largent, include the Company's Figaro for the *Barber* performances Lucas Meachem, beloved soprano Patricia Racette, Academy Award-winning director and Pixar Chief Creative Officer Pete Docter, Chairman of the Chuck Jones Center for Creativity Craig Kausen and members of the creative and production teams behind the Company's new *Barber of Seville*.

Future episodes are scheduled for the months ahead with the next one offering a look inside San Francisco Opera's new stagings of the Mozart–Da Ponte trilogy—*The Marriage of Figaro*, *Così fan tutte* and *Don Giovanni*. The series will continue to include perspectives by luminaries of the field, including opera stars, composers, directors, writers, craftspeople and musicians from the pit to the stage, with Company insiders as your guides.

Listen for free at sfopera.com/northstagedoor.

View a trailer for the podcast on the Company's [YouTube](#) channel.

NEW ORIGINAL DIGITAL RELEASES FROM SAN FRANCISCO OPERA
IN SONG / NORTH STAGE DOOR / ATRIUM SESSIONS

In February, San Francisco Opera Tad and Dianne Taube General Director Matthew Shilvock announced three new programs sharing the beauty, storytelling and community of opera in original, short-form digital content. The Company is collaborating with creative producer and strategic advisor Elena Park, founder of Lumahai Productions, to realize these new digital initiatives. These programs are made possible, in part, through generous gifts to the Creative Edge Fund, founded by Carol and Dixon Doll. All programs are free and available at sfopera.com, [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#).

- *In Song*, which launched in March with *In Song: J'Nai Bridges*, is a series of intimate video portraits featuring remarkable San Francisco Opera artists who draw us into their distinctive spheres through song and stories. Additional episodes of *In Song* will be released in the coming months featuring mezzo-soprano Jamie Barton, who performs music by Henry Purcell and bluegrass songs with banjo superstar Béla Fleck; and tenor Pene Pati, who welcomes us into his world of traditional Samoan and classical music.
- The podcast *North Stage Door* takes listeners into the swirl of creativity, stagecraft and performance at San Francisco Opera. Lively stories and insightful interviews open a window into the complex inner workings of this vibrant company and the many aspects necessary to make a rich, multi-faceted art form come to life.
- Enter the emotional world of intimate music making music with the *Atrium Sessions*, beautifully captured offerings shot in the Company's Dianne and Tad Taube Atrium

Theater and John M. Bryan Education Studio. The first sessions will showcase a number of the Company's favorite Bay Area artists, including soprano Rhoslyn Jones, mezzo-soprano Laura Krumm, baritones Edward Nelson and Efraín Solís and bass-baritone Michael Sumuel, all graduates of the San Francisco Opera Center's training programs. They will perform miniature masterpieces by Claude Debussy, Clara Schumann, Florence Price, Noël Coward and Gabriela Lena Frank, among others. The series of short videos will premiere in June with new releases shared every few weeks.

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North Stage Door — San Francisco Opera's Podcast
Free and now available at sfopera.com

Episode 1 features an array of stories and interviews from behind the scenes at San Francisco Opera, including Rossini's *Barber: A Masterpiece Hiding in Plain Sight*; *Adapting an Opera: The Barber of Marin*; *Dropped into History: The Making of the War Memorial Opera House*; *Why Opera, Doc?: Opera and Animation*; and *Spotlight: Patricia Racette*.

Chris Largent, host; Molly McBride and Jennifer Good, executive producers; Elena Park, consulting producer; Rachel Garoon, coordinating producer; and Tod Nixon, sound designer & audio engineer.

The production team includes Michael Bragg, Chris Davis, Jodi Gage, Jeffery McMillan, Jeremy Patfield, Barbara Rominski, Troy Smith, Celine Strouts and Kali Wilson.

North Stage Door is made possible, in part, by the Creative Edge Fund, founded by Carol and Dixon Doll.

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This production of *The Barber of Seville* is made possible, in part by, John A. and Cynthia Fry Gunn, and Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem. Additional support provided by Jerome Guillen and

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