

## LA TRAVIATA

### PERFORMER BIOGRAPHIES



Making her American and San Francisco Opera debuts as **Violetta Valéry** in *La Traviata*, soprano Aurelia Florian premiered the role in 2013 at the Deutsche Oper Berlin, and has since performed it to wide acclaim at Bavarian State Opera, New Israeli Opera in Tel Aviv, Der Norske Opera in Oslo, Zurich Oper, and the Savonlinna Festival in Finland. Born and trained in her native Romania, Florian began her professional career with the Romanian National Opera in Bucharest from 2008 through 2010. Particularly in demand for her Verdi and Puccini roles, her repertoire also includes Magda in *La Rondine*, the title role of *Luisa Miller*, Mimì in *La Bohème*, Lida in *La Battaglia di Legnano*, Amalia in *I Masnadieri*, and Juliette in *Roméo et Juliette*. Last season Florian made successful debuts as Desdemona in *Otello* at the Verdi Festival Parma and Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni* at Deutsche Oper Berlin. Upcoming engagements include Marguerite in *Faust* at New Israeli Opera.



Making his San Francisco Opera debut as **Alfredo Germont** in *La Traviata*, Atalla Ayan has quickly established himself as one of the most sought-after tenors of his generation. A member of the Stuttgart Opera since 2012, Ayan has been equally well received at major international houses, including the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden (in the roles of Ruggero in *La Rondine* and Don Ottavio in *Don Giovanni*), Teatro alla Scala (Nemorino in *L'Elisir d'Amore*), Grand Théâtre de Genève (the Italian Singer in *Der Rosenkavalier*), and Deutsche Oper Berlin (Rodolfo in *La Bohème*). Ayan has previously sung the role of Alfredo in Stuttgart, Baden-Baden, Genova, and at Der Norske Opera in Oslo with scheduled performances planned for 2017 at the Metropolitan Opera, Covent Garden, and the Glyndebourne Festival. Recent engagements include Nemorino at the Bavarian State Opera, the Duke of Mantua in *Rigoletto* at Stuttgart, and Edgardo in *Lucia di Lammermoor* at Oper Köln.



Making his San Francisco Opera debut as **Giorgio Germont** in *La Traviata*, baritone Artur Ruciński experienced his career breakthrough in spring 2010, when conductor Daniel Barenboim invited him to sing the title role of *Eugene Onegin* under his baton and alongside tenor Rolando Villazón at the Deutsche Staatsoper Berlin. Other highlights include Francesco di Moor in *I Masnadieri* at Venice's La Fenice, Comte de Luna in *Il Trovatore* at the Salzburg Festival, Ford in *Falstaff* at Frankfurt Opera, Paolo Albiani in *Simon Boccanegra* at La Scala, Giorgio Germont in *La Traviata* at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, and the title role of *Don Giovanni* at Paris' Opéra Bastille. Last season, he made his Metropolitan Opera debut as Sharpless in *Madama Butterfly* and returned to the Royal Opera House as Eugene Onegin and as Lord Ashton in *Lucia di Lammermoor*. Future plans

include his debut at the New National Theatre in Tokyo as Lord Ashton and return engagements to Barcelona's Gran Teatre del Liceu, appearing as Comte de Luna, and at the Royal Opera House, as Giorgio Germont.



After receiving her training as a San Francisco Opera Adler Fellow (2012–13) and LA Opera Domingo Thornton Young Artist, mezzo-soprano Renée Rapier (**Flora Bervoix**) has gone on to make debuts at LA Opera, Wolf Trap Opera, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, the Ravinia Festival, and Seattle Opera. Her 2016–17 season includes returns to Seattle Opera, Opera Parallèle, and a debut with the LA Philharmonic. Rapier was the 2012 winner of the Palm Springs Opera Guild Competition, and the 2013 Brava! Opera Theater and James M. Collier Young Artist Program Vocal Competition. She also was a 2011 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions national semifinalist, a finalist of the 2013 Seoul International Music Competition, and a semifinalist at Operalia 2015. She appeared as Mercédès in the

Company's 2016 production of *Carmen*.



Amitai Pati (**Gastone de Letorières**) is a tenor of Samoan descent who received his MA in Advanced Vocal Studies at the Wales International Academy of Voice under the tutelage of tenor Dennis O'Neill. As a participant of the 2016 Merola Opera Program, he performed his first principal role as Ferrando in *Così fan tutte*. Pati won the Lexus SongQuest in 2012 and the Waiariki Institute of Technology NZ Aria in 2015. In 2014, he was invited to be a part of the Young Singers Project in Salzburg, Austria, where he appeared in performances and concerts including *La Favorite* with Elīna Garanča, Juan Diego Flórez and Ludovic Tézier, and the tenor solo in a production of Mozart's *Spatzenmesse*. Pati has extensive experience in choral singing, having performed and toured with the New Zealand Youth Choir, the Graduate Choir and the Auckland University Choir. He has sung in master classes with the likes of Joseph Rouleau, Della Jones, Dame

Josephine Barstow, Dame Anne Murray, Maestro Richard Bonyngé and Dame Kiri Te Kanawa. Pati, along with his brother Pene Pati and their cousin Moses Mackay, comprise the highly successful New Zealand vocal trio SOL3 MIO, which mixes both classical and contemporary music.



Bass Anthony Reed (**Doctor Grenville**) made his San Francisco Opera debut in various roles in 2015's *Les Troyens*. He is a third-year San Francisco Opera Adler Fellow who performed Mayor of the Village (*Jenůfa*), The Speaker/Second Armored Man (*The Magic Flute*), Hans Schwartz (*Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*) and Doctor Primus in Getty's *Usher House* during the 2015-16 Season. He was also a participant of the 2014 Merola Opera Program. Roles in his repertory include Sarastro (*Die Zauberflöte*), Truffaldin (*Ariadne auf Naxos*), Don Basilio (*Il Barbiere di Siviglia*), Dulcamara (*L'Elisir d'Amore*), Don Magnifico (*La Cenerentola*), and the Four Villains (*Les Contes d'Hoffmann*), among others. Reed received a 2011 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions Regional Encouragement Award and has been a young artist at the Wolf Trap Opera Studio and the

Seagle Music Colony, in addition to his studies at the Curtis Institute of Music and the University of Wisconsin.



Romanian-American baritone Andrew G. Manea (**Marchese d'Obigny**) was a participant of the 2016 Merola Opera Program, appearing as Irons Hans/Wolf in their production of Conrad Susa's *Transformations*. Last year, he also performed Escamillo (*Carmen*) in Wuhan, China, as well as The Forester (*The Cunning Little Vixen*), the title role of *Don Giovanni*, and he competed in competitions including the MONC auditions (regional finalist and Encouragement Award recipient), Jensen Foundation Vocal Competition (finalist), Opera Columbus Cooper-Bing International Voice Competition, and Giulio Gari Foundation (career grant recipient). Manea is a student of Bill McGraw and has worked with opera luminaries such as Marilyn Horne, Warren Jones, Lorin Maazel and James Morris.



Egyptian-born, New Zealand soprano Amina Edris (**Annina**) is a second-year San Francisco Opera Adler Fellow who made her company debut as Frasquita in *Carmen*. She was a participant of the 2015 Merola Opera Program. Roles in her repertory include Norina (*Don Pasquale*) Susanna (*Le Nozze di Figaro*), Serpina (*La Serva Padrona*), Adina (*L'Elisir d'Amore*), and Gilda (*Rigoletto*). Edris is a winner of the prestigious Sydney Eisteddfod McDonald's Operatic Aria Competition and the Deborah Reidel award in the Joan Sutherland and Richard Bonyngé Bel Canto Award Competition 2013, as well as being awarded a Western Regional Special Encouragement Award in the 2014 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. Edris holds a Bachelor of Music from University of Canterbury, a Master of Music

from Wales International Academy of Voice, and a post-graduate diploma from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Her upcoming engagements include Tina in Jonathan Dove's *Flight* with Opera Parallèle.