

ROBERTO DEVEREUX

Performer Biographies



Soprano **Sondra Radvanovsky** (Elizabetta/Elizabeth I) made her San Francisco Opera debut in 2009 as Leonora in *Il Trovatore*, a role she has also performed at Lyric Opera of Chicago, Paris Opéra, Deutsche Oper Berlin, the Metropolitan Opera, Los Angeles Opera, Houston Grand Opera, and in Bilbao, Lisbon, and Florence. In 2014 she returned to the Company in her role debut as Norma, which she has also sung at the Metropolitan Opera, Canadian Opera Company, and Lyric Opera of Chicago. She has been hailed as one of the great Verdi singers of her generation and received critical acclaim for her performances as Elvira (*Ernani*), Héléne (*Les Vêpres Siciliennes*), Amelia (*Un Ballo in Maschera*), and Elizabetta (*Don Carlos*). Radvanovsky's other career highlights include Donizetti's "Tudor Queen trilogy" (*Anna Bolena*, *Maria Stuarda*, and *Roberto Devereux*) at the Metropolitan Opera; the title role of *Suor Angelica* at Los Angeles Opera; the title role of *Lucrezia Borgia* with Washington National Opera; her La Scala debut as Roxanne (*Cyrano de Bergerac*) opposite Plácido Domingo, which she also performed in New York and London; the title role of *Susannah* with Lyric Opera of Chicago; the title role of *Manon Lescaut* at Leipzig Opera; and the title role of *Tosca* with Los Angeles Opera. The soprano is a former winner of the George London Foundation Competition, the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, and the Loren L. Zachary Society Competition. Upcoming engagements include the title role of *Anna Bolena* at Canadian Opera Company and *Leonora* at Paris' Opéra Bastille.



In 2014, tenor **Russell Thomas** (*Roberto Devereux*) made his San Francisco Opera and role debuts as Pollione in *Norma*, a role he has also sung at the Lyric Opera of Chicago, Canadian Opera Company, Los Angeles Opera, and Palau de les Arts Reina Sofia in Valencia, Spain. A Miami native and alumnus of the Metropolitan Opera's Lindemann Young Artist Development Program, Thomas has recently sung the title role of *La Clemenza di Tito* at the Salzburg Festival, *Mario Cavaradossi* in *Tosca* at Los Angeles Opera, *Ismaele* in *Nabucco* at the Metropolitan Opera, and *Mao Zedong* in *John Adams' Nixon in China* with the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Other career highlights include the title role of *Don Carlo* with Deutsche Oper Berlin; *Andres* (*Wozzeck*), *Tamino* (*Die Zauberflöte*), *Foresto* and *Uldino* (*Attila*), the *Steersman* (*Der Fliegende Holländer*), and the title role of *La Clemenza di Tito* with the Metropolitan Opera; *Gabriele Adorno* (*Simon Boccanegra*) with the Royal Opera, Covent Garden; the

Duke of Mantua (*Rigoletto*) at the Teatro Municipal in Santiago, Chile; Pinkerton (*Madama Butterfly*) with Welsh National Opera; the title role of *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* and *Foresto* with Seattle Opera; the Prince (*Rusalka*) with Opera North Carolina; and the title role of *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* with Canadian Opera Company. He holds prizes from the Liederkrantz Competition, the George London Foundation Competition, the Licia Albanese Puccini Foundation Competition, and Barcelona's Viñas Competition, among many others. Recent and future engagements include *Rodolfo* in *La Bohème* at the Metropolitan Opera and the title role of *Don Carlo* at Washington National Opera.



The winner of the 2017 Beverly Sills Artist Award, 2015 Richard Tucker Award, and 2013 BBC Cardiff Singer of the World Competition, mezzo-soprano **Jamie Barton** (Sara) debuted at San Francisco Opera in 2014 as Adalgisa in *Norma*. Her recent engagements include Adalgisa at the Metropolitan Opera, Los Angeles Opera, and Houston Grand Opera; Eboli in *Don Carlo* at Deutsche Oper Berlin and Washington National Opera; Léonor in *La Favorite* at Madrid's Teatro Real; Giovanna Seymour in *Anna Bolena* at the Metropolitan Opera and Lyric Opera of Chicago; Fenena in *Nabucco* at Covent Garden, the Metropolitan Opera, and Seattle Opera; Cornelia in *Giulio Cesare* at Oper Frankfurt; and Fricka, Waltraute, and Second Norn in Houston Grand Opera's *Ring*. Future engagements include two appearances at San Francisco Opera, first in her role debut as Sara in Roberto Devereux and as Ježibaba in *Rusalka*; returns to the Bavarian State Opera and Lyric Opera of Chicago as Azucena in *Il Trovatore*; performances at the Metropolitan Opera as Fricka and Sister Helen Prejean in Jake Heggie's *Dead Man Walking* (a role debut) at Atlanta Opera.



Prior to making his San Francisco Opera debut in 2017 as Giorgio Germont in *La Traviata*, baritone **Artur Ruciński** (Duke of Nottingham) 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 career highlights include Sharpless in *Madama Butterfly* at the Metropolitan Opera, Francesco di Moor in *I Masnadieri* at Venice's La Fenice, Count di Luna in *Il Trovatore* at the Salzburg Festival, Ford in *Falstaff* at Frankfurt Opera, Paolo Albiani in *Simon Boccanegra* at La Scala, Giorgio Germont at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, and the title role of *Don Giovanni* at Paris' Opéra Bastille. Recent and future engagements involve house debuts at Teatro dell'Opera di Roma (*I Masnadieri*) and Teatro Real in Madrid (*Il Trovatore*), as well as a return to Opéra Bastille (Marcello in *La Bohème* and

the title role of *Gianni Schicchi*). Ruciński also appears in concert with the Orchestra del Teatro Regio di Torino.



Amitai Pati (Lord Cecil) is a tenor of Samoan descent who received his master's degree 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, 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.



A national semi-finalist of the 2016 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, bass-baritone **Christian Pursell** (Walter Raleigh) earned acclaim for his role in the world premiere of Gregory Spears' *Fellow Travelers* at Cincinnati Opera. His 2017 season saw debuts at both Houston Grand Opera (Tom in *Laura Kaminsky's Some Light Emerges*) and the Vienna State Opera (Second Englishman in Prokofiev's *The Gambler*). As a participant in the 2017 Merola Opera Program he received critical acclaim for his performance of Dandini in *La Cenerentola*. Recent engagements include Pandolfe in *Cendrillon*, Harašta in *The Cunning Little Vixen*, Marcello in *La Bohème*, Belcore in *L'Elisir d'Amore* and Pilate in a staged production of Bach's *St. Matthew Passion*. As concert soloist, he has performed Britten's *War Requiem*, Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9*, Haydn's *The Creation*, Faure's *Requiem*, Handel's *Messiah* and Strauss' *Salome*. Pursell is a 2017 recipient of the Sara Tucker Study Grant and Second Award winner of the 2017 Jensen Foundation Competition.