



SAN FRANCISCO OPERA ANNOUNCES PROGRAM FOR
ONE-NIGHT-ONLY CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

100th Anniversary Concert

War Memorial Opera House, June 16, 2023

Musical Program Spanning the Company's First Century Features the
San Francisco Opera Orchestra and Chorus, Conductors Eun Sun Kim,
Sir Donald Runnicles, Patrick Summers and 15 Vocal Soloists



Gaetano Merola with the San Francisco Opera Orchestra (1940); Opening of the War Memorial Opera House with Puccini's *Tosca* (1932); Eun Sun Kim with the San Francisco Opera Orchestra (2022).

Photos: San Francisco Opera Archives; Lawrence Morton; Drew Altizer

The Livestreamed Event Will Include Projected Images from
100 Years of San Francisco Opera History

Concert Tickets and Dinner Packages available at
(415) 864-3330 and sfopera.com/100anniversary

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (May 8, 2023) — San Francisco Opera today announced the program for its *100th Anniversary Concert* at the War Memorial Opera House on Friday, June 16. Caroline H. Hume Music Director Eun Sun Kim, former Music Director Sir Donald Runnicles and former Principal Guest Conductor Patrick Summers will conduct the San Francisco Opera Orchestra and Chorus along with a host of star soloists in selections inspired by the Company's history. The one-night-only concert spectacular is augmented by a special

Dinner with the Artists fundraiser in the Dianne and Tad Taube Atrium Theater co-chaired by San Francisco Opera board members Anna Fieler, Sue Marineau and Jason Phillips.

The featured soloists are sopranos Karita Mattila, Ailyn Pérez, Patricia Racette, Nina Stemme, Heidi Stober, Adela Zaharia; mezzo-sopranos Susan Graham, Daniela Mack; tenors Lawrence Brownlee, Michael Fabiano, Brandon Jovanovich, Russell Thomas; baritones Lucas Meachem, Brian Mulligan; and bass-baritone Christian Van Horn.

Founded in 1923 and only the third American opera company to reach the centennial milestone, San Francisco Opera invites Bay Area audiences and the global music community to join in this celebration, which will be livestreamed at sfopera.com/digital/livestream beginning at 6 p.m. PT. The evening's specially curated program traverses the musical styles, artistic traditions and thrilling moments of San Francisco Opera. Pairing many of the Company's beloved artists with unforgettable music and archival imagery spanning San Francisco Opera's first 100 years, this celebratory retrospective is an event not to be missed.



Richard Tucker, Renata Tebaldi in Giordano's *Andrea Chénier* (1955); Paul Plishka in Verdi's *Nabucco* (1987); Prologue to Boito's *Mefistofele* (2013). Photos: Robert Lackenbach; Robert Cahen; Cory Weaver

Befitting the Company's early emphasis on Italian repertoire under founder Gaetano Merola and reemphasized throughout the past century, the Italian opera canon is represented on the program by selections from the works of Giacomo Puccini, Giuseppe Verdi, Umberto Giordano, Gioachino Rossini and Arrigo Boito. Riveting choral scenes from Puccini's *Tosca* and Boito's *Mefistofele*, prepared by San Francisco Opera Chorus Director John Keene, close the program's two halves.

The evening will feature selections from Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde*, *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* and *Tannhäuser*, three works that marked a dramatic acceleration for the Company on the way to opening the 1935 season with its first-ever *Ring* cycle. European masterpieces of the twentieth century are signified with selections from the works of

Benjamin Britten and Erich Wolfgang Korngold. Excerpts from Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's *Pique Dame (The Queen of Spades)* and Leoš Janáček's *Jenůfa* represent the proud Slavic traditions first explored by the Company in the 1930s and later with unforgettable performances and premieres that reintroduced many powerful masterworks into the repertory of American opera.



Kirsten Flagstad, Lauritz Melchior in Wagner's *Tristan und Isolde* (1936); Leonie Rysanek, Gabriela Benacková in Janáček's *Jenůfa* (1986); Adams' *Doctor Atomic* (2005). Photos: Lawrence Morton; Ron Scherl; Terrence McCarthy

San Francisco Opera's status as a pioneer in staging long-overlooked baroque (and earlier) operas is highlighted with selections from Claudio Monteverdi's *L'Incoronazione di Poppea*, which entered the Company's repertory in 1975, an aria from Handel's *Xerxes* and the rarely heard mezzo-soprano aria "Amour viens rendre à mon âme" from Hector's Berlioz's 1859 French version of Christoph Willibald Gluck's *Orfeo ed Euridice*. The operas of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, which entered the Company's repertory comparatively late, and the French repertoire, a staple since the first season, are denoted with music from Mozart's *Don Giovanni* and Charles Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette*.

The Company's longstanding reputation as a commissioner of new works and its relationship with composer John Adams are both observed with the inclusion of "Batter my heart" from *Doctor Atomic*, one of three operas by the Bay Area composer to have its world premiere on the stage of the War Memorial Opera House. A highlight from Stephen Sondheim's *Follies* is presented as a tribute to the Company's presentations of American musical theater.



Dinner with the Artists co-chairs (left to right) Sue Marineau, Anna Fieler and Jason Phillips exploring the Company's Archives. Photo: Kristen Loken

DINNER WITH THE ARTISTS

The festive celebration of the *100th Anniversary Concert* continues with a special *Dinner with the Artists* benefit. For those attending the dinner, the evening begins with a champagne toast at 5 p.m. in the lobby of the Veterans Building. Following the concert, guests join the evening's performers for this once-in-a-century celebratory dinner amid décor inspired by the Company's past, present and future.

The co-chairs for *Dinner with the Artists* are San Francisco Opera Association board members Anna Fieler, Sue Marineau and Jason Phillips. Proceeds benefit the Company's second-century commitment to artistic excellence and innovation.

TICKETS AND INFORMATION

Tickets for the *100th Anniversary Concert* range from \$30 to \$350.

Dinner package prices are \$50,000 for a table of 10/\$5,000 per person; \$25,000 per table of 10/\$2,500 per person; and \$10,000 per table of ten/\$1,000 per person (concert tickets sold separately). To purchase, please call the San Francisco Opera Box Office at (415) 864-3330 or visit online at sfopera.com/100anniversary.

Tickets for the June 16 livestream of the *100th Anniversary Concert* are \$27.50. The concert will be streamed live only (on-demand access will not be available). For more information, visit sfopera.com/digital/livestream.

The Dolby Family's *Opera for the Bay* tickets will be available on a first-come basis at sfopera.com to eligible residents on May 16 at 12 p.m. *Opera for the Bay* tickets are available to residents with a Bay Area mailing address zip code (beginning with 940–954) who have not attended San Francisco Opera in the past three years. Each eligible resident

may purchase up to two \$10 tickets for the performance. For more information, visit sfopera.com/operafortheday.

The San Francisco Opera Box Office window is located in the Opera House at 301 Van Ness Avenue. 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.

Artists, program and ticket prices are subject to change. For further information about San Francisco Opera's 2022–23 Season, visit sfopera.com.

100th ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

Friday, June 16, 2023 at 6 p.m.

War Memorial Opera House

San Francisco Opera's Centennial Season culminates with a celebration of the Company's first 100 years. A host of treasured San Francisco Opera artists will be featured with the San Francisco Opera Orchestra and Chorus in a program that honors the Company's history through musical milestones and landmark productions.

Conductors: Eun Sun Kim, Sir Donald Runnicles, Patrick Summers

Sopranos: Karita Mattila, Ailyn Pérez, Patricia Racette, Nina Stemme, Heidi Stober, Adela Zaharia

Mezzo-sopranos: Susan Graham, Daniela Mack

Tenors: Lawrence Brownlee, Michael Fabiano, Brandon Jovanovich, Russell Thomas

Baritones: Lucas Meachem, Brian Mulligan

Bass-Baritone: Christian Van Horn

San Francisco Opera Orchestra

San Francisco Opera Chorus; Chorus Director John Keene

Shawna Lucey, Stage Director

PROGRAM TO INCLUDE

(Subject to change)

Prelude from *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* (Richard Wagner)

San Francisco Opera Orchestra

Eun Sun Kim, conductor

"Amour viens rendre à mon âme" from *Orphée et Eurydice* (Christoph Willibald Gluck)

Daniela Mack

Donald Runnicles, conductor

"Pur ti miro" from *L'Incoronazione di Poppea* (Claudio Monteverdi)

Heidi Stober and Susan Graham

Patrick Summers, conductor

"Odi il voto" from *Ernani* (Giuseppe Verdi)

Russell Thomas

San Francisco Opera Chorus

Eun Sun Kim, conductor

Pierrot's Tanzlied from *Die tote Stadt* (Erich Wolfgang Korngold)

Lucas Meachem

Donald Runnicles, conductor

Embroidery Aria from *Peter Grimes* (Benjamin Britten)

Heidi Stober

Donald Runnicles, conductor

"Vicino a te" from *Andrea Chénier* (Umberto Giordano)

Michael Fabiano and Ailyn Pérez

Eun Sun Kim, conductor

"Va, pensiero" from *Nabucco* (Giuseppe Verdi)

San Francisco Opera Chorus

Patrick Summers, conductor

"Ch'ella mi creda" from *La Fanciulla del West* (Giacomo Puccini)

Brandon Jovanovich

Eun Sun Kim, conductor

Act I finale from *Tosca* (Giacomo Puccini)

Christian Van Horn

San Francisco Opera Chorus

Eun Sun Kim, conductor

Entrance of the Guests from *Tannhäuser* (Richard Wagner)

San Francisco Opera Chorus

Donald Runnicles, conductor

"Batter my heart" from *Doctor Atomic* (John Adams)

Brian Mulligan

Eun Sun Kim, conductor

"Co chvila" from *Jenůfa* (Leoš Janáček)

Karita Mattila

Donald Runnicles, conductor

"Losing my mind" from *Follies* (Stephen Sondheim)

Patricia Racette

Patrick Summers, conductor

"Ah, je veux vivre" from *Roméo et Juliette* (Charles Gounod)

Adela Zaharia

Eun Sun Kim, conductor

"Ombra mai fu" from *Xerxes* (George Frideric Handel)

Susan Graham

Patrick Summers, conductor

"Prosti, nebesnoye sozdanye" from *Pique Dame* (Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky)

Brandon Jovanovich

Donald Runnicles, conductor

"Là ci darem la mano" from *Don Giovanni* (Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart)

Heidi Stober and Christian Van Horn

Eun Sun Kim, conductor

"Cessa di più resistere" from *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* (Gioachino Rossini)

Lawrence Brownlee

San Francisco Opera Chorus

Patrick Summers, conductor

Liebestod from *Tristan und Isolde* (Richard Wagner)

Nina Stemme

Donald Runnicles, conductor

"Ave Signor" from *Mefistofele* (Arrigo Boito)

San Francisco Opera Chorus

Eun Sun Kim, Chorus

The concert is approximately three hours, including one intermission.

DINNER WITH THE ARTISTS

Co-Chairs: Anna Fieler, Sue Marineau, and Jason Phillips

5 p.m. Champagne Reception (available with dinner package)

Veterans Building Lobby, 401 Van Ness Avenue

6 p.m. Concert

War Memorial Opera House, 301 Van Ness Avenue

9 p.m. Dinner with the Artists (available with dinner package)

Dianne and Tad Taube Atrium Theater

Diane B. Wilsey Center for Opera, Veterans Building (fourth floor)

Concert/dinner packages and concert-only tickets are available. For more information, visit sfopera.com/100anniversary.

Tickets for the concert livestream are available at sfopera.com/digital/livestream.

San Francisco Opera is sponsored, in part, by Norby Anderson, Jerome L. and Thao N. Dodson, The Dolby Family, Carol and Dixon Doll, Bertie Bialek Elliott, Peter Fenton and Kate Greer, Keith and Priscilla Geeslin, Ann and Gordon Getty Foundation for the Arts, John A. and Cynthia Fry Gunn, Burgess and Elizabeth Jamieson, Franklin and Catherine Johnson, Edmund W. and Jeannik Méquet Littlefield Fund, Steven M. Menzies, Bernard and Barbro Osher, Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem, Dianne and Tad Taube, Phyllis C. Wattis Endowment Funds, Diane B. Wilsey, and Barbara A. Wolfe.

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PRESS PHOTOS: High-resolution, downloadable artist headshots for the *100th Anniversary Concert and Dinner with the Artists* are available at sfopera.com/press.

For further press information, please contact San Francisco Opera Communications:

Julia Inouye (415) 565-6430 / jinouye@sfopera.com

Jeffery McMillan (415) 565-6451 / jmcmillan@sfopera.com

Teresa Concepcion (415) 565-6470 / tconcepcion@sfopera.com