



SAN FRANCISCO  
OPERA

## SAN FRANCISCO OPERA'S 2023-24 SEASON OPENS SEPTEMBER 8



Eun Sun Kim; Verdi's *Il Trovatore*; Wagner's *Lohengrin*

Photos: Cody Pickens (l), Cory Weaver/San Francisco Opera (c), Clive Barda/Royal Opera House (r)

Music Director Eun Sun Kim Launches Company's Second Century with Opening Night Concert and Multi-Season Initiative to Present Operas by Giuseppe Verdi and Richard Wagner Each Season Beginning with *Il Trovatore* and *Lohengrin*



Composers Mason Bates, Rhiannon Giddens, Michael Abels, Kaija Saariaho

Photos: Kate Warren, Francisco Turrisi/Ebru Yildiz; Eric Schwabel; Andrew Campbell

Company's 101st Season Features Local Premieres of San Francisco Opera Co-Commissions by Composers Mason Bates, Rhiannon Giddens, Michael Ables and the Late Kaija Saariaho

New to San Francisco Opera Productions of Donizetti's *The Elixir of Love* and Mozart's *The Magic Flute* along with a Revival of Handel's *Partenope*

Special Events Include *Opera Ball*, *Free Opera in the Park* Concert and *The Elixir of Love Encounter*

## Dolby Family's *Opera for the Bay* Discounted Ticket Program and Livestreams of Each Production Continue

Tickets available at (415) 864-3330 and [sfopera.com](https://www.sfopera.com)

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (August 10, 2023) — San Francisco Opera launches its second century on Friday, September 8 with *Opera Ball* and an Opening Night Concert featuring Caroline H. Hume Music Director Eun Sun Kim conducting soloists Roberto Alagna and Aleksandra Kurzak with the San Francisco Opera Orchestra and Chorus. The Company's 101st season will include eight opera productions spanning classic works and new music including an unprecedented three Bay Area premieres of San Francisco Opera co-commissions.

2023–24 marks a new chapter in Eun Sun Kim's tenure as music director where she will lead San Francisco Opera and its audiences on a journey through the works of Giuseppe Verdi and Richard Wagner with at least one opera by each composer in every season. Previously on the podium for Verdi's *La Traviata* in 2022, Kim's multi-season artistic initiative will now feature works from both composers beginning with Verdi's *IL TROVATORE* (September 12–October 1) in Sir David McVicar's acclaimed production and Wagner's *LOHENGRIN* (October 15–November 1) in a new-to-San-Francisco-Opera staging by David Alden.

The premieres of three operas co-commissioned by San Francisco Opera from today's leading composers and librettists mark the Company's 101st season as an exploration of new stories and contemporary voices. First, *THE (R)EVOLUTION OF STEVE JOBS* (September 22–October 7) by Bay Area composer Mason Bates and Pulitzer Prize-winning librettist Mark Campbell takes the stage in September. Opening on November 5, the 2023 Pulitzer Prize winner for music, *OMAR* (November 5–21) by Grammy Award-winning artist Rhiannon Giddens and composer Michael Abels, brings its urgent, American story to the War Memorial Opera House. And in June 2024 comes one of the highlights of the opera season with the American premiere of *INNOCENCE* (June 1–21), the final opera by the late Finnish composer Kaija Saariaho with libretto by Sofi Oksanen and dramaturgy and multilanguage translations by Aleksis Barrière.

Completing the season's mainstage presentations are a trio of comedic works, including Donizetti's *THE ELIXIR OF LOVE* (November 19–December 9) in a new co-production by director Daniel Slater and associate director/choreographer Tim Claydon that takes place on the Italian Riviera in the 1950s. To open the 2024 Summer Season, Music Director Eun Sun Kim leads the Bay Area premiere of directors Barrie Kosky and Suzanne Andrade's

internationally acclaimed production of Mozart's *THE MAGIC FLUTE* (May 30–June 30). Rounding out the 2024 summer offerings is Handel's *PARTENOPE* (June 15–28) in the Olivier Award-winning production by director Christopher Alden which updates the action from an ancient Neapolitan setting to a 1920s Parisian salon.

#### OPENING WEEKEND (September 8–10)

Music Director Eun Sun Kim and the San Francisco Opera Orchestra and Chorus inaugurate the Company's second century on Friday, September 8 with opera's power couple, tenor Roberto Alagna and soprano Aleksandra Kurzak. The concert is the musical centerpiece of San Francisco's most glamorous party of the year, *Opera Ball*. This annual benefit, co-presented by San Francisco Opera and San Francisco Opera Guild, is co-chaired by Francesca Gutierrez Amann and Sue Graham Johnston. For information and tickets to *Opera Ball*, the BRAVO! Club's opening night cocktail dinner celebration and other ways to participate in the launch of San Francisco Opera's second century, visit [sfopera.com/operaball](https://sfopera.com/operaball).

Opening weekend concludes with the *San Francisco Chronicle Presents Opera in the Park* on Sunday, September 10. The free annual concert features the stars of the Company's fall season at Robin Williams Meadow in Golden Gate Park.

The Company also participates in *Flower Piano*, the popular community alfresco event featuring 12 pianos at the San Francisco Botanical Garden in Golden Gate Park. On Saturday, September 9 from 3-4 p.m., pianist Ronny Michael Greenberg performs virtuosic arrangements of grand opera paired with Impressionistic works that capture the serenity of the gardens. For program and ticket information, visit [sfbg.org/flowerpiano](https://sfbg.org/flowerpiano).

#### DOLBY FAMILY'S OPERA FOR THE BAY DISCOUNTED TICKETS

The Dolby Family's *Opera for the Bay* discounted tickets program continues throughout the 2023–24 Season with \$10 tickets for Bay Area residents who are new to the opera. Those with a home address zip code between 94000-95999 who have not purchased tickets in the past three years are eligible. *Opera for the Bay* tickets go on sale one month prior to the opening of each production/concert and are limited to 2 seats per patron. Inventory is limited and may sell out quickly. Visit [sfopera.com/dolby](https://sfopera.com/dolby) for more information.

## LIVESTREAMS

The Opening Night Concert and third performance of every opera production will be livestreamed. Tickets for the opera streams include a 48-hour on-demand viewing window, except for the Opening Night Concert which will be streamed live only. Tickets are available now for \$27.50. All times below are Pacific Time (PT). For more information visit [sfopera.com/digital/livestream](https://sfopera.com/digital/livestream).

|                                |                                 |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| OPENING NIGHT CONCERT          | Fri., September 8 at 8 p.m.     |
| IL TROVATORE                   | Wed., September 20 at 7:30 p.m. |
| THE (R)EVOLUTION OF STEVE JOBS | Wed., September 27 at 7:30 p.m. |
| LOHENGRIN                      | Sat., October 21 at 7 p.m.      |
| OMAR                           | Sat., November 11 at 7:30 p.m.  |
| THE ELIXIR OF LOVE             | Sun., November 26 at 2 p.m.     |
| THE MAGIC FLUTE                | Tue., June 4 at 7:30 p.m.       |
| INNOCENCE                      | Wed., June 12 at 7:30 p.m.      |
| PARTENOPE                      | Sun., June 23 at 2 p.m.         |

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### San Francisco Opera's 101st Season Calendar

\* San Francisco Opera Debut

All performances take place at the War Memorial Opera House (301 Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco), unless noted.

#### 2023 FALL SEASON



#### OPERA BALL and OPENING NIGHT CONCERT

Friday, September 8, 5 p.m.

The Company's 101st season kicks off with the party of the year, an evening of cocktails, dinner, music and dancing in City Hall and the Opera House.



#### OPENING NIGHT CONCERT

Friday, September 8, 8 p.m.

Opera's leading couple, Roberto Alagna and Aleksandra Kurzak, star with the San Francisco Opera Orchestra and Chorus conducted by Eun Sun Kim.



#### OPERA IN THE PARK

Sunday, September 10, 1:30 p.m.

Annual free concert at Robin Williams Meadow in Golden Gate Park features the stars of the fall season with the San Francisco Opera Orchestra.



IL TROVATORE by Giuseppe Verdi  
 September 12, 17, 20, 23, 29; October 1  
 Conducted by Eun Sun Kim; Production by Sir David McVicar  
 Cast includes Arturo Chacón-Cruz, Angel Blue, George Petean\*

**\*\*SAN FRANCISCO OPERA CO-COMMISSION\*\***



THE (R)EVOLUTION OF STEVE JOBS by Mason Bates and Mark Campbell  
 September 22, 24, 27, 30; October 3, 7  
 Conducted by Michael Christie; Production by Kevin Newbury  
 Cast includes John Moore\*, Sasha Cooke, Bille Bruley\*, Wei Wu\*



LOHENGRIN by Richard Wagner  
 October 15, 18, 21, 24, 27; November 1  
 Conducted by Eun Sun Kim; Production by David Alden  
 Cast includes Simon O'Neill, Julie Adams, Judit Kutasi\*, Brian Mulligan

**\*\*SAN FRANCISCO OPERA CO-COMMISSION\*\***



OMAR by Rhiannon Giddens and Michael Abels  
 November 5, 7, 11, 15, 17, 21  
 Conducted by John Kennedy\*; Production by Kaneza Schaal\*  
 Cast includes Jamez McCorkle\*, Brittany Renee\*, Taylor Raven



THE ELIXIR OF LOVE (L'ELISIR D'AMORE) by Gaetano Donizetti  
 November 19, 24, 26, 29; December 5, 9  
 Conducted by Ramón Tebar\*; Production by Daniel Slater  
 Cast includes Pene Pati, Slávka Zámečnicková\*, Renato Girolami\*, David Bižić



THE ELIXIR OF LOVE ENCOUNTER  
 Friday, December 1  
 Travel to a glamorous 1950s seaside hotel for Donizetti's classic comedy in this one-night-only encounter that is part opera, part party.

2024 SUMMER SEASON



THE MAGIC FLUTE (DIE ZAUBERFLÖTE) by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
 May 30; June 2, 4, 8, 14, 20, 22, 26, 30  
 Conducted by Eun Sun Kim; Production by Barrie Kosky\* and Suzanne Andrade\*  
 Cast includes Amitai Pati, Christina Gansch, Lauri Vasar\*, Anna Simińska\*



## UNITED STATES PREMIERE

**\*\*SAN FRANCISCO OPERA CO-COMMISSION\*\***



INNOCENCE by Kaija Saariaho with Sofi Oksanen and Aleksis Barrière

June 1, 7, 12, 16, 18, 21

Conducted by Clément Mao-Takacs\*; Production by Simon Stone\*

Cast includes Ruxandra Donose, Claire de Sévigné\*, Rod Gilfry, Vilma Jää\*



PARTENOPE by George Frideric Handel

June 15, 19, 23, 25, 28

Conducted by Christopher Moulds; Production by Christopher Alden

Cast includes Julie Fuchs, Daniela Mack, Carlo Vistoli\*, Nicholas Tamagna\*

For more information, including cast and creative teams, visit [sfopera.com](https://sfopera.com).

## TICKETS AND INFORMATION

Tickets for San Francisco Opera's 2023-24 Season are priced from \$26 to \$426. Subscriptions for the Company's 101st Season are priced from \$146 to \$3280 for Full Series (6–8 productions), \$52 to \$1,640 for Half Series (2–4 productions) and a Design Your Own (DYO) option (minimum four operas). 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. For information about subscriber benefits and special series subscriptions, including the Student & Teacher Series offering 50% off select Full and Half Series, visit [sfopera.com/subscribe](https://sfopera.com/subscribe).

Ticket packages are available for *Opera Ball*, BRAVO! Cocktail Dinner Celebration, Opening Night Concert with After-Party or Opening Night Concert only at [sfopera.com/operaball](https://sfopera.com/operaball).

Dolby Family's *Opera for the Bay* program provides \$10 tickets to all mainstage performances to Bay Area residents (home address zip code between 94000-95999) who have not purchased tickets in the past three years. *Opera for the Bay* tickets go on sale one month prior to the opening of each production and are limited to 2 seats per eligible patron. Go to [sfopera.com/dolby](https://sfopera.com/dolby) for more information.

The War Memorial Opera House is located at 301 Van Ness Avenue. Patrons are encouraged to use public transportation to attend San Francisco Opera performances. The War Memorial Opera House is within walking distance of the Civic Center BART/Muni Station and near numerous bus lines, including 5, 21, 47, 49 and F Market Street. For further public transportation information, visit [bart.gov](https://bart.gov) and [sfmta.com](https://sfmta.com).

Gifts of all sizes help create San Francisco Opera's programs and are much appreciated. To donate visit [sfopera.com/donate](https://sfopera.com/donate).

All casting, programs, schedules and ticket prices are subject to change. For further information about San Francisco Opera's 2023–24 Season, visit [sfopera.com](https://sfopera.com).

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*Opera Ball* is made possible, in part, by Opening Week Grand Sponsor Diane B. Wilsey. Additional concert support provided by Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem.

*San Francisco Chronicle Presents Opera in the Park* is made possible, in part, by Opening Week Grand Sponsor Diane B. Wilsey. Additional support provided by William and Gretchen Kimball Fund and Kaiser Permanente. Presenting sponsor is the San Francisco Chronicle. Radio partner is Classical KDFC. San Francisco Opera also extends special thanks to San Francisco Recreation & Parks and the San Francisco Parks Alliance.

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*The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs* is made possible, in part, by Dr. and Mrs. William M. Coughran; Keith and Priscilla Geeslin; John A. and Cynthia Fry Gunn; Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem; Barbara A. Wolfe; and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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*Omar* is made possible, in part, by Marcia Barinaga & Corey Goodman; Bob Ellis; Louise Gund; and Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem.

*The Elixir of Love* is made possible, in part, by Jerome L. and Thao N. Dodson; the San Francisco Opera Guild; and Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem.

*The Elixir of Love Encounter* is made possible, in part, by the Creative Edge Fund with major support from founding funders Carol and Dixon Doll, Peter Fenton and Kate Greer, and Bob Ellis.

*The Magic Flute* is made possible, in part, by John A. and Cynthia Fry Gunn; Edmund W. and Jeannik Méquet Littlefield Fund; the E. Nakamichi Foundation and Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem.

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PRESS PHOTOS: High-resolution, downloadable artist headshots and production images for San Francisco Opera's 101st season are available at [sfopera.com/press](https://sfopera.com/press).

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

Julia Inouye (415) 565-6430 / [jinouye@sfopera.com](mailto:jinouye@sfopera.com)

Jeffery McMillan (415) 565-6451 / [jmcmillan@sfopera.com](mailto:jmcmillan@sfopera.com)

Teresa Concepcion (415) 565-6470 / [tconcepcion@sfopera.com](mailto:tconcepcion@sfopera.com)