



SAN FRANCISCO  
OPERA

## SAN FRANCISCO OPERA'S 104TH SEASON OPENS SEPTEMBER 12

Music Director Eun Sun Kim conducts Verdi's **SIMON BOCCANEGRÀ**, Massenet's **MANON** and Wagner's **DAS RHEINGOLD**, beginning a journey toward **THE RING OF THE NIBELUNG** in 2028

September 12–13 opening weekend includes **OPERA BALL** gala, **SIMON BOCCANEGRÀ** and free, annual **OPERA IN THE PARK** concert

Thea Musgrave's rarely performed 1977 opera, **MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS**, returns to San Francisco in co-production starring soprano Heidi Stober

Core repertory revivals include Mozart's **THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO** in Michael Cavanagh's production and Puccini's **TOSCA** with soprano Rachel Willis-Sørensen's first performances in the title role

Eun Sun Kim conducts San Francisco Opera Orchestra and soprano Adela Zaharia in all-Richard Strauss program

**PRIDE CONCERT** returns in Summer 2027



Verdi's *Simon Boccanegra*; Heidi Stober in *Mary, Queen of Scots*; Music Director Eun Sun Kim and director Francesca Zambello  
(Photos: Hans Jörg Michel, Ellie Kurtz, Cody Pickens)

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SAN FRANCISCO, CA (February 3, 2026) — San Francisco Opera Tad and Dianne Taube General Director **Matthew Shilvock** and Caroline H. Hume Music Director **Eun Sun Kim** today announced repertory and casting for the Company's 104th season, which opens September 12 with Giuseppe Verdi's *Simon Boccanegra* under Kim's baton. Highlights of the season include a new co-production with English National Opera of Thea Musgrave's *Mary, Queen of Scots* and Richard Wagner's *Das Rheingold*, the prologue of his four-opera epic, *The Ring of the Nibelung*. Works by Jules Massenet, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Giacomo Puccini return to the stage along with a variety of concerts.

Opening weekend begins with the annual *Opera Ball* benefit, co-presented with San Francisco Opera Guild, at City Hall and the War Memorial Opera House on Saturday, September 12, featuring Verdi's political drama *Simon Boccanegra* (September 12–27). Eun Sun Kim leads a new-to-San-Francisco-Opera production by Claus Guth, one of opera's foremost directors. The following day, Kim, the San Francisco Opera Orchestra and vocal soloists from the fall season head to Robin Williams Meadow in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park for the free, annual *Opera in the Park* concert (Sunday, September 13).

Scottish-born composer Thea Musgrave's 1977 English-language opera, *Mary, Queen of Scots* (September 20–October 4), had its West Coast premiere in 1979 by San Francisco Opera affiliate Spring Opera Theater at the Curran Theatre with the composer conducting. San Francisco Opera's first opera by a female composer returns for its mainstage premiere in director and designer Stewart Laing's staging led by rising Italian conductor Clelia Cafiero and starring soprano Heidi Stober as Mary.

San Francisco Opera's commitment to expanding the operatic repertoire includes the creation of new works and the bringing back of important operas of the last century like *Mary, Queen of Scots*. Looking ahead to Fall 2027, the Company will present *The Galloping Cure* by Missy Mazzoli with a libretto by Royce Vavrek that resets Franz Kafka's short story "A Country Doctor" in the present-day opioid crisis as filtered through the imagination of American writer Karen Russell. This new opera by the composer and librettist team behind *Breaking the Waves*, *The Listeners* and *Proving Up* will have its U.S. premiere in San Francisco, continuing the Company's recent commissions and co-commissions, which include *The Monkey King* (Huang Ruo, David Henry Hwang; 2025), *Innocence* (Kaija Saariaho, Sofi Oksanen, Aleksi Barrière; 2024), *Omar* (Rhiannon Giddens, Michael Abels; 2023), *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs* (Mason Bates, Mark Campbell; 2023), *El último sueño de Frida y Diego* (Gabriela Lena Frank, Nilo Cruz; 2023) and *Antony and Cleopatra* (John Adams; 2022).

The Fall 2026 operas also include Eun Sun Kim conducting Jules Massenet's *Manon* (October 15–November 1), with soprano Amina Edris and tenor Pene Pati as the lovers in Vincent Boussard's staging (a San Francisco Opera co-production), and Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* (*Le Nozze di*

*Figaro*) (October 31–November 29) with Shawna Lucey directing the Company's production by the late Michael Cavanagh and Sebastian Weigle conducting in his Company debut. Summer 2027 will feature Kim leading Wagner's *Das Rheingold* (May 29–June 22) in the acclaimed production by director Francesca Zambello, with baritone Brian Mulligan as Wotan. Shawna Lucey's production of Giacomo Puccini's *Tosca* (June 4–July 2) returns with an all-star cast headed by soprano Rachel Willis-Sørensen singing the title role for the first time.

On November 6, Kim and the San Francisco Opera Orchestra take the stage for *Strauss in Concert*, an all-Richard Strauss program featuring soprano soloist Adela Zaharia. In Summer 2027, the *Pride Concert* (June 25) returns to kick off Pride Weekend in San Francisco. Chorus Director John Keene leads the artists of the San Francisco Opera Chorus in a Chorus Concert at the Dianne and Tad Taube Atrium Theater on November 22. The Company's resident artists, the Adler Fellows, will have their annual showcase with the San Francisco Opera Orchestra on November 20 at Herbst Theatre.

General Director Matthew Shilvock said:

"It has never been more urgent to gather in our theatres and share the stories of our humanity. In recent years, I have felt an extraordinary hunger among audiences to immerse themselves in deeply emotive, dramatic works. As we move forward from the remarkable operas of 2025 into our 104th season, we do so with a sense of momentum and purpose. This season will be defined by soaring musical values, incisive dramatic stagings and an expansive breadth of styles and stories."

"We continue our journeys into the works of Wagner and Verdi under the baton of Eun Sun Kim. Every work she conducts feels newly discovered, and I am beyond thrilled that we begin our exploration of Wagner's *Ring* with her this season. It is also an extraordinary privilege to present Thea Musgrave's *Mary, Queen of Scots* on our mainstage. When I saw this work in London last year, I was awed by the power of Thea's dramatic writing. She brings the Tudor queen into vivid relief, revealing both the fierce determination and the profound vulnerability of an 18-year-old woman fighting to retain her agency against overwhelming odds.

"The opera house is a place where we can celebrate what brings us together and momentarily set aside what divides us. Even epics as monumental as the *Ring* are, at heart, stories of people struggling to find their place in the world. Opera tells the stories of our lives, and I am thrilled to welcome the Bay Area to experience the collective power of this extraordinary art form."

Music Director Eun Sun Kim said:

"As we look ahead to our forthcoming season, it reminds me of a dialogue. From the enduring classics to modern masterpieces, we explore the works of past eras that continue to inspire opera, a constantly evolving art form. We open with Verdi's *Simon Boccanegra*, the intense political drama that will provide a gripping start to the season. Taking on Wagner's *Das Rheingold* is a pivotal step in the early phases of our 2028 *Ring* cycle, as we forge a path into a new, important chapter with our vibrant community. Alongside these two composers, whom we know so well, I will be conducting Massenet's alluring *Manon*. In addition, I am thrilled to bring the music of *Der Rosenkavalier* back to our stage after 19 years with a stunning Suite, along with the *Brentano Lieder* featuring our good friend Adela Zaharia. My esteemed colleagues bring to life a powerful production of Thea Musgrave's *Mary, Queen of Scots*, the classic *Le Nozze di Figaro*, the dramatic *Tosca* and the return of our celebratory *Pride Concert*. Each season is built with the audience at heart, and I am reminded that San Francisco Opera's audience is among the most artistically curious, diverse and fiercely loyal. This season brings me closer to the Company which I am proud to call my musical home."

The May–June 2027 performances of *Das Rheingold* are a preview of what is to come in June–July 2028 when Eun Sun Kim conducts her first complete performances of Wagner's four-part magnum opus, *The Ring of the Nibelung*. The lead up to the full cycles will continue in Fall 2027 with part two of the *Ring* cycle, *Die Walküre*, before three full cycles in June 2028 (preceded by a standalone performance each of *Siegfried* and *Götterdämmerung* in late spring 2028). Kim has conducted at least one opera by Wagner each season in San Francisco since *Lohengrin* in 2023, a production that was chronicled in the Northern California Emmy-nominated documentary [Eun Sun Kim: A Journey into Lohengrin](#). She conducted *Tristan und Isolde* in 2024 and the new production of *Parsifal* in 2025, marking her commitment to building the next generation of Wagnerian musicians at San Francisco Opera.

San Francisco Opera's 2026–27 Season will feature many of the world's finest operatic artists. Those who are making Company debuts include: conductors Clelia Cafiero and Sebastian Weigle; soprano Eleonora Buratto; tenors Joshua Guerrero, Riccardo Massi and Christopher Sokolowski; baritones Vitor Bispo and Thomas Mole; basses Patrick Guetti and Peter Kellner; production Claus Guth; director and production designer Stewart Laing; production designer Christian Schmidt; and revival lighting designer A.J. Guban.

## 2026-27 SEASON

### **\*\*OPENING OF SAN FRANCISCO OPERA'S 104TH SEASON\*\***

#### **OPERA BALL**

**Saturday, September 12, 2026 at 5 p.m.**



Scenes from *Opera Ball* (Photos: Drew Altizer Photography)

San Francisco Opera's annual opening night benefit, *Opera Ball*, presented in partnership with San Francisco Opera Guild, is one of the premier Bay Area philanthropic events of the year. Festivities begin with the red carpet, a cocktail reception and formal dinner at City Hall. Guests then promenade to the Opera House for the opening of Verdi's *Simon Boccanegra* led by Music Director Eun Sun Kim. After the opera, dancing and late-night bites await back at City Hall.

The co-chairs for *Opera Ball* 2026 are Sydney Leung and Jennifer Walske. Proceeds from the gala, which is made possible, in part, by Opening Weekend Grand Sponsor Diane B. Wilsey, benefit the artistic initiatives of San Francisco Opera and San Francisco Opera Guild's education programs, which reach thousands in K-12 classrooms and after-school programs.

### **\*\*New-to-San-Francisco-Opera Production\*\***

#### ***SIMON BOCCANEGRa* by Giuseppe Verdi**

**September 12-27, 2026**



Scenes from Verdi's *Simon Boccanegra* (Photos: Hans Jörg Michel)

Verdi's *Simon Boccanegra*, a collaboration with librettist Francesco Maria Piave, had its premiere in 1857 during the composer's middle period. Working with changes to the libretto by Arrigo Boito,

Verdi returned to it in 1881 when his expressive powers had reached a new peak. The story follows the embattled Doge of Genoa who is reunited with his long-lost daughter just as political rivals destabilize his government. Music Director **Eun Sun Kim** conducts the composer's turbulent masterpiece which was last heard at the War Memorial Opera House in 2008 with the late Dmitri Hvorostovsky in the title role. Chorus Director **John Keene** prepares the artists of the San Francisco Opera Chorus.

German director **Claus Guth**'s acclaimed production from the Hamburg State Opera, presented for the first time in America, underscores through flashbacks and production designer **Christian Schmidt**'s split-stage perspectives how memory and past events shape the present. **Katherine M. Carter**, who staged the Company's 2025 revival of *La Bohème*, directs Guth's production.



Eun Sun Kim, Claus Guth, Katherine M. Carter, Amartuvshin Enkhbat



Eleonora Buratto, Christian Van Horn, Joshua Guerrero, Aleksey Bogdanov

*Simon Boccanegra* holds an esteemed place in the Company's history, from the 1941 West Coast premiere through presentations with many of the century's greatest Verdi singers. Mongolian baritone **Amartuvshin Enkhbat**, who starred in the past two season-opening Verdi operas (*Un Ballo in Maschera* in 2024, *Rigoletto* in 2025) makes his role debut as Boccanegra. Soprano **Eleonora Buratto**, acclaimed for her performances in Italian works at the Metropolitan Opera, makes her Company debut as Boccanegra's daughter, Maria, who was abducted as a child and raised under the name Amelia. American soprano and former San Francisco Opera Adler Fellow **Toni Marie Palmertree** sings Maria/Amelia at the final performance on September 27. Bass-baritone **Christian Van Horn** portrays Jacopo Fiesco, who attempts to thwart Boccanegra at the instigation of the conspiratorial Paolo, performed by baritone **Aleksey Bogdanov**. Tenor **Joshua Guerrero** makes his house debut as Gabriele Adorno, Amelias suitor who becomes an instrument in the struggle for power.

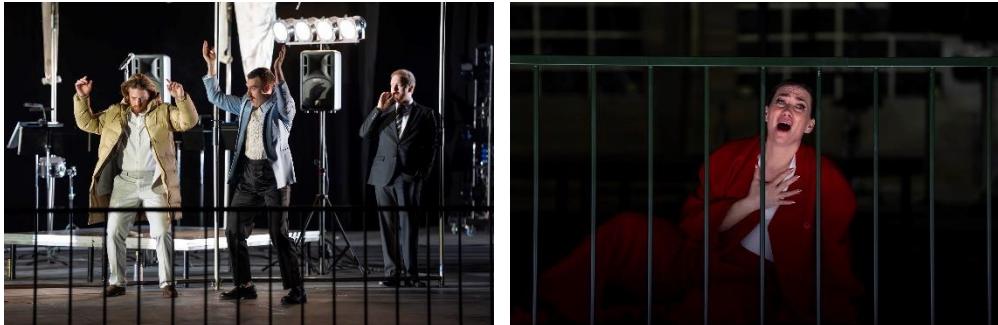
*San Francisco Chronicle Presents*  
**OPERA IN THE PARK**  
**Sunday, September 13, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.**



*Opera in the Park* in 2025 featuring Amartuvshin Enkhbat and Adela Zaharia (Photos: Kristen Loken/San Francisco Opera)

Opening weekend continues with *Opera in the Park* at Robin Williams Meadow in Golden Gate Park. The beloved San Francisco tradition, which began in 1971, is a free concert featuring the greatest operatic stars in the world. Eun Sun Kim and the San Francisco Opera Orchestra with vocal soloists from the Fall 2026 Season will present arias, duets, popular songs and instrumental works. Bring your picnic baskets for this popular al fresco gathering attended by audiences of more than 10,000 each year.

**\*\*New Co-Production and Mainstage Premiere\*\***  
***MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS* by Thea Musgrave**  
**September 20–October 4, 2026**



Scenes from Musgrave's *Mary, Queen of Scots* featuring Heidi Stober (right) (Photos: Ellie Kurtz/English National Opera)

*Mary, Queen of Scots*, the fifth of composer Thea Musgrave's 11 operas, explores self-reliance amid harrowing trials in the life of one of history's most iconic royals. Bel Canto composer Gaetano Donizetti famously dramatized the events surrounding Mary's execution for treason in *Maria Stuarda*. In *Mary, Queen of Scots*, Musgrave focuses on the young queen, still a teenager and newly returned to Scotland, and her constant fight to retain her throne as three men—Mary's half-brother, her husband, and a potential ally—vie to control her. Musgrave's libretto juxtaposes scenes of double-dealing and public unrest with the gentle normalcy of Mary singing a lullaby to her baby, the future king of Scotland and England. Her incisive score propels the action with raw intensity and soaring lyricism.



Thea Musgrave, Clelia Cafiero, Stewart Laing, Heidi Stober, Thomas Mole, Thomas Kinch, Christopher Sokolowski

Italian conductor **Clelia Cafiero** makes her Company debut leading the San Francisco Opera Orchestra and cast. Director and designer **Stewart Laing** sets the 16th-century historical drama against a backdrop of contemporary Scottish life and sectarian violence. The production features the work of lighting designer **D.M. Wood**.

Reviewing San Francisco Opera's Centennial Season production of Poulenc's *Dialogues of the Carmelites*, the *San Francisco Chronicle* said of soprano **Heidi Stober**: "[her] appearances with the Company have been reliable sources of joy ever since her 2010 debut in Massenet's *Werther*. But her performance as Blanche added a new and even deeper level of psychological specificity to her expected vocal brilliance." In Fall 2026, Stober portrays Mary, Queen of Scots, a role she performed at London's Coliseum last year: "The title role lies high, and Stober is all thrilling top notes and terrific moments of defiance or self-assertion" (*The Guardian*).

Baritone **Thomas Mole** makes his American debut as Mary's half-brother James Stewart. Current San Francisco Opera Adler Fellow tenor **Thomas Kinch** is the Earl of Bothwell, and tenor **Christopher Sokolowski** makes his debut as Mary's husband, Lord Darnley.



Thea Musgrave rehearsing *Mary, Queen of Scots* in San Francisco in 1979. (Photo: David Powers)

San Francisco Opera General Director Matthew Shilcock with the composer in 2025

**Thea Musgrave** said:

"I am thrilled to have my opera *Mary, Queen of Scots* return to San Francisco Opera this fall. I have always felt it to be the cornerstone of my operatic repertoire. It is also very close to me personally as I am a woman, a Scot and lived for several years in Paris. It was therefore easier for me than others to get inside of Mary's feelings as the 18-year-old widowed Queen of France returning to Scotland as the Scottish Queen. Mary grew quickly to hold her own in a

land menaced by the conflicting ambitions of the men that surrounded her—only in the end—ironically to be defeated and brought down by a woman, Queen Elizabeth I. Happily, Mary won the long game when her son, James VI of Scotland, became James I of England and Scotland on Elizabeth's death. I am hoping my opera will likewise continue to bring her valor, her strength and particularly her emotional journey to life in a meaningful way for today's audiences at San Francisco Opera."

**MANON by Jules Massenet**  
**October 15–November 1, 2026**



Scenes from Massenet's *Manon* (Photos: Cory Weaver/San Francisco Opera)

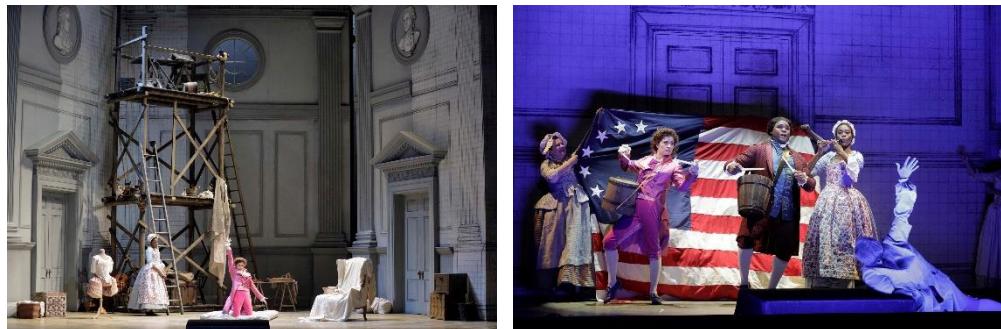
The story of *Manon* explores the emotions of young love and the allure of material wealth through the tumultuous experiences of its eponymous heroine. The score's shimmering textures and sensuous lyricism have ensured the popularity of this gem of the French repertoire since its premiere in Belle Époque Paris nearly 150 years ago. Eun Sun Kim leads this irresistible portrait of passion and self-determination. Director and costume designer Vincent Boussard returns to stage his production, a collaboration with set designer Vincent Lemaire. Boussard said of his staging, last presented here in 2017: "I believe the story of a young lady who wants to listen to a call for freedom and pleasure belongs to our time."



Eun Sun Kim, Vincent Boussard, Amina Edris, Pene Pati, Vitor Bispo, James Creswell

Soprano Amina Edris has triumphed here as Juliette in Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette* and Cleopatra in the world premiere of John Adams' *Antony and Cleopatra*. She brings her celebrated portrayal of Manon from the stages of Paris, Barcelona and Bordeaux to San Francisco for the first time. Samoan tenor Pene Pati, one of opera's leading talents, is the Chevalier Des Grieux. Baritone Vitor Bispo makes his American and house debut as Lescaut, Manon's protective cousin who is eager to uphold the family name, and James Creswell reprises the role of Comte des Grieux.

**THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO** by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
October 31–November 29, 2026



Scenes from Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* (Photos: Cory Weaver/San Francisco Opera)

A work of breathtaking artistry filled with comedic sparkle, wit, heart and glorious music, *The Marriage of Figaro* (*Le Nozze di Figaro*) by composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and librettist Lorenzo Da Ponte is for some the model of the perfectly crafted opera. The late Canadian director Michael Cavanagh's production, unveiled in 2019 as the inception of San Francisco Opera's multi-season Mozart-Da Ponte trilogy, sets the action in an American manor house at the time of the nation's founding. This vision returns as the United States celebrates its 250th anniversary. German conductor **Sebastian Weigle** makes his house debut leading Mozart's timeless classic, and **Shawna Lucey** directs Cavanagh's production, following his passing in 2024, which showcases the designs of **Erhard Rom** (sets and projections), **Constance Hoffman** (costumes) and **Jane Cox** (lighting).



Sebastian Weigle, Shawna Lucey, Slávka Zámečníková, Peter Kellner, Olivia Smith



Thomas Mole, Simone McIntosh, Maurizio Muraro, Catherine Cook, Alek Shrader

The ensemble cast includes artists with recent successes on the War Memorial Opera House stage alongside those who are new to the Company and former Adler Fellows stepping into leading roles. Slovak soprano **Slávka Zámečníková**, who was Adina in *The Elixir of Love* in 2023, is Figaro's betrothed, Susanna. Canadian soprano **Olivia Smith** portrays Countess Almaviva. Smith won praise for her "sumptuous blend of power and precision" (On a Pacific Aisle) singing the music of Mozart at

her final concert as an Adler Fellow in December 2025. Canadian mezzo-soprano **Simone McIntosh**, who performed in Poul Ruders' *The Handmaid's Tale* in 2024, portrays the trouser role of Cherubino.

Bass **Peter Kellner** makes his debut with the Company in the title role, and baritone **Thomas Mole** portrays Count Almaviva. Italian bass **Maurizio Muraro**, who triumphed in Donizetti's *Don Pasquale* in 2016, returns to the Company as Doctor Bartolo. San Francisco Opera Medal recipient **Catherine Cook** reprises the role of Marcellina, and tenor **Alek Shrader** portrays Don Basilio.

### *STRAUSS IN CONCERT*

Friday, November 6, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.



Eun Sun Kim and the San Francisco Opera Orchestra; Adela Zaharia (Photos: Kristen Loken, Matthew Washburn, Oana Vedinas)

Following sold-out concerts performing symphonies by Ludwig van Beethoven in 2024 and 2025, Music Director **Eun Sun Kim** and the **San Francisco Opera Orchestra** return with an evening dedicated to the music of Richard Strauss. The program includes *Till Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks* (the early tone poem which made Strauss a sensation); his song cycle with texts by Romantic poet Clemens Brentano and the American premiere of a new arrangement by Philippe Jordan and Tomáš Ille of selections from Strauss' 1911 opera, *Der Rosenkavalier*. Romanian soprano **Adela Zaharia**, who brought "fluting tone and steely precision to the lyrical and technical demands of Gilda [in Verdi's *Rigoletto*]" (*San Francisco Chronicle*), is the vocal soloist for the *Brentano Lieder*.

**DAS RHEINGOLD** by Richard Wagner  
May 29–June 22, 2027



Scenes from Wagner's *Das Rheingold* (Photos: Cory Weaver/San Francisco Opera)

In Summer 2027, Music Director **Eun Sun Kim** invites audiences on a journey into one of the most ambitious, innovative and influential artistic creations: Richard Wagner's massive *The Ring of the Nibelung*. Building towards the full, four-opera cycles scheduled for June–July 2028, Kim conducts *Das Rheingold*, the *Ring*'s prologue, in standalone performances. The story opens with Alberich, the titular Nibelung, stealing the magic gold and forging it into an all-powerful ring, which corrupts the gods and mortals who covet it, ultimately upending the world. This mythological tale is told through Wagner's ingenious use of musical themes or leitmotifs that signify characters, concepts such as fate or a curse and objects like the magic sword or the golden apples of immortality.

American director **Francesca Zambello**'s acclaimed vision, a co-production with Washington National Opera, was staged previously by San Francisco Opera in 2011 and 2018. Unofficially dubbed "the American Ring" for its imagery evoking the Sierra Nevada and California Gold Rush, the production features designs by **Michael Yeargan** (sets), **Catherine Zuber** (costumes), the late **Mark McCullough** (original lighting) and **A.J. Guban** (revival lighting), **Jan Hartley** and **S. Katy Tucker** (projections) and staging by associate director and choreographer **Denni Sayers**.



Eun Sun Kim, Francesca Zambello, Brian Mulligan, Falk Struckmann, Brenton Ryan, Judit Kutasi

Baritone **Brian Mulligan** brings his portrayal of Wotan, ruler of the gods, to San Francisco Opera for the first time. Since his Company debut in 2008, Mulligan has performed an astonishing array of roles with San Francisco Opera, including Wagnerian roles such as Telramund in *Lohengrin* and Amfortas in *Parsifal*. **Falk Struckmann**, an acclaimed Wagnerian who thrilled audiences as Klingsor in *Parsifal*, reprises the role of Alberich. After her momentous Company and role debut as Ortrud in Wagner's *Lohengrin* in 2023, mezzo-soprano **Judit Kutasi** makes another exciting role debut as

Fricka, wife of Wotan. Tenor **Brenton Ryan** takes on the role of Loge, the god of fire and mischief. Tenor **Zhengyi Bai** portrays the Nibelung miner Mime. Basses **Patrick Guetti** and **Kwangchul Youn** are the giants Fafner and Fasolt, respectively. The Rhinemaidens will be performed by soprano **Sofia Gotch** (Woglinde) and mezzo-sopranos **Laura Krumm** (Wellgunde) and **Taylor Raven** (Flosshilde). Current Adler Fellow mezzo-soprano **Sadie Cheslak** makes her role debut as the earth goddess, Erda.

**TOSCA** by Giacomo Puccini  
June 4–July 2, 2027



Scenes from Puccini's *Tosca* (Photos: Cory Weaver/San Francisco Opera)

Giacomo Puccini's *Tosca* has been an important work in San Francisco Opera history from the Company's first season in 1923 to the inauguration of the War Memorial Opera House in 1932 and significant reopenings following the earthquake retrofit in 1997 and global pandemic in 2021. This towering drama of love, politics and sacrifice, set to some of the composer's most thrilling music, will be led by **Clelia Cafiero** in her second conducting assignment of the season after *Mary, Queen of Scots*. **Shawna Lucey** directs her 2018 production, which features sets and costumes designed by **Robert Innes Hopkins** and lighting by **Michael Clark**.



Clelia Cafiero, Shawna Lucey, Rachel Willis-Sørensen, Riccardo Massi, Quinn Kelsey

Soprano **Rachel Willis-Sørensen**, who made her house debut as Eva in Wagner's *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* in 2015 and returned to portray the title role in the Company's highly acclaimed 2019 presentation of Dvořák's *Rusalka*, makes her role debut as Flora Tosca. Baron Scarpia will be performed by baritone **Quinn Kelsey**, one of the leading interpreters of this iconic operatic villain on the stage today. Tenor **Riccardo Massi** makes his Company debut as the painter and revolutionary Mario Cavaradossi. San Francisco Opera Medal awardee **Dale Travis** reprises the role of the Sacristan.

PRIDE CONCERT  
Friday, June 25, 2027 at 8 p.m.



Pride Concert (Photos: Kristen Loken)

San Francisco Opera honors the city's LGBTQIA+ community with the *Pride Concert*, a kaleidoscopic celebration of queer musical trailblazers which will take place just before San Francisco's Pride Weekend. For the third year in a row, this electrifying evening will feature the San Francisco Opera Orchestra and guest artists onstage with a dance party in the lobby after the performance. More details will be announced at a later date.

#### TICKETS AND INFORMATION

Subscriptions for San Francisco Opera's 2026-27 Season are priced from \$136 to \$2,634 for Full Series (6 productions), \$69 to \$1,743 for Half Series (2-4 productions) and a Design Your Own (DYO) option (minimum three 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. Contact the San Francisco Opera Box Office at 301 Van Ness Avenue, call (415) 864-3330 or visit [sfopera.com](http://sfopera.com). For information about subscriber benefits and special series subscriptions, including the Student & Teacher Series offering 50% off select Full, Half and DYO Series, visit [sfopera.com/subscribe](http://sfopera.com/subscribe). Single, non-subscription tickets will go on sale this summer.

The Osher Future of Opera Subscription, generously underwritten by Bernard and Barbro Osher, offers discounted subscription packages to anyone who has not subscribed to San Francisco Opera in the past three years. For details visit [sfopera.com/subscribe](http://sfopera.com/subscribe).

Tickets for *Opera Ball* are available at [sfopera.com/operaball](http://sfopera.com/operaball).

The 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 seasons. Dolby Tickets go on sale one month prior to the opening of each production and are limited to two tickets per eligible patron. Go to [sfopera.com/dolby](http://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 the 5, 21, 49 and F Market Street bus lines. For public transportation information, visit [bart.gov](http://bart.gov) and [sfmta.com](http://sfmta.com).

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

All casting, programs, schedules and ticket prices are subject to change. For further information about San Francisco Opera's 2026–27 Season, visit [sfopera.com](http://sfopera.com).

## 2026–27 CASTING AND CALENDAR

#US Debut \*San Francisco Opera Debut ♦Role Debut

†Current Adler Fellow ♦Adler Fellowship Graduate +Merola Opera Program Graduate

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

## 2026 FALL SEASON

### *OPERA BALL*

**Saturday, September 12, 2026**

War Memorial Opera House and San Francisco City Hall

5 p.m. Red Carpet and Cocktail Reception

6 p.m. Formal dinner at City Hall

8 p.m. *Simon Boccanegra* performance at the Opera House

11 p.m. After-Party at City Hall

San Francisco Opera's 104th season opens with *Opera Ball*. The evening includes pre-performance cocktails and dinner at San Francisco's City Hall, the opening-night performance of Verdi's *Simon Boccanegra* in the War Memorial Opera House and an after-party in City Hall. *Opera Ball* is made possible, in part, by Opening Weekend Grand Sponsor Diane B. Wilsey and is co-chaired by Sydney Leung and Jennifer Walske. Proceeds benefit a wide range of artistic initiatives at San Francisco Opera and San Francisco Opera Guild's education programs. Visit [sfopera.com/operaball](http://sfopera.com/operaball).

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### *SIMON BOCCANEGRa* by Giuseppe Verdi

**September 12 (8 p.m.), 16 (7:30 p.m.), 19 (2 p.m.), 22 (7:30 p.m.), 25 (7:30 p.m.), 27 (2 p.m.), 2026**

Original production of the Hamburgische Staatsoper

Libretto by Francesco Maria Piave after Antonio García Gutiérrez's play *Simón Bocanegra*; revised by Arrigo Boito

Approximate running time: 2 hours, 45 minutes with 1 intermission

Performed in Italian with English supertitles

World Premiere:

Venice, Teatro La Fenice; March 12, 1857

First San Francisco Opera performance:	Revised version: Milan, Teatro alla Scala; March 24, 1881
Most recent:	November 1, 1941
	September 2008

**Cast:**

<i>Simon Boccanegra</i>	Amartuvshin Enkhbat <sup>♪</sup>
<i>Amelia/Maria</i>	Eleonora Buratto <sup>*</sup>
<i>Jacopo Fiesco</i>	Toni Marie Palmertree <sup>♪◊+ (9/27)</sup>
<i>Gabriele Adorno</i>	Christian Van Horn
<i>Paolo Albani</i>	Joshua Guerrero <sup>*</sup>
	Aleksey Bogdanov <sup>♪+*</sup>

**Creative Team:**

<i>Conductor</i>	Eun Sun Kim
<i>Original Director</i>	Claus Guth <sup>*</sup>
<i>Revival Director</i>	Katherine M. Carter
<i>Production Designer</i>	Christian Schmidt <sup>*</sup>
<i>Original Lighting Designer</i>	Wolfgang Göbbel
<i>Chorus Director</i>	John Keene

**San Francisco Opera Orchestra and San Francisco Opera Chorus**

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*San Francisco Chronicle* Presents  
**OPERA IN THE PARK—FREE CONCERT**  
**Sunday, September 13, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.**  
 Robin Williams Meadow, Golden Gate Park

Eun Sun Kim, conductor  
 San Francisco Opera Orchestra  
 Soloists from the Fall 2026 Season

San Francisco Opera's opening weekend continues with the free, annual *Opera in the Park* concert.  
 For more information, visit [sfopera.com/operainthepark](http://sfopera.com/operainthepark).

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***MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS*** by Thea Musgrave

**September 20 (2 p.m.), 24 (7:30 p.m.), 26 (7:30 p.m.), 29 (7:30 p.m.); October 2 (7:30 p.m.), 4 (2 p.m.), 2026**

Co-Production between English National Opera and San Francisco Opera  
 Libretto by the composer, based on Amalia Elguera's play *Moray*  
 Approximate running time: 2 hours, 40 minutes with 2 intermissions  
 Performed in English with English supertitles

World Premiere: Edinburgh, King's Theatre; September 6, 1977  
First San Francisco Opera performance: Curran Theatre; April 12, 1979 (Spring Opera Theater)

**Cast:**

<i>Mary, Queen of Scots</i>	Heidi Stober
<i>James Stuart, Earl of Moray</i>	Thomas Mole#♪
<i>Earl of Bothwell</i>	Thomas Kinch♪†+
<i>Lord Darnley</i>	Christopher Sokolowski*♪
<i>David Riccio</i>	Hadleigh Adams♪◊+
<i>Cardinal Beaton</i>	David Soar♪
<i>Lord Gordon</i>	Philip Skinner♪◊+

**Creative Team:**

<i>Conductor</i>	Clelia Cafiero*
<i>Director</i>	Stewart Laing*
<i>Production Designer</i>	Stewart Laing*
<i>Lighting Designer</i>	D.M. Wood
<i>Choreographer</i>	Colm Seery
<i>Chorus Director</i>	John Keene

San Francisco Opera Orchestra, San Francisco Opera Chorus, San Francisco Opera Dance Corps

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***MANON*** by Jules Massenet

October 15 (7:30 p.m.), 18 (2 p.m.), 21 (7:30 p.m.), 24 (7:30 p.m.), 27 (7:30 p.m.), 30 (7:30 p.m.);  
November 1 (2 p.m.), 2026

San Francisco Opera co-production with Lithuanian National Opera and Ballet Theatre and The Israeli Opera

Libretto by Henri Meilhac and Philippe Gille after Antoine-François Prévost's novel *L'histoire du chevalier des Grieux et de Manon Lescaut*

Approximate running time: 3 hours, 35 minutes with 2 intermissions

Performed in French with English supertitles

World Premiere: Paris, Opéra-Comique; January 19, 1884  
First San Francisco Opera performance: September 29, 1924  
Most recent: November 2017

**Cast:**

<i>Manon</i>	Amina Edris◊+
<i>Chevalier des Grieux</i>	Pene Pati◊+
<i>Lescaut</i>	Vitor Bispo#♪
<i>Comte des Grieux</i>	James Creswell+
<i>Guillot de Morfontaine</i>	Steven Cole♪

<i>Pousette</i>	<b>Sofia Gotch</b> †+
<i>Javotte</i>	<b>Laura Krumm</b> ◊+
<i>Rosette</i>	<b>Taylor Raven</b> ♪+

**Creative Team:**

<i>Conductor</i>	<b>Eun Sun Kim</b>
<i>Director</i>	<b>Vincent Boussard</b>
<i>Associate Director</i>	<b>E. Reed Fisher</b>
<i>Set Designer</i>	<b>Vincent Lemaire</b>
<i>Costume Designer</i>	<b>Vincent Boussard</b>
<i>Lighting Designer</i>	<b>Gary Marder</b>
<i>Chorus Director</i>	<b>John Keene</b>

San Francisco Opera Orchestra, San Francisco Opera Chorus, San Francisco Opera Dance Corps

**THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO (LE NOZZE DI FIGARO) by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**

October 31 (7:30 p.m.); November 3 (7:30 p.m.), 7 (7:30 p.m.), 10 (7:30 p.m.), 13 (7:30 p.m.), 15 (2 p.m.), 18 (7:30 p.m.), 21 (2 p.m.), 27 (7:30 p.m.), 29 (2 p.m.), 2026

San Francisco Opera production

Libretto by Lorenzo Da Ponte

Approximate running time: 3 hours, 45 minutes with 2 intermissions

Performed in Italian with English supertitles

World Premiere:	Vienna, Burgtheater; May 1, 1786
First San Francisco Opera performance:	November 9, 1936
Most recent:	October–November 2019

**Cast:**

<i>Figaro</i>	<b>Peter Kellner</b> *
<i>Susanna</i>	<b>Slávka Zamečníková</b>
<i>Count Almaviva</i>	<b>Thomas Mole</b> ♪
<i>Countess Almaviva</i>	<b>Olivia Smith</b> ◊+
<i>Cherubino</i>	<b>Simone McIntosh</b> ◊+
<i>Dr. Bartolo</i>	<b>Maurizio Muraro</b>
<i>Marcellina</i>	<b>Catherine Cook</b> ◊+
<i>Don Basilio</i>	<b>Alek Shrader</b> ♪◊+
<i>Don Curzio</i>	<b>Chance Jonas-O'Toole</b> +
<i>Barbarina</i>	<b>Sofia Gotch</b> †+

**Creative Team:**

<i>Conductor</i>	<b>Sebastian Weigle</b> *
<i>Director</i>	<b>Shawna Lucey</b>

<i>Original Director</i>	Michael Cavanagh
<i>Set and Projection Designer</i>	Erhard Rom
<i>Costume Designer</i>	Constance Hoffman
<i>Lighting Designer</i>	Jane Cox
<i>Choreographer</i>	Colm Seery
<i>Chorus Director</i>	John Keene

San Francisco Opera Orchestra and San Francisco Opera Chorus

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### ***STRAUSS IN CONCERT***

Friday, November 6, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.

Eun Sun Kim, conductor

Adela Zaharia, soprano

San Francisco Opera Orchestra

**Richard Strauss Program:**

*Till Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks*, Op. 28

*Sechs Lieder (Brentano Lieder)*, Op. 68

*Der Rosenkavalier* Suite, Op. 59, arranged by Philippe Jordan and Tomáš Ille

Music Director Eun Sun Kim leads the San Francisco Opera Orchestra in an evening dedicated to the music of Richard Strauss. The program highlights one of the composer's most popular tone poems, a song cycle featuring soprano Adela Zaharia and the U.S. premiere of a new suite of music from *Der Rosenkavalier*.

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### **THE FUTURE IS NOW: ADLER FELLOWS IN CONCERT**

Friday, November 20, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.

Herbst Theatre, Veterans Building, 401 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco

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### **SAN FRANCISCO OPERA CHORUS IN CONCERT**

Sunday, November 22, 2026 at 2 p.m.

Dianne and Tad Taube Atrium Theater, Veterans Building, 401 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco

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### **SUMMER 2027**

*DAS RHEINGOLD* by Richard Wagner

May 29 (7:30 p.m.); June 3 (7:30 p.m.), 6 (2 p.m.), 11 (7:30 p.m.), 16 (7:30 p.m.), 19 (2 p.m.), 22 (7:30 p.m.), 2027

San Francisco Opera co-production with Washington National Opera

Libretto by the composer

Approximate running time: 2 hours, 30 minutes with no intermission

Performed in German with English supertitles

World Premiere: Munich, National Theatre; September 22, 1869

First San Francisco Opera performance: November 1, 1935

Most recent: June 2018

**Cast:**

<i>Wotan</i>	Brian Mulligan
<i>Alberich</i>	Falk Struckmann
<i>Loge</i>	Brenton Ryan
<i>Fricka</i>	Judit Kutasi♪
<i>Mime</i>	Zhengyi Bai♪◊+
<i>Erda</i>	Sadie Cheskak♪†+
<i>Fafner</i>	Patrick Guetti*
<i>Fasolt</i>	Kwangchul Youn
<i>Woglinde</i>	Sofia Gotch♪†+
<i>Wellgunde</i>	Laura Krumm♪◊+
<i>Flosshilde</i>	Taylor Raven+

**Creative Team:**

<i>Conductor</i>	Eun Sun Kim
<i>Director</i>	Francesca Zambello
<i>Set Designer</i>	Michael Yeargan
<i>Costume Designer</i>	Catherine Zuber
<i>Original Lighting Designer</i>	Mark McCullough
<i>Revival Lighting Designer</i>	A.J. Guban*
<i>Original Projections Designs</i>	Jan Hartley
<i>New Projections Designs</i>	S. Katy Tucker
<i>Projections Remounted by</i>	S. Katy Tucker
<i>Associate Director &amp; Choreographer</i>	Denni Sayers

**San Francisco Opera Orchestra**

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*TOSCA* by Giacomo Puccini

June 4 (7:30 p.m.), 8 (7:30 p.m.), 12 (7:30 p.m.), 17 (7:30 p.m.), 20 (2 p.m.), 26 (2 p.m.), 29 (7:30 p.m.);

July 2 (7:30 p.m.), 2027

San Francisco Opera production

Libretto by Luigi Illica and Giuseppe Giacosa, based on the drama *La Tosca* by Victorien Sardou

Approximate running time: 2 hours, 45 minutes with 2 intermissions

Performed in Italian with English supertitles

World Premiere: Rome, Teatro Costanzi; January 14, 1900  
First San Francisco Opera performance: October 2, 1923  
Most recent: August–September 2021

**Cast:**

<i>Floria Tosca</i>	Rachel Willis-Sørensen <sup>♪</sup>
<i>Mario Cavaradossi</i>	Riccardo Massi*
<i>Baron Scarpia</i>	Quinn Kelsey*
<i>Sacristan</i>	Dale Travis◊+

**Creative Team:**

<i>Conductor</i>	Clelia Cafiero
<i>Director</i>	Shawna Lucey
<i>Production Designer</i>	Robert Innes Hopkins
<i>Lighting Designer</i>	Michael Clark
<i>Chorus Director</i>	John Keene

San Francisco Opera Orchestra and San Francisco Opera Chorus

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**PRIDE CONCERT**

Friday, June 25, 2027 at 8 p.m.

San Francisco Opera celebrates the city's LGBTQIA+ community with the *Pride Concert*, a kaleidoscopic revel of queer musical trailblazers. For the third year in a row, this electrifying evening will showcase the San Francisco Opera Orchestra and guest artists onstage and includes a party in the lobby after the concert. More details will be announced at a later date.

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San Francisco Opera is sponsored, in part, by Julie Dickson, Jerome & Thao Dodson, Dagmar Dolby, Bertie Bialek Elliott, The Ann and Gordon Getty Foundation For The Arts, Louise Gund, John A. & Cynthia Fry Gunn, Jensen & Lori Huang, Franklin & Catherine Johnson, Edmund W. & Jeannik Méquet Littlefield Fund, Bernard & Barbro Osher, Marieke & Jeff Rothschild, Jan Shrem\* & Maria Manetti Shrem, Dianne & Tad\* Taube, Phyllis C. Wattis Endowment Funds, Diane B. Wilsey, Barbara A. Wolfe and two anonymous donors.

*Opera Ball* is made possible, in part, by Opening Weekend Grand Sponsor Diane B. Wilsey.

*Opera in the Park* is made possible, in part, by Opening Weekend Grand Sponsor Diane B. Wilsey. Additional support provided by The William & Gretchen Kimball Fund.

*Simon Boccanegra* is made possible, in part, by Opening Weekend Grand Sponsor Diane B. Wilsey. Additional support is provided by Bertie Bialek Elliott, John A. & Cynthia Fry Gunn, Jensen & Lori Huang, San Francisco Opera Guild, Marieke & Jeff Rothschild, Denise Littlefield Sobel, Dianne & Tad\* Taube, The Thomas Tilton Production Fund and Jan Shrem\* & Maria Manetti Shrem, through the Great Interpreters of Italian Opera Fund. Additional support provided by Barbara Moller Ward.

*Mary, Queen of Scots* is made possible, in part, by The Phyllis C. Wattis Fund for New Productions, Marcia Barinaga & Corey Goodman, Louise Gund, John A. & Cynthia Fry Gunn, Jensen & Lori Huang, Marieke & Jeff Rothschild. Clelia Cafiero's appearance is made possible by the Jan Shrem\* & Maria Manetti Shrem Conductors Fund. Additional support provided by Brian & Rene Hollins.

*Manon* is made possible, in part, by Louise Gund, Jensen & Lori Huang, Franklin & Catherine Johnson, Marieke & Jeff Rothschild.

*The Marriage of Figaro* is made possible, in part, by Dr. & Mrs. William M. Coughran, Jerome & Thao Dodson, Bertie Bialek Elliott, Jensen & Lori Huang, Edmund W. & Jeannik Méquet Littlefield Fund, Bernard & Barbro Osher, Marieke & Jeff Rothschild, Dianne & Tad\* Taube. Sebastian Weigle's appearance is made possible by the Jan Shrem\* & Maria Manetti Shrem Conductors Fund.

*Das Rheingold* is made possible, in part, by Julie Dickson, Dr. & Mrs. William M. Coughran, Keith & Priscilla Geeslin, Louise Gund, John A. & Cynthia Fry Gunn, Jensen & Lori Huang, Bernard & Barbro Osher, Marieke & Jeff Rothschild, Denise Littlefield Sobel, Barbara A. Wolfe and an anonymous donor.

*Tosca* is made possible, in part, by Jerome & Thao Dodson, Jensen & Lori Huang, Edmund W. & Jeannik Méquet Littlefield Fund, Marieke & Jeff Rothschild, Dianne & Tad\* Taube, Barbara A. Wolfe, and Jan Shrem\* & Maria Manetti Shrem, through the Great Interpreters of Italian Opera Fund

*Strauss in Concert* is made possible, in part, by John A. & Cynthia Fry Gunn, Jan Shrem\* & Maria Manetti Shrem, through the *Luminaries Concert Fund*. With special thanks to Jerome & Thao Dodson for making possible the Dodson Orchestra Shell.

The *Pride Concert* is made possible with special thanks to Jerome & Thao Dodson for making possible the Dodson Orchestra Shell

Yamaha is the official piano of San Francisco Opera.

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\*deceased

**PRESS PHOTOS:** High-resolution, downloadable artist headshots and production images for the 2026–27 Season are available at [sfopera.com/press](http://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)