



SAN FRANCISCO
OPERA

SAN FRANCISCO OPERA PRESENTS 2026 SUMMER SEASON
May 28–June 27, War Memorial Opera House

Music Director Eun Sun Kim leads Strauss' ELEKTRA in Keith Warner's staging
set in a contemporary museum

Rossini's THE BARBER OF SEVILLE returns in director Emilio Sagi's production
with two brilliant casts

One-night-only events THE BARBER OF SEVILLE ENCOUNTER and PRIDE
CONCERT transform the Opera House into a celebratory space



Rossini's *The Barber of Seville*; Strauss and Hofmannsthal's *Elektra*; *Pride Concert*.
Photos: Cory Weaver (l, c), Kristen Loken (r)

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

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (March 25, 2026) — San Francisco Opera's 103rd season continues with a summer lineup featuring one of the art form's greatest comedies, one of its most gripping tragedies, a Pride celebration and other highlights. Caroline H. Hume Music Director Eun Sun Kim leads Richard Strauss and Hugo von Hofmannsthal's pathbreaking 1909 one-act thriller, *Elektra*, and Rossini's *The Barber of Seville* (*Il Barbiere di Siviglia*) returns with two brilliant casts conducted by Benjamin Manis. The Company's *Pride Concert*, introduced last summer, features the San Francisco Opera Orchestra taking the stage for a one-night-only celebration. This spring, the *Bohème Out of the Box* production comes to San Francisco and open-air venues around the Bay Area, the

Schwabacher Recital Series continues at various venues and *A Sevillian Town Square: A Barber of Seville Family Experience* offers children a special introduction to the opera.

THE BARBER OF SEVILLE by Gioachino Rossini
May 28–June 21



Scenes from *The Barber of Seville*. Photos: Cory Weaver/San Francisco Opera

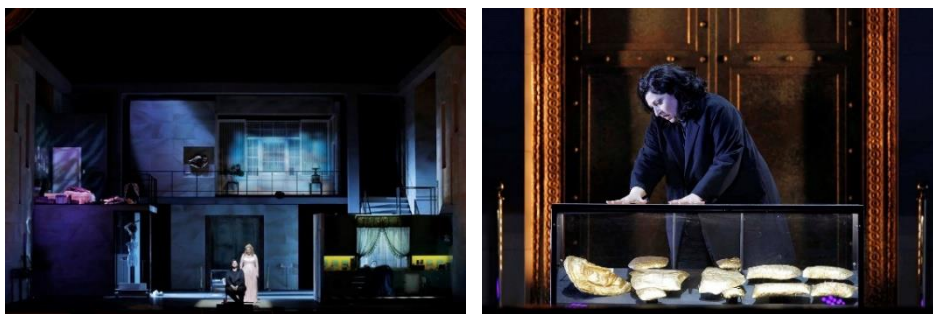
Gioachino Rossini's *The Barber of Seville* (*Il Barbiere di Siviglia*) follows the charismatic jack-of-all-trades Figaro who helps a pair of young lovers outwit an overbearing guardian to be together. The timeless romantic comedy returns in Spanish director Emilio Sagi's colorful production for San Francisco Opera, last staged in 2015. Following his Company debut conducting a sold-out run of Bizet's *Carmen* in 2024, Benjamin Manis leads two casts in *The Barber of Seville*.

Joshua Hopkins, who was Harry Bailey in the Company's co-commission *It's a Wonderful Life* by Jake Heggie and Gene Scheer, and debuting baritone Justin Austin alternate as Seville's multi-talented barber, Figaro. Russian mezzo-soprano Maria Kataeva makes her American debut as Rosina, sharing the role with Chinese mezzo-soprano Hongni Wu, who appeared as the Crab General and Venus Star in the world premiere of Huang Ruo and David Henry Hwang's *The Monkey King* last fall.

Rosina's dashing suitor, Count Almaviva, will be performed by two tenors who are each making house debuts: South African Levy Sekgapane and American Jack Swanson. The role of Doctor Bartolo will be performed by baritone Renato Girolami and bass-baritone Patrick Carfizzi, both of whom delighted audiences as Dr. Dulcamara in San Francisco Opera's 2023 performances of Donizetti's *The Elixir of Love*.

Bass Riccardo Fassi makes his Company debut as the music teacher, Don Basilio. San Francisco Opera Medal recipient Catherine Cook reprises her inimitable portrayal of the maid Berta, a role which Cook has performed in each of the Company's presentations of *The Barber for Seville* since 1996, including the 2021 drive-in performances during the pandemic. Second-year Adler Fellow Olivier Zerouali and third-year Adler Fellow Thomas Kinch portray Fiorello and an Officer, respectively, and first-year Adler Gabriel Natal-Báez is Ambrogio.

ELEKTRA by Richard Strauss and Hugo von Hofmannsthal
June 7–27



Scenes from *Elektra*. Photos: Cory Weaver/San Francisco Opera

Elektra was the first collaboration between composer Richard Strauss and librettist Hugo von Hofmannsthal, the artistic partnership that created such 20th-century masterworks as *Der Rosenkavalier*, *Ariadne auf Naxos*, *Die Frau ohne Schatten* and *Arabella*. Requiring one of the largest pit orchestras of any opera in the repertoire, *Elektra* reimagines the classic Greek tragedy through a modern lens informed by Sigmund Freud and Carl Jung's studies of the human unconscious. Music Director **Eun Sun Kim** conducts the San Francisco Opera Orchestra in this pivotal score filled with Strauss' dense harmonies, thundering rhythms and soaring lines. **Keith Warner's** production, introduced here in 2017 and directed by **Anja Kühnhold** in revival, sets the action in a contemporary museum where a young woman finds herself trapped in an exhibit about ancient Greece and lives out Elektra's obsession with vengeance for her murdered father.

Elena Pankratova, who recently won critical acclaim in Wagner's *Parsifal* under Kim's baton with Houston Grand Opera and is a frequent soloist at the Bayreuth Festival, makes her house debut in the formidable title role. **Elza van den Heever** portrays Elektra's sister Chrysothemis. Last seen on the War Memorial Opera House stage in Mozart's *Idomeneo* and Beethoven's *Fidelio*, both conducted by Kim, van den Heever's San Francisco musical roots also include the Adler Fellowship, Merola Opera Program and San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Following unforgettable performances as Madame de Croissy in Poulenc's *Dialogues of the Carmelites* during San Francisco Opera's Centennial Season, **Michaela Schuster** returns as Elektra's embattled mother, Klytemnestra.

Since 1992, **William Burden** has portrayed a diverse array of roles with San Francisco Opera, including Laca in Janáček's *Jenůfa*, Captain Vere in Britten's *Billy Budd* and George Bailey in *It's a Wonderful Life*. He returns as Klytemnestra's lover and accomplice, Aegisth. Bass-baritone **Kyle Ketelsen**, last seen with the Company as Escamillo in *Carmen*, is Elektra's long-lost brother and would-be avenger, Orest. During the run of *Elektra*, Ketelsen will be presented in recital on June 16 at the Barbro Osher Recital Hall with San Francisco Opera Center Artistic Director and pianist Carrie-Ann Matheson as part of the Schwabacher Recital Series.

PRIDE CONCERT: June 26 at 8 p.m.



Pride Concert. Photos: Kristen Loken (l), Matthew Washburn (r)

San Francisco Opera presents its second *Pride Concert* in the Opera House on Friday, June 26, the eve of San Francisco's Pride Weekend. The one-night-only event features the San Francisco Opera Orchestra on stage in a program celebrating LGBTQIA+ composers, performers, anthems and more. Following the concert, a dance party ensues in the main lobby.

THE BARBER OF SEVILLE ENCOUNTER: June 17 at 7:30 p.m.



Encounter. Photos: Kristen Loken

On Wednesday, June 17, the Company's popular *Encounter* series continues with *The Barber of Seville Encounter*. After watching Act I of Rossini's opera in the auditorium, audience members will explore the transformed lobby and hallway spaces of the Opera House for an immersive exploration of the opera's themes of disguise, young love and playful scheming. Part opera, part party, the evening offers new ways to encounter one of the art form's all-time classics. Recommended for audiences ages 21 and over.

A SEVILLIAN TOWN SQUARE—A BARBER OF SEVILLE FAMILY EXPERIENCE: May 9 at 2 p.m.



2025 *La Bohème* family event. Photos: Kristen Loken

Bearitone the Opera Bear and his friends at San Francisco Opera invite you to stroll through a lively Sevillian Town Square within the Dianne and Tad Taube Atrium Theater. Inspired by Rossini's *The Barber of Seville*, this family-friendly experience offers a chance to explore Figaro's bustling barbershop and sneak through the Count's closet of disguises. Games, treats, live performances and a special puppet show complete the joyful and participatory adventure. To register for this free event, visit sfopera.com/sevilliantownsquare.

BOHÈME OUT OF THE BOX

April 11–26



Scenes from *Bohème Out of the Box*. Photos: Kristen Loken (l), Stefan Cohen (r)

Returning for its fourth consecutive year, San Francisco Opera's popular *Bohème Out of the Box* presentation of a one-hour version of *La Bohème* with piano accompaniment in a converted shipping container will visit Bay Area communities throughout April. The cast includes current and former San Francisco Opera Adler Fellows Alexa Frankian (Mimi), Edward Graves (Rodolfo), Sofia Gotch (Musetta), Gabriel Natal-Báez (Marcello), James McCarthy (Colline), Olivier Zerouali (Schaunard) and Eugene Brancoveanu (Benoit/Alcindoro). Adler Fellows Brian Cho and Ji Youn Lee will alternate performances at the piano, and Jose Maria Condemi directs.

The afternoon performances are scheduled for Crane Cove Park in San Francisco (April 11, 12), Christie Park in Emeryville (April 18), Henry J. Kaiser Center for the Arts in Oakland (April 19), Filoli Gardens in Woodside (April 22, 23—NOTE these performances are at capacity) and Todos Santos

Plaza in Concord (April 25, 26). Registration is encouraged but not required. Families with young children are invited to participate in free First Act family workshops 30 minutes prior to all *Bohème Out of the Box* performances. For more information, visit sfopera.com/box.

SCHWABACHER RECITAL SERIES

April 1, May 5, June 16

Now in its 42nd year, the Schwabacher Recital Series, presented by Merola Opera Program and San Francisco Opera Center, kicks off on April 1 (7 p.m. at the Dianne and Tad Taube Atrium Theater) with Mary Hoskins (soprano), Olivier Zerouali (baritone) and Ji Youn Lee (pianist). The second recital features Gabriel Natal-Báez (baritone) and Tzu Kuang Tan (piano) on May 5 (7 p.m. at the First Unitarian Universalist Society of San Francisco). The series concludes with Kyle Ketelsen (bass-baritone) and Carrie-Ann Matheson (pianist) on June 16 (7 p.m. at Barbro Osher Recital Hall). For more information, visit sfopera.com/srs.

LIVESTREAMS

The third performance of each mainstage opera during the Summer 2026 Season will be livestreamed, including a 48-hour on-demand viewing window. Tickets for each livestream are available for \$25 each.

THE BARBER OF SEVILLE

Friday, June 5 at 7:30 p.m.

ELEKTRA

Sunday, June 14 at 2 p.m.

TICKETS AND INFORMATION

Tickets for *The Barber of Seville* and *Elektra* range from \$29–\$447; the *Pride Concert* from \$30–\$229; and *The Barber of Seville Encounter* from \$50–\$275 and are available at the San Francisco Opera Box Office (301 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco), by calling (415) 864-3330 and online at sfopera.com. San Francisco Opera 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.

Tickets for the June 5 and 14 livestreams are \$25 each. For more information, visit sfopera.com/digital/livestream.

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 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, 49 and F Market Street. For further public transportation information, visit bart.gov and sfmta.com.

Gifts of all sizes help create San Francisco Opera's programs and are much appreciated. To donate visit sfopera.com/donate.

All casting, programs, schedules and ticket prices are subject to change. For further information about San Francisco Opera's 2025–26 Season, visit sfopera.com.

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2026 SUMMER SEASON 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).

THE BARBER OF SEVILLE (IL BARBIERE DI SIVIGLIA) by Gioachino Rossini

May 28 (7:30 p.m.); June 3 (7:30 p.m.), 5 (7:30 p.m.), 6 (2 p.m.), 9 (7:30 p.m.), 12 (7:30 p.m.), 13 (7:30 p.m.), 20 (2 p.m.), 21 (2 p.m.), 2026

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

Libretto by Cesare Sterbini, after the play by Pierre-Augustin Caron de Beaumarchais

Approximate running time: 3 hours, 15 minutes with one intermission

Performed in Italian with English supertitles

World Premiere: Rome, February 20, 1816
First San Francisco Opera Performance: September 24, 1925
Most Recent (Marin Drive-In): April/May 2021
Most Recent (Opera House): November/December 2015

Cast:

<i>Figaro</i>	Joshua Hopkins (May 28; June 5, 9, 13, 20) Justin Austin* (June 3, 6, 12, 21)
<i>Rosina</i>	Maria Kataeva# (May 28; June 5, 9, 13, 20) Hongni Wu (June 3, 6, 12, 21)
<i>Count Almaviva</i>	Levy Sekgapane* (May 28; June 5, 9, 13, 20) Jack Swanson* (June 3, 6, 12, 21)
<i>Doctor Bartolo</i>	Renato Girolami (May 28; June 5, 9, 13, 20) Patrick Carfizzi (June 3, 6, 12, 21)
<i>Don Basilio</i>	Riccardo Fassi*

Berta
Fiorello
Ambrogio
An Officer
Notary

Catherine Cook⁺
Olivier Zerouali⁺
Gabriel Natal-Báez⁺
Thomas Kinch⁺
Andrew Truett

Creative Team:

Conductor
Director
Set Designer
Costume Designer
Lighting Designer
Original Choreographer
Revival Choreographer
Chorus Director

Benjamin Manis
Emilio Sagi
Llorenç Corbella
Pepa Ojanguren
Gary Marder
Nuria Castejón
Colm Seery
John Keene

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

THE BARBER OF SEVILLE ENCOUNTER

Wednesday, June 17, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.

Figaro
Rosina
Count Almaviva
Doctor Bartolo
Don Basilio

Justin Austin
Hongni Wu
Jack Swanson
Patrick Carfizzi
Riccardo Fassi

After experiencing Act I of San Francisco Opera's production of *The Barber of Seville*, audiences emerge from the theater into the transformed lobby and hallway spaces of the Opera House for a playful exploration of the opera's themes of disguise, young love and playful scheming. Part opera and part party, the immersive event offers new ways to experience opera. *The Barber of Seville Encounter* is recommended for audiences ages 21 and over. For more information, visit sfopera.com/encounter.

ELEKTRA by Richard Strauss

June 7 (2 p.m.), 11 (7:30 p.m.), 14 (2 p.m.), 19 (7:30 p.m.), 23 (7:30 p.m.), 27 (7:30 p.m.), 2026

San Francisco Opera production, originally created by San Francisco Opera, Prague National Theatre and Badisches Staatstheater Karlsruhe

Libretto by Hugo von Hofmannsthal after Sophocles' *Electra*
Approximate running time: 1 hour, 40 minutes with no intermission

Performed in German with English supertitles

World Premiere: Dresden, January 25, 1909
First San Francisco Opera Performance: October 24, 1938
Most Recent: September 2017

Cast:

<i>Elektra</i>	Elena Pankratova*
<i>Klytemnestra</i>	Michaela Schuster
<i>Chrysothemis</i>	Elza van den Heever♠+
<i>Orest</i>	Kyle Ketelsen
<i>Aegisth</i>	William Burden♠+
<i>Tutor of Orest</i>	Jongwon Han♠♠
<i>Fifth Maidservant</i>	Caroline Corrales♠♠+
<i>The Overseer</i>	Alexandra Loutsion
<i>First Maidservant</i>	Gabrielle Beteag♠♠+
<i>Second Maidservant</i>	Sadie Cheslak* ♠♠+
<i>Third Maidservant</i>	Laura Krumm♠♠+
<i>Fourth Maidservant</i>	Mary Hoskins♠♠+
<i>Klytemnestra's Trainbearer</i>	Alexa Frankian* ♠♠+
<i>Old Servant</i>	Andrew Pardini
<i>Young Servant</i>	Chance Jonas-O'Toole* ♠+
<i>Klytemnestra's Confidante</i>	Sofia Gotch* ♠♠+

Creative Team:

<i>Conductor</i>	Eun Sun Kim
<i>Production</i>	Keith Warner
<i>Revival Director</i>	Anja Kühnhold
<i>Set Designer</i>	Boris Kudlička
<i>Costume Designer</i>	Kaspar Glarner
<i>Lighting Designer</i>	John Bishop
<i>Video Designer</i>	Bartek Macias
<i>Chorus Director</i>	John Keene

San Francisco Opera Orchestra and San Francisco Opera Chorus

PRIDE CONCERT

Friday, June 26, 2026 at 8 p.m.

San Francisco Opera presents its second *Pride Concert* in the Opera House on the eve of San Francisco's Pride Weekend. This high-energy concert and celebration showcases the San Francisco Opera Orchestra and featured artists in a program featuring LGBTQIA+ composers, performers, anthems and more. More information will be announced at a later date.

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. [*deceased]

The Barber of Seville is made possible, in part, by Jerome & Thao Dodson, Elizabeth Jamieson (in memory of J. Burgess Jamieson) and Marieke & Jeff Rothschild.

Jan Shrem & Maria Manetti Shrem, through the Great Interpreters of Italian Opera Fund
Maria Kataeva, Justin Austin, Levy Segkapane, Jack Swanson, Riccardo Fassi, Hongi Wu's appearances are made possible by a gift to the Emerging Stars Fund by Jan Shrem & Maria Manetti Shrem

Elektra is made possible, in part, by Dr. and Mrs. William M. Coughran, Bernard & Barbro Osher, Marieke & Jeff Rothschild and Jan Shrem & Maria Manetti Shrem.

Pride Concert: Special thanks to Jerome & Thao Dodson for making possible the Dodson Orchestra Shell.

Bohème Out of the Box is made possible, in part, by the Carol & Dixon Doll Creative Edge Fund with major support from founding funders Peter Fenton and Kate Greer, and Bob Ellis*. Additional support provided by Dolby Laboratories, the Diana Dollar Knowles Foundation and an anonymous donor.

OperaVision high-definition projection screens featured in the upper Balcony level, is made possible by the Taube Media Suite.

San Francisco Opera livestreams are made possible, in part, by George & Leslie Hume.

San Francisco Opera final dress rehearsals are made possible, in part, by Associate Production Sponsor San Francisco Federal Credit Union.

Yamaha is the official piano of San Francisco Opera.

San Francisco Opera is supported, in part, by a grant from Grants for the Arts.



San Francisco Opera is a member of



PRESS PHOTOS: High-resolution, downloadable artist headshots and production images for the 2026 Summer Season are available at sfopera.com/press.

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