



SAN FRANCISCO OPERA PRESENTS MOZART'S *THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO*
War Memorial Opera House, October 31–November 29



Conductor Sebastian Weigle; Revival Director Shawna Lucey; Scenes from *The Marriage of Figaro*.
Photos: Kirsten Bucher (Weigle), David Allen (Lucey); Cory Weaver/San Francisco Opera

**Repertoire classic returns under baton of Sebastian Weigle with
Shawna Lucey directing revival of the late Michael Cavanagh's production**



Peter Kellner (Figaro), Slávka Zámečnicková (Susanna), Olivia Smith (Countess Almaviva),
Thomas Mole (Count Almaviva), Simone McIntosh (Cherubino)

Tickets available at (415) 864-3330 and [sfopera.com](https://www.sfopera.com)
November 7 performance will be livestreamed

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (October 8, 2026) — San Francisco Opera's 104th fall season continues with Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* (*Le Nozze di Figaro*) at the War Memorial Opera House October 31 through November 29. **Shawna Lucey** directs the Company's production by Michael Cavanagh, and **Sebastian Weigle** makes his house debut conducting the San Francisco Opera Orchestra. Chorus Director **John Keene** prepares the artists of the San Francisco Opera Chorus.

The Marriage of Figaro had its world premiere in Vienna in 1786 and was the first of three collaborations between Mozart and librettist Lorenzo Da Ponte followed by *Don Giovanni* (1787) and *Così fan tutte* (1790). Based on the revolutionary French play by Beaumarchais, *The Marriage of Figaro* explores class dynamics with a masterful blend of comedic wit and exquisite music that have led many to proclaim it not only Mozart's finest opera but one of the most perfectly crafted works for the lyric stage. *The Marriage of Figaro* is in the repertory of nearly every opera company and in 1936 became the first Mozart opera to be staged by San Francisco Opera.

The late Canadian director **Michael Cavanagh's** production, unveiled here in 2019 as the first chapter of a multi-season Mozart-Da Ponte trilogy, sets the opera during Mozart's time but on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean in an American manor house. Featuring sets and projections designed by **Erhard Rom**, costumes by **Constance Hoffman** and lighting by **Jane Cox** relit by **Justin A. Partier**, the production returns to the War Memorial Opera House stage during the nation's 250th-anniversary year. Opera San José General Director **Shawna Lucey**, who created the Company's current productions of Puccini's *Tosca* and Verdi's *La Traviata*, stages the revival. Lucey will return to direct *Tosca* next summer.

Sebastian Weigle makes his house debut leading the San Francisco Opera Orchestra, Chorus and cast in Mozart's timeless classic. The German conductor, who served as principal horn for the Staatskapelle Berlin for 15 years before turning to conducting, has held music directorships in Barcelona, Frankfurt and Tokyo in addition to being one of the art form's leading guest conductors. Maestro Weigle will also conduct the San Francisco Opera Adler Fellows' annual concert showcase, *The Future Is Now*, at Herbst Theatre on Friday, November 20.

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 for the first time in San Francisco. Slovak bass **Peter Kellner** makes his debut with the Company in the title role of Figaro. An ensemble member with the Vienna State Opera, Kellner's acclaimed engagements have extended to many important houses, including the Metropolitan Opera, London's Royal Ballet and Opera, the Berlin State Opera and, most recently, the Salzburg Festival. Slovak soprano **Slávka Zámečnicková**, who "gave a masterful performance as Adina [in Donizetti's *The Elixir of Love*]" (*San Francisco Chronicle*) for her U.S. debut with San Francisco Opera in 2023, is Figaro's betrothed, Susanna. Along with portraying one of the central couples in Mozart's opera, Kellner and Zámečnicková are a married couple offstage.

Canadian soprano and former San Francisco Opera Adler Fellow **Olivia Smith** makes her role debut as Countess Almaviva. Smith, who has appeared with the Company in works by Mason Bates, Wagner, Strauss and Mozart, was praised by the *San Francisco Chronicle* for her "vibrant, gloriously sung and moving Mimi" in a concert selection from Puccini's *La Bohème*. Swiss-Canadian mezzo-

soprano and former Adler Fellow **Simone McIntosh**, who performed in Poul Ruders' *The Handmaid's Tale* with the Company in 2024, returns as Cherubino. McIntosh recently performed the trouser role with Scottish Opera and was proclaimed "outstandingly hilarious in her flawless portrayal of the Count's page, Cherubino" (Snack).

Thomas Mole takes on the dissolute Count Almaviva, a first for the British baritone who just a few weeks ago made his American and role debuts in Thea Musgrave's *Mary, Queen of Scots*. Musical America observed: "Baritone Thomas Mole made James Stewart, Earl of Moray, a strangely mesmerizing presence, his forceful singing and chilling focus turning the character's poisonous ambition into something both fascinating and repellent."

Italian bass **Maurizio Muraro**, who triumphed in the title role of Donizetti's *Don Pasquale* in 2016, returns to the Company as Doctor Bartolo. American mezzo-soprano and San Francisco Opera Medal recipient **Catherine Cook** reprises the role of Marcellina, which she has performed in San Francisco Opera's five previous presentations dating back to 1998. Tenor **Alek Shrader** makes his role debut as the music teacher Don Basilio. The role of Barbarina will be performed by first-year Adler Fellow Sofia Gotch, tenor **Chance Jonas-O'Toole** is Don Curzio and Opera Medal awardee **Philip Skinner** portrays the Almavivas' gardener, Antonio.

Performed in Italian with English supertitles, the ten performances of *The Marriage of Figaro* are scheduled for 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.

PRE-OPERA TALKS

San Francisco Opera Dramaturg Emeritus Dr. Clifford "Kip" Cranna will present a 20-minute overview of *The Marriage of Figaro* beginning 55 minutes prior to each performance for ticketholders. An audio recording of the talk will be made available at sfopera.com/figaro after the first performance.

LIVESTREAM: THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO, Saturday, November 7

The Saturday, November 7 performance of *The Marriage of Figaro* will be livestreamed at 7:30 p.m. PT and available to watch on demand for 48 hours beginning on Sunday, November 8 at 10 a.m. PT. Tickets for the livestream and on-demand period are \$25. For tickets, visit sfopera.com/digital.

TICKETS AND INFORMATION

Tickets for *The Marriage of Figaro* are priced from \$30 to \$456. 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. For information about subscriber benefits and special series subscriptions, including the Student & Teacher Series offering 50% off select Half and DYO Series, visit sfopera.com/subscribe.

Tickets for the November 7 livestream and on-demand period of *The Marriage of Figaro* are \$25. For more information, visit sfopera.com/digital.

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, 6, 49 and F Market Street bus lines. For public transportation information, visit bart.gov and sfmta.com.

Gifts of all sizes help create San Francisco Opera's programs and are greatly 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 2026–27 Season, visit sfopera.com.

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THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO CASTING AND CALENDAR

*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 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 SF Opera Performance:	November 9, 1936
Most Recent SF Opera Performance:	October–November 2019

Cast:

Figaro

Susanna

Count Almaviva

Peter Kellner*

Slávka Zámečnicková

Thomas Mole♪

Countess Almaviva
Cherubino
Dr. Bartolo
Marcellina
Don Basilio
Don Curzio
Barbarina
Antonio
Bridesmaids

Olivia Smith♪♢+
Simone McIntosh♢+
Maurizio Muraro
Catherine Cook♢+
Alek Shrader♪♢+
Chance Jonas-O'Toole+
Sofia Gotch♪♢+
Philip Skinner♪♢+
Jesslyn Thomas, Stella Hannock♪

Creative Team:

Conductor
Production
Revival Director
Set and Projection Designer
Costume Designer
Original Lighting Designer
Revival Lighting Designer
Choreographer
Chorus Director
Intimacy Director

Sebastian Weigle*
Michael Cavanagh
Shawna Lucey
Erhard Rom
Constance Hoffman
Jane Cox
Justin A. Partier
Colm Seery
John Keene
Maya Herbsman

San Francisco Opera Orchestra and San Francisco Opera Chorus

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The Marriage of Figaro is made possible, in part, by Dr. & Mrs. William M. Coughran, Jerome & Thao Dodson, Bertie Bialek Elliott, The Jen-Hsun & Lori Huang Foundation, Edmund W. & Jeannik Méquet Littlefield Fund, Bernard & Barbro Osher, Marieke & Jeff Rothschild, and Dianne Taube.

Sebastian Weigle's appearance is made possible by the Jan Shrem* & Maria Manetti Shrem Conductors Fund.

Peter Kellner, Slávka Zámečnicková, Olivia Smith, Thomas Mole, Simone McIntosh's appearances are made possible by the Jan Shrem* & Maria Manetti Shrem Emerging Stars Fund.

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San Francisco Opera livestreams are made possible, in part, by Lead Streaming Sponsor, Dianne Taube, with additional support by George and Leslie Hume.

*deceased

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PRESS PHOTOS: High-resolution, downloadable artist headshots and production images for *The Marriage of Figaro* are available at sfopera.com/press.

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