

## ***Romeo and Juliet***

### **Cast Biography**



Tenor **Bryan Hymel** returns to San Francisco Opera for the first time, since his Company debut as Énée in *Les Troyens* in 2015, in his role debut as Romeo in *Romeo and Juliet*. A recipient of the 2013 Beverly Sills Artist Award and the 2013 Laurence Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement in Opera, Bryan Hymel is a frequent guest on the most important opera houses worldwide, having appeared at the Metropolitan Opera, the Royal Opera, Covent Garden, Opéra National de Paris, Bavarian State Opera, Milan's Teatro alla Scala, and Vienna State Opera.

His repertoire includes signature roles such as Énée, Rodolfo in *La Bohème*, Don José in *Carmen*, Duke of Mantua in *Rigoletto*, Faust in *La Damnation de Faust*, Henri in *Les Vêpres Siciliennes*, Arnold in *Guillaume Tell*, Pinkerton in *Madama Butterfly*, Alfredo in *La Traviata*, Prince in *Rusalka*, as well as the title roles of *Robert le Diable*, *Faust*, and *Don Carlo*. In concert, he has appeared with the London Symphony Orchestra, Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse, the Nashville Symphony, the Netherlands Philharmonic Orchestra, the Jerusalem Symphony, and PKF - Prague Philharmonia.

Hymel studied at the Academy of Vocal Arts in Philadelphia under Bill Schuman and was a participant in San Francisco Opera Center's Merola Program.



Samoan-born New Zealander and tenor **Pene Pati** made his San Francisco Opera debut as Count Lerma in *Don Carlo* in 2015 and, along with other roles, added the Duke of Mantua in *Rigoletto* to his Company credits in 2017 while a San Francisco Opera Adler Fellow.

Since graduating from the Adler program, he has performed with New Zealand's Festival Opera in a new production of *Madama Butterfly*, Alfredo in *La Traviata* for Opera San José and made his role debut as Nemorino in *L'Elisir d'Amore* with New Zealand Opera.

He has been awarded an array of prizes in recent years, including the prestigious Joan Sutherland & Richard Bonyne Foundation's Bel Canto Award in 2012, the

Dame Malvina Major Foundation's New Zealand Aria Award in 2009, and took both second and audience prize at Operalia (2015), second prize at the Neue Stimmen International Singing Competition, and first place at the Montserrat Caballé International Aria Competition.

He holds a master's degree in voice from the Wales International Academy of Voice. Pati, along with his brother Amitai Pati and their cousin Moses Mackay, comprise the highly successful New Zealand vocal trio SOL3 MIO, which mixes both classical and contemporary music.

Future plans include Percy in *Anna Bolena* at Opéra National de Bordeaux and *La Traviata* with Hawaii Opera Theatre.



**Nadine Sierra** returns to the War Memorial Opera House where she has performed the title role of *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Pamina and Papagena in *Die Zauberflöte*, Countess Almaviva in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Musetta in *La Bohème*, and the roles of Maria and Juliet in the world premiere of *Heart of a Soldier*.

For the 2018–19 season, she will return to the Staatsoper Berlin singing Nannetta in *Falstaff* and the Metropolitan Opera as Gilda in *Rigoletto*, make her house and role debuts in the title role of *Manon* at the Opéra National de Bordeaux and reprise Gilda in a new production at the Staatsoper Berlin under the baton of Daniel Barenboim. In concert, she will perform and record Maria in *West Side Story* with Antonio Pappano at the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, appear in Dallas, Prague, Paris, Bordeaux, Baden-Baden, and return to Venice for La Fenice's televised *Capodanno* celebration.

Sierra's 2017–18 season included appearances at the Opéra National de Paris, the Metropolitan Opera, La Fenice, Chorégies d'Orange, and Staatsoper Berlin. She was named the Richard Tucker Award Winner in 2017 and received the 2018 Beverly Sills Artist Award from the Metropolitan Opera. In August 2018, she released her debut album, *There's a Place for Us*, with Deutsche Grammophon and Universal Music.



Soprano **Amina Edris** made her San Francisco Opera debut, during her time as a San Francisco Opera Adler Fellow, as Frasquita in *Carmen* in 2016. She made appearances in the Company's world premiere of *Dream of the Red Chamber*, as well as *Rigoletto*, *Elektra*, and *La Traviata*. Born in

Egypt, raised and trained in New Zealand, Edris participated in San Francisco Opera's Merola Opera Program during which she made her well-received debut as Norina in *Don Pasquale*.

In the 2018–19 Season, Edris debuts with Washington Concert Opera as Glycère in Gounod's *Sapho*, with Antony Walker conducting, and in the title role of *Manon* with the Opéra National de Bordeaux. Future projects include leading role debuts with the Grand Théâtre de Genève and Hawaii Opera Theatre.

Elsewhere she has given her first performances as Susanna in *Le Nozze di Figaro* for Opera San José, Tina in Jonathan Dove's *Flight* for Opera Parallèle and Serpina in Pergolesi's *La Serva Padrona* at Christchurch Arts Festival. Last season, Edris sang her first Adina in *L'Elisir d'Amore* for New Zealand Opera.

Edris is a winner of the Deborah Riedel Award in the Joan Sutherland & Richard Bonyngé Bel Canto Awards; the prestigious Sydney Eisteddfod McDonald's Operatic Aria competition; the Palm Springs Opera Guild Competition; and a Western Regional Special Encouragement Award from Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions.

She holds a Bachelor of Music from University of Canterbury, a post-graduate diploma from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and she studied at Dennis O'Neill's Wales International Academy of Voice.