

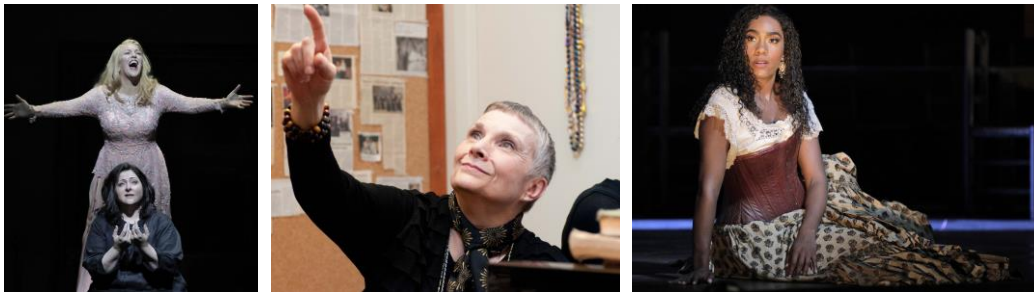


SAN FRANCISCO
OPERA

DEPARTMENT OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND COMMUNITY OFFERS
NEW LIVE ONLINE CONVERSATIONS:

MARCH 6-27: *THE HUMAN VOICE, A HUMAN INSTRUMENT*

APRIL 3-24: *FROM PAGE TO STAGE*



Adrienne Pieczonka (Chrysothemis) and Christine Goerke (Elektra) in Strauss' *Elektra* (photo: Cory Weaver); Sheri Greenawald (photo: Scott Wall); J'Nai Bridges in the title role of Bizet's *Carmen* (photo: Cory Weaver)

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (March 1, 2022) — San Francisco Opera's Department of Diversity, Equity and Community (DEC) presents *Opera Aficionado* live online discussions in March and April on the topics of the human voice and adaptations in opera.

The March sessions on voice focus on vocal technique (March 6), operatic divas (March 13), countertenors (March 20) and bel canto (March 27). Librettos and opera source material will be the topics of discussion in April: a conversation with librettist Gene Scheer (April 3), opera literary adaptations (April 10) and the origin story behind Bizet's *Carmen* (April 24).

Each live, 75-minute *Opera Aficionado* discussion offers music lovers online access to scholarly talks and an opportunity to dialogue with fellow opera enthusiasts and special guests. Speakers in March and April are librettist Gene Scheer, soprano and former director of

San Francisco Opera Center Sheri Greenawald, San Francisco Opera Dramaturg Emeritus Kip Cranna, dramaturg Cori Ellison, countertenor Albert Montañez, San Francisco Opera librarian Michael Bragg, musicologist Laura Prichard and *Opera Aficionado* host Cole Thomason-Redus.

For tickets and more information, visit sfopera.com/aficionado.

OPERA AFICIONADO MARCH CALENDAR—
THE HUMAN VOICE, A HUMAN INSTRUMENT
(programs subject to change)

Just how does an opera singer make their sound? What's the difference between one iconic voice or another? These questions and more will be answered as we spend the month of March exploring a very human instrument. Join *Opera Aficionado* host Cole-Thomason-Redus, San Francisco Opera Dramaturg Emeritus Kip Cranna and returning speakers Sheri Greenawald, Cori Ellison and Albert Montañez for a series of conversations about the most essential ingredient in any opera—the human voice.

- Sunday, March 6, 1 pm: It's All About Technique
Speakers: Sheri Greenawald and Kip Cranna
Operatic soprano and former director of San Francisco Opera Center Sheri Greenawald joins San Francisco Opera Dramaturg Emeritus Kip Cranna for discussion and demonstrations of the science and technique behind the glorious singing that gives opera its unique and dramatic sound. Bring your own voice along and you, too, may end up sounding like an opera star!

- Sunday, March 13, 1 pm: Diva vs. Diva
Speaker: Cori Ellison
For opera fans, what's more fun than a heated debate over the comparative merits of your favorite singers, living or dead? Join dramaturg Cori Ellison and your fellow Aficionados as we take this tussle into cyberspace. And in this Zoom democracy, you'll get to air your two cents and vote.

- Sunday, March 20, 1 pm: The Countertenor
Speaker: Albert Montañez
From Gluck's *Orfeo ed Euridice* to Philip Glass' *Akhmaten*, the concept of men singing within and even above the range of their female counterparts has often seemed mysterious and exotic. Countertenor Albert Montañez returns to *Opera Aficionado* to

discuss, explore and shed light upon this vocal enigma and the numerous gems that exist within the repertoire.

- Sunday, March 27, 1 pm: Bel Canto on Fire
Speaker: Cole Thomason-Redus
The Italian words *bel canto* literally translate to *beautiful singing*. But the *beauty* of the human voice sometimes takes second place to the *abilities* of the instrument. Join *Opera Aficionado* host Cole Thomason-Redus for a survey of some of the most demanding moments in the operatic repertoire. Presenting excerpts from Handel to John Adams, you'll be left wondering, "How do they do that?"

OPERA AFICIONADO APRIL CALENDAR—FROM PAGE TO STAGE (programs subject to change)

Musical notes bring singers to the stage, but how do the words they are singing come into play? The familiar faces of returning speakers along with librettist Gene Scheer join *Opera Aficionado* this April to explore the many ways in which stories travel from page to stage.

- Sunday, April 3, 1 pm: The Wonderful Life of a Librettist
Speakers: Gene Scheer and Kip Cranna
Librettist, composer and songwriter Gene Scheer has brought stories old and new to the opera world, including our very own 2016 co-production of Jake Heggie's *It's a Wonderful Life*. Join San Francisco Opera Dramaturg Emeritus Kip Cranna as he interviews Scheer to discuss how writers and composers work together to create new operas.
- Sunday, April 10, 1 pm: Books That Sing: Operas Based on Great Novels
Speakers: Kip Cranna and Michael Bragg
San Francisco Opera Dramaturg Emeritus Kip Cranna and Opera Librarian Michael Bragg team up to discuss passages from great and important novels and analyze video from corresponding opera scenes, illustrating the fascinating dynamics of transformation from a literary masterpiece to a successful opera. As composers reimagine the works of major authors, intriguing things can happen!
- Sunday, April 24, 1 pm: The Origin Story of *Carmen*
Speaker: Laura Prichard
Bizet's *Carmen* reigns as one of the most performed and beloved operas across the world. But did you know . . . its story started out as diary entries and rewritten local

news clips? Join returning speaker Laura Prichard as she takes us beyond the bullrings and Habaneras, into the true story of a passionate and strong woman named Carmen.

TICKETS:

Students, educators and individuals in need: \$5/session.

General admission: \$20/session, discount available for multiple-sessions order.

Enable another person to attend*: \$40.

*This is not a tax-deductible contribution.

Tickets are available until noon on the day of each event at sfopera.com/aficionado.

San Francisco Opera is sponsored, in part, by The Dolby Family, Carol and Dixon Doll, Bertie Bialek Elliott, Peter Fenton and Kate Greer, Keith and Priscilla Geeslin, Gordon Getty, John A. and Cynthia Fry Gunn, Burgess and Elizabeth Jamieson, Franklin and Catherine Johnson, Edmund W. and Jeannik Méquet Littlefield Fund, Steven M. Menzies, Bernard and Barbro Osher, Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem, Dianne and Tad Taube, Phyllis C. Wattis Endowment Funds, Diane B. Wilsey, and Barbara A. Wolfe

DEC Programs are generously supported, in part, by Wells Fargo, Bank of America, and Kaiser Permanente.



Yamaha is the official piano of San Francisco Opera.

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



OFFICIAL AIRLINE



#

High-resolution, downloadable photographs of DEC educational events are available at sfopera.com/press.

For further press information, please contact:

Julia Inouye (415) 565-6430 / jinouye@sfopera.com

Jeffery McMillan (415) 565-6451 / jmcmillan@sfopera.com

Teresa Concepcion (415) 565-6470 / tconcepcion@sfopera.com