



SAN FRANCISCO
OPERA

SAN FRANCISCO OPERA CENTER PRESENTS
THE FUTURE IS NOW: ADLER FELLOWS CONCERT

2021 San Francisco Opera Adler Fellowship culminates on December 10
with year-end concert at the Herbst Theatre

San Francisco Opera Music Director Eun Sun Kim conducts
the San Francisco Opera Orchestra



The 2021 Adler Fellows. Photo: Cheshire Isaacs

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (December 9, 2021) — San Francisco Opera Center will showcase the talents of the 2021 class of Adler Fellows in *The Future Is Now: Adler Fellows Concert* on Friday, December 10. Held in the Herbst Theatre, the concert marks a return to this annual culminating concert of the Adler Fellowship Program following the cancellation of 2020 events due to the pandemic. Celebrating the artistry of the Adler Fellows, a group of top young performers selected for residencies at San Francisco Opera, the program will feature Adlers in concert with the San Francisco Opera Orchestra conducted by Caroline H. Hume Music Director Eun Sun Kim.

The night's performers include sopranos Anne-Marie MacIntosh, Elisa Sunshine and Esther Tonea; mezzo-soprano Simone McIntosh; tenors Zhengyi Bai, Christopher Colmenero and Christopher Oglesby; baritone Timothy Murray; bass Stefan Egerstrom and pianists Kseniia Polstiankina Barrad and Andrew King.

Together, these Adler Fellows will perform a range of opera scenes, arias and duets from works including Bellini's *Il Pirata*, Corigliano's *The Ghosts of Versailles*, Donizetti's *Don Pasquale* and *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Mozart's *Don Giovanni* and *Idomeneo*, Ponchielli's *La Gioconda*, Puccini's *La Bohème*, Rossini's *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, Richard Strauss' *Ariadne auf Naxos*, Stravinsky's *The Rake's Progress* and Wagner's *Der Fliegende Holländer*.

The 2021 Adlers concluding their fellowships at the end of this year are mezzo-soprano Simone McIntosh, tenors Christopher Colmenero, Christopher Oglesby and Zhengyi Bai and pianist Kseniia Polstiankina Barrad. Stefan Egerstrom, Andrew King, Anne-Marie MacIntosh, Timothy Murray, Elisa Sunshine and Esther Tonea continue in the program as third-year fellows in 2022.

San Francisco Opera Center Artistic Director Carrie-Ann Matheson and General Manager Markus Beam shared in their program note:

As we reflect upon the first year of our tenure as the leadership team of the San Francisco Opera Center, some important and overarching themes come to mind: resilience, gratitude, connection, and joy. The eleven talented young artists that you will hear this evening spent the first half of this year singing and playing into a computer, physically distanced from their colleagues and their mentors. They adapted to new ways of learning and collaborating, and they did so with determination, flexibility, and intelligence. They embraced a new curriculum with open minds and hearts, knowing that the world would be different when we were finally able to return to live collaboration.

As the Adler Fellows made their first tentative steps back into the "real world" of in-person rehearsals and performances, it felt strangely uncomfortable. They persisted and within no time at all, the joy of being reconnected and making music with their colleagues, coaches and teachers replaced any sense of fear or trepidation. Gratitude reigned supreme and remains a palpable part of daily life in the Opera Center.

More information about the program and artists are available in the digital version of the 2021 Adler Fellows Concert program sfopera.com/on-stage/adler-fellows-concert. of the 2021 Adler Fellows Concert program book (print programs will also be available at the concert).

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THE FUTURE IS NOW

2021 ADLER FELLOWS CONCERT

Friday, December 10, 2021 at 7:30 PM

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

Conductor: Eun Sun Kim

Music and Diction Preparation: Carrie-Ann Matheson, John Churchwell, Alessandra Cattani, Andrew King, Matthew Piatt, Kseniia Polstiankina Barrard, Anja Burmeister Strauss

Voice Teachers: César Ulloa, Deborah Birnbaum, Rhoslyn Jones, Neil Shicoff

Stage Preparation: Roy Rallo

Harmonium: Maureen Zoltek

Approximate running time: 1 hour, 55 minutes including one intermission

PROGRAM (subject to change) –

"No word from Tom ... Quietly night ... I go to him" from *The Rake's Progress* (Igor Stravinsky)
Anne-Marie MacIntosh

"Cielo e mar" from *La Gioconda* (Amilcare Ponchielli) Christopher Colmenero

"Ma qual mai s'offre, oh Dei ... Fuggi, crudele, fuggi" from *Don Giovanni* (Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart) Esther Tonea, Christopher Oglesby

"Ich weiss nicht, wo mir der Kopf steht ... Ein Augenblick ist wenig ... Sein wir wieder gut" from *Ariadne auf Naxos* (Richard Strauss) Stefan Egerstrom, Simone McIntosh, Zhengyi Bai, Elisa Sunshine, Esther Tonea, Christopher Colmenero, Andrew King, piano; Kseniia Polstiankina Barrard, celeste

"Dunque io me n'andrò...Andrò ramingo e solo" from *Idomeneo* (Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart)
Simone McIntosh, Esther Tonea, Anne-Marie MacIntosh, Christopher Colmenero

"Che gelida manina" from *La Bohème* (Giacomo Puccini) Christopher Oglesby

"Regnava nel silenzio ... Quando rapito in estasi" from *Lucia di Lammermoor* (Gaetano Donizetti)
Elisa Sunshine, Simone McIntosh

"Aria of the Worm" from *The Ghosts of Versailles* (John Corigliano) Zhengyi Bai
Kseniia Polstiankina Barrad, synthesizer

"E il dottor non si vede ... Pronta io son!" from *Don Pasquale* (Gaetano Donizetti) Anne-Marie
MacIntosh, Timothy Murray

"Col sorriso d'innocenza ... Sole! Ti vela di tenebre oscure" from *Il Pirata* (Vincenzo Bellini) Esther
Tonea

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ABOUT SAN FRANCISCO OPERA CENTER AND THE ADLER FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

San Francisco Opera Center operates under the auspices of San Francisco Opera. The Opera Center was created in 1982 to coordinate the Company's numerous affiliate programs that provide a continuing sequence of performance and career development opportunities to the gifted young professional singers and pianists. Under the guidance of San Francisco Opera Center Artistic Director Carrie-Ann Matheson and General Manager Markus Beam, the Opera Center enables young artists of major operatic potential to develop their craft through intensive training and performance.

Founded in 1977 as the San Francisco Affiliate Artists Opera Program, Adler Fellowships are performance-oriented residencies for the most advanced young artists. Each year, a select group of exceptionally talented singers and pianists from the Merola Opera Program are invited to continue their training through the Adler Fellowship, a program named after former San Francisco Opera General Director Kurt Herbert Adler. They receive salaried contracts and are typically offered roles of increasing importance during the Company's mainstage season. Each Adler Fellow is provided with intensive coaching in technique, musical interpretation, diction, foreign languages, acting/movement, and participate in frequent master classes with leading stars of the opera world. Additional training includes one-on-one instruction in career development, personal finance, public relations and branding, mental health and resilience, and extra-musical curricula pertaining to a career in the arts.

The program has launched the careers of many of the artists performing on our stage and on stages around the world. A short list of Adler Fellows includes sopranos Leah Crocetto, Heidi Melton, Patricia Racette, Nadine Sierra, Ruth Ann Swenson, Elza van den Heever, and Deborah Voigt; mezzo-sopranos Zheng Cao, Kendall Gladen, Daniela Mack, and Dolora Zajick; countertenors Aryeh Nussbaum Cohen and Gerald Thompson; tenors Brian Jagde, Sean Panikkar, and Alek Shrader; baritones Eugene Brancoveanu, Mark Delavan, and Lucas Meachem; bass-baritones John Relyea, Philip Skinner, and Daniel Sumegi; and basses Magnús Baldvinsson and Kenneth Kellogg.

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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.

Yamaha is the official piano of San Francisco Opera.

San Francisco Opera would like to acknowledge the team of UCSF doctors who have provided guidance in planning the Company's safe return to the stage. Thank you to Drs. George Rutherford, Mark Almond, Robert Harrison, Sânziana Roman and Clark Rosen.

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



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PRESS PHOTOS: High-resolution, downloadable photographs, including artist headshots are available at sfopera.com/press.

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