



SAN FRANCISCO OPERA

**SAN FRANCISCO OPERA CHORUS HOLDS CONCERT ON FRIDAY,
NOVEMBER 22, at 7:30 P.M.**

The San Francisco Opera Chorus, led by Chorus Director Ian Robertson, performs with accompaniment from members of the San Francisco Opera Orchestra at the Taube Atrium Theater

A second performance, held in collaboration with Noontime Concerts, is scheduled for December 3 at Old Saint Mary's Cathedral

**Tickets for the Nov. 22 concert available at sfopera.com and
(415) 864-3330**



San Francisco Opera Chorus Concert 2016; Associate Chorus Master Fabrizio Corona and Chorus Director Ian Robertson
(Photos: Matthew Washburn/San Francisco Opera)

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (November 4, 2019) — San Francisco Opera showcases the vocal might of the **San Francisco Opera Chorus** in concert on Friday, November 22, at 7:30 p.m.

Held in the intimate Dianne and Tad Taube Atrium Theater, with its high-quality acoustic system from Meyer Sound, the Chorus Concert features the work of Chorus Director **Ian Robertson**, who celebrates 33 years with the Company in 2019. Also performing are members of the **San Francisco Opera Orchestra**, along with Associate Chorus Master **Fabrizio Corona** on the piano.

An annual event since 2016, the Chorus Concert features an array of music, from a cappella pieces to accompanied works from both operatic and choral repertoires.

Reflecting on this year's program, Chorus Director Robertson remarked, "The acclaimed San Francisco Opera Chorus will present some rarely heard opera choruses including excerpts from Rossini's *William Tell* [*Guillaume Tell*] and *Moïse et Pharaon*, alongside Puccini's *Suor Angelica* and Rimsky-Korsakov's *Mlada*. Berlioz is represented by a fast and furious chorus from his *Benvenuto Cellini*. Women composers are well featured, as are traditional choral nuggets such as [Hubert] Parry's 'Jerusalem,' heard every year at the Last Night of the Proms in London."

Those female composers include American music pioneer Amy Beach, German Romantic Clara Schumann and contemporary British musician Judith Weir.

Also featured in the concert program are Tchaikovsky's "Chorus of the Peasant Girls" from *Eugene Onegin*, Johann Sebastian Bach's "Erschallet, Ihr Lieder" from his Cantata 172 and Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Morning Hymn" from *The Sound of Music*.

Members of the San Francisco Opera Orchestra will perform with the chorus for select pieces including Samuel Barber's "Sure on This Shining Night," Ola Gjeilo's "The Rose" and Dan Forrest's "Always Something Sings."

After the concert, light refreshments will be offered in the Diane B. Wilsey Center's John M. Bryan Education Studio.

In addition to the November 22 Chorus Concert, the San Francisco Opera Chorus will also hold its second collaboration with **Noontime Concerts**, a nonprofit dedicated to offering free, live classical music to Bay Area residents. This collaboration will take place at 12:30 p.m. on December 3 at the historic Old Saint Mary's Cathedral in San Francisco's Chinatown. Tickets are not required for the event, but donations at the door are appreciated. The Noontime Concert will include an abridged version of the Chorus Concert program.

ABOUT SAN FRANCISCO OPERA CHORUS

Comprised of 43 regular choristers — 21 men and 22 women — the **San Francisco Opera Chorus** is a consistent presence on the War Memorial Opera House stage, delivering acclaimed performances in such recent mainstage productions as Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*, Benjamin Britten's *Billy Budd* and Charles Gounod's *Romeo and Juliet*. The *San Francisco Chronicle* has praised the chorus for its "knockout performances," served up with "delicacy and verve."

The San Francisco Opera Chorus has a history as long as the Company itself, stretching back to the 1920s. Back then, the San Francisco Opera Association even maintained its own chorus school, a "source of pride" to the Company where members could receive paid training under the supervision of Company founder Gaetano Merola.

With the addition of extra chorus members, the group can swell to 100 choristers or more to fulfill the needs of large-scale operas. A 1991 film, *In the Shadow of the Stars*, profiled the lives of San Francisco Opera chorus members, ultimately winning Best Documentary Feature at the 64th Academy Awards.

ABOUT CHORUS DIRECTOR IAN ROBERTSON

Chorus Director **Ian Robertson** joined San Francisco Opera in 1987 and has since prepared the Opera Chorus for over 300 productions. The Scotland native has also conducted several works for our stage, including *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk*, *Rigoletto*, *Turandot* and *Lohengrin*.

During his time here, Robertson has received several awards, including a prize from the Olivier Messiaen Foundation for his work on the 2002 American premiere of *Saint François d'Assise* and the Company's highest honor, the 2012 San Francisco Opera Medal, for his dedication and artistic vision. In 2019, Robertson stepped down as artistic director of the Grammy-winning San Francisco Boys Chorus, a role he had held since 1996.

Robertson is the 24th individual known to hold the title of chorus director or chorus master with San Francisco Opera. Previous chorus directors include the Company's second general director, Kurt Herbert Adler, and Antonio Dell'Orefice, nephew of the Italian opera composer Giuseppe Dell'Orefice.

Robertson has held the longest tenure of any chorus director with the Company. He has spent 33 seasons in the chorus director title.

TICKETS AND INFORMATION

Tickets for the November 22 San Francisco Opera Chorus Concert are \$35. Seating is general admission. Tickets may be purchased at sfopera.com, the San Francisco Opera Box Office at 301 Van Ness Avenue or by phone at (415) 864-3330. Additional information, including full program details and a video clip of the Opera Chorus in concert, can be found at sfopera.com/chorusconcert.

CHORUS CONCERT PROGRAM

(Subject to change)

Act I Villagers' Chorus ("Quel jour serein") from <i>Guillaume Tell</i>	Gioachino Rossini (1792–1868)
Act IV Prayer ("Des cieux où tu resides") from <i>Moïse et Pharaon</i>	Gioachino Rossini (1792–1868)
Act I Drinking Chorus ("Evviva! Beviam!") from <i>Ernani</i>	Giuseppe Verdi (1813–1901)
Act IV Chorus ("O come felici") from <i>Ernani</i>	Giuseppe Verdi (1813–1901)
Nuns' Chorus ("Ave Maria") from <i>Suor Angelica</i>	Giacomo Puccini (1858–1924)
Finale ("O gloriosa virginum") from <i>Suor Angelica</i>	Giacomo Puccini (1858–1924)
Act I Chorus of Peasant Girls ("Dyevitsyi, krassavitsyi") from <i>Eugene Onegin</i>	Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840–1893)
Procession of the Nobles ("Slava, voisslavye knyazhnye!") from <i>Mlada</i>	Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov (1844–1908)
Roman Carnival Chorus from <i>Benvenuto Cellini</i>	Hector Berlioz (1803–1869)
Final Scene from <i>Dialogues des Carmélites</i>	Francis Poulenc (1899–1963)
Opening chorus from <i>Erschallet, Ihr Lieder</i> (Cantata 172)	Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)
"Morning Hymn" and "Alleluia" from <i>The Sound of Music</i>	Richard Rodgers (1902–1979)
"Sure on This Shining Night"	Samuel Barber (1910–1981)
"Northern Lights"	Ola Gjeilo (born 1978)
<i>Come unto These Yellow Sands</i>	Amy Beach (1867–1944)
"Alway Something Sings"	Dan Forrest (born 1978)
"Gondoliera" from <i>Drei Gemischte Chöre</i>	Clara Schumann (1819–1896)
Spiritual ("What Can That Shadow Be?") from <i>Colonel Jonathan the Saint</i>	Dominick Argento (1927–2019)
"The Rose"	Ola Gjeilo (born 1978)
"My Guardian Angel"	Judith Weir (born 1954)
"Jerusalem"	Charles Hubert Hastings Parry (1848–1918)

SAN FRANCISCO OPERA CHORUS CONCERT

Friday, November 22 at 7:30 p.m.

Dianne and Tad Taube Atrium Theater

Diane B. Wilsey Center for Opera

Veterans Building (4th floor), 401 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco

Approximate running time: 1 hour 30 minutes, including one intermission

Admission: \$35

Chorus Director Ian Robertson, conductor

Associate Chorus Master Fabrizio Corona, piano

San Francisco Opera Chorus

Members of the San Francisco Opera Orchestra

Under the leadership of Chorus Director Ian Robertson, the San Francisco Opera Chorus returns for its fourth annual Chorus Concert, featuring works by Bach, Tchaikovsky, Rossini, Verdi, Berlioz and Rogers and Hammerstein. Members of the San Francisco Opera Orchestra will provide accompaniment, along with Associate Chorus Master Fabrizio Corona on the piano. For tickets and full program information, please visit sfopera.com.

SAN FRANCISCO OPERA CHORUS CONCERT PRESENTED BY NOONTIME CONCERTS

Tuesday, December 3 at 12:30 p.m.

Old Saint Mary's Cathedral

660 California Street, San Francisco

Approximate running time: 45 minutes

Admission: Free

Chorus Director Ian Robertson, conductor

Associate Chorus Master Fabrizio Corona, piano

San Francisco Opera Chorus

Under the baton of Chorus Director Ian Robertson and with Associate Chorus Master Fabrizio Corona accompanying at the piano, the San Francisco Opera Chorus will perform a free program of sacred, secular and operatic music as part of the Noontime Concerts series. For more information, visit noontimeconcerts.org.

To obtain further press information, including photographs of the San Francisco Opera Chorus and Ian Robertson, please visit sfopera.com/press or contact:

San Francisco Opera Communications:

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

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

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

Allison Griner (415) 861-7148 / agriner@sfopera.com