

ORLANDO

Cast Biographies



Mezzo-soprano **Sasha Cooke** (Orlando) made her San Francisco Opera debut creating the title role in the world premiere of Mark Adamo's *The Gospel of Mary Magdalene* in 2013. She has also appeared with the Company as Magdalene in *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* and Anna in *Les Troyens*, both in 2015. Other recent engagements include Laurene Powell Jobs for the world premiere of Mason Bates' *The (R)evolution of Steve Jobs* at the Santa Fe Opera, Hänsel in *Hänsel und Gretel* at Seattle Opera, Mahler's *Das Klagende Lied* and Berlioz's *Roméo et Juliette* with the San Francisco Symphony and conductor Michael Tilson Thomas, and the title role in the new Nico Muhly opera *Marnie* at English National Opera. A graduate of the Met's Lindemann Young Artist Program and the Juilliard School, Cooke is a frequent performer of new music, having given premieres of works by John Musto, William Bolcom, John Corigliano, Lowell Liebermann, and Augusta Read Thomas, among others. She sang Kitty Oppenheimer in the Metropolitan Opera premiere of John Adams' *Doctor Atomic*, the DVD release of which won the 2012 Grammy Award for Best Opera Recording. In the 2017–18 season, Cooke sings Goffredo in a concert version of Handel's *Rinaldo* alongside the English Concert conducted by Harry Bicket with performances at Carnegie Hall (New York), the Auditorio Nacional de Música (Madrid), and Barbican Centre (London). Other concert engagements include Mahler's Symphony No. 3 with the San Francisco Symphony and Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* with the London Symphony Orchestra, both conducted by Tilson Thomas.



Heidi Stober (Angelica) made her San Francisco Opera debut in 2010 as Sophie (*Werther*) and has since returned as Susanna (*Le Nozze di Figaro*), Atalanta (*Xerxes*), Pamina (*The Magic Flute*), Nannetta (*Falstaff*), Magnolia Hawks (*Show Boat*), Oscar (*Un Ballo in Maschera*), Johanna (*Sweeney Todd*), and Norina (*Don Pasquale*). The American soprano's recent engagements include Oscar, Pamina, and Gretel (*Hänsel und Gretel*) with the Metropolitan Opera; Marguerite (*Faust*), Pamina, Susanna, Gretel, Adina (*L'Elisir d'Amore*), and Micaëla (*Carmen*) with Deutsche Oper Berlin; and Sandrina (*La Finta Giardiniera*) and Zdenka (*Arabella*) with the Santa Fe Opera. As a principal artist with Deutsche Oper Berlin, her other engagements with that company have included Zerlina (*Don Giovanni*), Oscar, Ninette (*L'Amour des Trois Oranges*), Ascagne (*Les Troyens*), and Roggiero (*Tancredi*). Stober is a graduate of the Houston Grand Opera Studio, and her credits at Houston Grand Opera encompass Cleopatra (*Julius Caesar*), Musetta (*La Bohème*), Atalanta, Blonde (*Die Entführung aus dem Serail*), Norina, Susanna, the Rose (Rachel Portman's *The Little Prince*), La China in the world premiere of Daniel Catán's *Salsipuedes*, and Miss Thompson / Helen Mills / Adelaide Mills in the world premiere of *The House without a Christmas Tree* by Ricky Ian Gordon and Royce Vavrek. Other career highlights include La Folie and Thalie (*Platée*), Tigrane (*Radamisto*), Musetta, and Ada Leverson in the world premiere of Morrison's *Oscar* with the Santa Fe Opera; Ada Leverson with Opera Philadelphia; Anne Trulove (*The Rake's Progress*) with the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra; Poppea (*Agrippina*) with New York City Opera; Morgana (*Alcina*) in Santiago, Chile; Aminta (*Il Re Pastore*) with Opera Theatre of Saint Louis; and Leïla (*Les Pêcheurs de Perles*) at Opera Colorado.



Making her U.S. debut as Dorinda in *Orlando*, Austrian soprano Christina Gansch (Dorinda) is the winner of the 2014 Kathleen Ferrier Award and a graduate of the Royal Academy of Music and the Mozarteum in Salzburg. Her 2017–18 season includes Papagena in *Die Zauberflöte* for her debut with the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden; Mélisande in a new production of *Pelléas et Mélisande* for her debut with the Glyndebourne Festival; and a return to the Hamburg State Opera as Marzelline in a new production of *Fidelio*. She has appeared at the Salzburg Festival as Servilia in *La Clemenza di Tito* and Barbarina in *Le Nozze di Figaro*; the German State Opera as the Forest Bird

in *Siegfried*; the Opéra National de Paris as Papagena; the Opéra National de Montpellier as Servilia and Amore in *Orfeo ed Euridice*; and the Hamburg State Opera as Pamina in *Die Zauberflöte*, Gretel in *Hänsel und Gretel*, the title role of Handel's *Almira*, Oscar in *Un Ballo in Maschera*, Ascagne in *Les Troyens*, Jemmy in *Guillaume Tell*, and Constance in *Dialogues des Carmélites*. Future seasons include returns to Covent Garden and Hamburg State Opera.



Making his San Francisco Opera debut in 1998 as Nerone in *The Coronation of Poppea*, countertenor **David Daniels** (Medoro) is highly sought after for the works of Handel, Monteverdi, Gluck, Mozart, and Britten, and he has been featured on the great operatic stages of the world to critical acclaim. Highlights of recent seasons include the world premiere of *Oscar* at the Santa Fe Opera and multiple appearances at the Metropolitan Opera as the title role of *Giulio Cesare* in David McVicar's production, Prospero in the Baroque pastiche *The Enchanted Island*, and the title role of *Orfeo ed Euridice* in a new Mark Morris staging. With San Francisco Opera, he has appeared in the title role of *Giulio Cesare*, Bertarido in *Rodelinda*, Arsamenes in *Xerxes*, and the title role of *Partenope*. In the 2017-18 season, Daniels appeared as Ptolemy in Houston Grand Opera's production of *Julius Caesar*.



American bass-baritone **Christian Van Horn** (Zoroastro) made his San Francisco Opera debut in 2010 as the King of Egypt (*Aida*) and returned later that fall as the Bailiff (*Werther*), the Bonze (*Madama Butterfly*), and Timur (*Turandot*). His most recent Company appearances were as Angelotti (*Tosca*) in 2012; the Four Villains (*Les Contes d'Hoffmann*) in 2013; Colline (*La Bohème*), Oroveso (*Norma*), Count Horn (*Un Ballo in Maschera*), and Alidoro (*La Cenerentola*) in 2014; and Narbal (*Les Troyens*) and Fedor von Bock (Marco Tutino's *Two Women*) in 2015. As a graduate of Lyric Opera of Chicago's Ryan Center, his roles with that company include Nourabad (*Les Pêcheurs de Perles*), Brander (*La Damnation de Faust*), Crespel (*Tales of Hoffmann*), and Raimondo (*Lucia di Lammermoor*). Van Horn has appeared as Colline (*La Bohème*) at Bavarian State Opera and the Santa Fe Opera, Zuniga (*Carmen*) at the Salzburg Festival and with the Berlin Philharmonic, Banquo (*Macbeth*) in Geneva, and the title role of *Le Nozze di Figaro* with

Russia's Perm Opera. Other career highlights include the title role of *Le Nozze di Figaro* in Stuttgart; Colline at Los Angeles Opera; Oroveso and Timur with the Dallas Opera; creating the roles of Karenin in David Carlson's *Anna Karenina* with Florida Grand Opera and the Emperor in Tan Dun's *Tea: A Mirror of the Soul* at the Santa Fe Opera; the Speaker (*The Magic Flute*), Pistola (*Falstaff*), and Colline at the Metropolitan Opera; and Escamillo (*Carmen*), Narbal, and Publio (*La Clemenza di Tito*) with Lyric Opera of Chicago.