



SAN FRANCISCO
OPERA

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

The 2019 San Francisco Opera Adler Fellowship culminates on December 6 with a year-end concert at the Herbst Theatre, featuring conductor Eun Sun Kim and the San Francisco Opera Orchestra

Tickets available at (415) 864-3330 and sfopera.com



2019 San Francisco Opera Adler Fellows (Photo: Cheshire Isaacs/San Francisco Opera)

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (November 19, 2019) — For its final concert of the year, San Francisco Opera Center will showcase the talents of the 2019 class of Adler Fellows in *The Future Is Now: Adler Fellows Concert* on Friday, December 6, at 7:30pm.

Held in the historic Herbst Theatre, this annual concert celebrates the artistry of the Adler Fellows, a group of top young performers, coaches, pianists and directors selected for residencies at San Francisco Opera. The program will also feature the **San Francisco Opera Orchestra** conducted by **Eun Sun Kim**.

The night's performers include sopranos **Mary Evelyn Hangley** and **Natalie Image**; mezzo-sopranos **Ashley Dixon** and **Simone McIntosh**; countertenor **Aryeh Nussbaum Cohen**; tenors **SeokJong Baek**, **Zhengyi Bai**, **Christopher Colmenero**, and **Christopher Oglesby**; and bass-baritone **Christian Pursell**.

Together, these Adler Fellows will be performing a range of opera scenes, arias and duets from works including Puccini's *Tosca*, Verdi's *Don Carlo*, Handel's *Ariodante*, Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin*, Mozart's *Idomeneo*, Massenet's *Le Cid* and Donizetti's *La Fille du Régiment*.

Adler Fellow pianist/coaches **Kseniia Polstiankina Barrad** and **César Cañón** will provide accompaniment on the harpsichord and contribute musical preparation for the concert, in conjunction with San Francisco Opera music staff.

Founded in 1977, the **San Francisco Opera Adler Fellowship Program** offers a multi-year, performance-oriented residency to promising young artists selected from the **Merola Opera Program**. During their residency, fellows receive intensive, individualized vocal training, foreign language instruction, coaching, professional seminars and performance opportunities.

Adler Fellows have provided starring or supporting performances in each of San Francisco Opera's 2019 mainstage productions, including *Carmen*, *Orlando*, *Rusalka*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Billy Budd*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Manon Lescaut*, and *Hansel and Gretel*. They have also worked as cover artists and appeared in 2019 events like the annual Opera in the Park concert and the Schwabacher Recital Series.

This year's concert will mark the final performance as Adler Fellows for Mary Evelyn Hangley, Natalie Image, Ashley Dixon, Aryeh Nussbaum Cohen, SeokJong Baek, Christian Pursell and César Cañón. Adler Fellows Kseniia Polstiankina Barrad, Simone McIntosh, Zhengyi Bai, Christopher Colmenero and Christopher Oglesby will return for a second year with the fellowship in 2020.

Conductor **Eun Sun Kim** returns to lead the 2019 *The Future Is Now* concert. Following her North American debut leading *La Traviata* at Houston Grand Opera, Kim was named the company's first Principal Guest Conductor in twenty-five years. Her first appearance with San Francisco Opera leading last summer's production of *Rusalka* was hailed by the *San Francisco Chronicle* as "a company debut of astonishing vibrancy and assurance," drawing "glorious playing" from the San Francisco Opera Orchestra.

ABOUT THE ADLER FELLOWSHIP

The Adler Fellowship is renowned for launching the careers of top international artists like **Ruth Ann Swenson**, **Brian Asawa**, **Patricia Racette**, **Sean Panikkar**, **Zheng Cao**, **Deborah Voigt** and more. More than 180 young artists have passed through the program.

Adler Fellowship alumni currently appearing in our 2019–20 season include sopranos **Nadine Sierra** (*Romeo and Juliet*) and **Amina Edris** (*Romeo and Juliet*); mezzo-soprano **Daniela Mack** (*Partenope*); tenors **Brian Jagde** (*Manon Lescaut*), **Alek Shrader** (*Partenope*)

and **Pene Pati** (*Romeo and Juliet*); baritone **Lucas Meachem** (*Romeo and Juliet*); and bass-baritones **Bojan Knežević** (*The Marriage of Figaro*) and **Philip Skinner** (*Romeo and Juliet*, *Billy Budd* and *Manon Lescaut*).

Originally known as the San Francisco Affiliate Artists Opera Program, the program was renamed in 1982 to honor the general director under whom it was founded, Kurt Herbert Adler. The *Future Is Now* concert has been an annual event since 2004.

TICKETS AND INFORMATION

Tickets for *The Future Is Now: Adler Fellows Concert* are priced from \$30 to \$65. For tickets, visit sfopera.com, call (415) 864-3330 or visit the San Francisco Opera Box Office. Herbst Theatre is located at 401 Van Ness Avenue in the Veterans Building. Patrons are encouraged to use public transportation to attend San Francisco Opera performances. The Veterans Building is within walking distance of the Civic Center BART Station and near numerous bus lines, including 5, 21, 47, 49 and the F Market Street. For further public transportation information, visit bart.gov and sfmta.com.

####

THE FUTURE IS NOW: ADLER FELLOWS CONCERT

Friday, December 6, 2019 at 7:30 P.M.

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

Featuring the 2019 Adler Fellows:

Mary Evelyn Hangle and **Natalie Image**, sopranos

Ashley Dixon and **Simone McIntosh**, mezzo-sopranos

Aryeh Nussbaum Cohen, countertenor

SeokJong Baek, **Zhengyi Bai**, **Christopher Colmenero** and **Christopher Oglesby**, tenors

Christian Pursell, bass-baritone

Kseniia Polstiankina Barrad, pianist/apprentice coach

César Cañón, pianist/apprentice coach

Eun Sun Kim, conductor

San Francisco Opera Orchestra

Kseniia Polstiankina Barrad, **César Cañón**, **Alessandra Cattani**, **John Churchwell**, **Peter Grunberg**, **Robert Mollicone**, **Patricia Kristof Moy**, and **Tamara Sanikidze**, musical preparation

####

THE FUTURE IS NOW: ADLER FELLOWS CONCERT PROGRAM

Program subject to change.

Overture from Leonard Bernstein's <i>Candide</i>	San Francisco Opera Orchestra
"Mes amis, écoutez l'histoire" from Adolphe Adam's <i>Le Postillon de Lonjumeau</i>	Zhengyi Bai as Chappelou
"Al mio piè, perchè?... Di qual amor, di quant'ardor" from Giuseppe Verdi's <i>Don Carlo</i>	Mary Evelyn Hanglely as Elisabetta Christopher Colmenero as Don Carlo
"Quando avran fine omai... Padre, germani, addio" from Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's <i>Idomeneo</i>	Natalie Image as Ilia Kseniia Polstiankina Barrad, harpsichord
"Dopo notte" from George Frideric Handel's <i>Ariodante</i>	Ashley Dixon as Ariodante Kseniia Polstiankina Barrad, harpsichord
"Recondita armonia" from Giacomo Puccini's <i>Tosca</i>	SeokJong Baek as Cavaradossi
"Son stanco, ingiusti numi... Deggio morire, o stelle" from George Frideric Handel's <i>Siroe</i>	Aryeh Nussbaum Cohen as Siroe César Cañón, harpsichord
Vaudémont's Romance from Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's <i>Iolanta</i>	Christopher Oglesby as Vaudémont
"Qual furor ti trasporta?... Quest'improvviso tremito" from Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's <i>Lucio Silla</i>	Simone McIntosh as Cecilio Aryeh Nussbaum Cohen as Lucio Cinna César Cañón, harpsichord
"Aleko's Cavatina" from Sergei Rachmaninoff's <i>Aleko</i>	Christian Pursell as Aleko
Tatiana's Letter Scene from Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's <i>Eugene Onegin</i>	Mary Evelyn Hanglely as Tatiana
"Une dame de haut parage" from Gioachino Rossini's <i>Le Comte Ory</i>	Simone McIntosh as Isolier Zhengyi Bai as Count Ory

"Toi qui m'es apparue" from Jules Massenet's <i>Cendrillon</i>	Ashley Dixon as Cendrillon Christopher Oglesby as Prince Charming
"È la solita storia del pastore" from Francesco Cilea's <i>L'Arlesiana</i>	SeokJong Baek as Federico
"Le spectre de la rose" from Hector Berlioz's <i>Les Nuits d'Été</i>	Aryeh Nussbaum Cohen
"Ah, tout est bien fini... O souverain, o juge, o père" from Jules Massenet's <i>Le Cid</i>	Christopher Colmenero as Rodrigue
"Je comprends que la belle aime la militaire... Enfant chéri des dames des grisettes" from Ambroise Thomas's <i>Le Caïd</i>	Christian Pursell as Michel
"Par le rang... Salut à la France" from Gaetano Donizetti's <i>La Fille du Régiment</i>	Natalie Image as Marie Adler Fellows as soldiers

####

To obtain further press information, including artist headshots of the San Francisco Opera Adler Fellows, 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