



SAN FRANCISCO OPERA PRESENTS TCHAIKOVSKY'S *EUGENE ONEGIN*
WAR MEMORIAL OPERA HOUSE, SEPTEMBER 25–OCTOBER 14

West Coast Premiere of Robert Carsen's Acclaimed Production,
Staged in Revival by Peter McClintock, Will Be Conducted by
Vassilis Christopoulos in His American Debut



Scenes from Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin*: Evgenia Muraveva as Tatyana (left); Gordon Bintner as Onegin (center); Onegin and Lensky's duel (right). (Photos: Cory Weaver/San Francisco Opera)

Cast Headed by Evgenia Muraveva, Gordon Bintner, Evan LeRoy Johnson,
Aigul Akhmetshina in Company Debuts Along with Ferruccio Furlanetto



Evgenia Muraveva; Gordon Bintner; Evan LeRoy Johnson; Aigul Akhmetshina; Ferruccio Furlanetto

Tickets Available at sfopera.com and (415) 864-3330
Virtual Tickets for October 1 Livestream On Sale Now

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (September 25, 2022) — San Francisco Opera's Centennial Season continues with Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin*, September 25–October 14. The

romantic work returns in director Robert Carsen's acclaimed production, with conductor Vassilis Christopoulos making his American debut leading the San Francisco Opera Orchestra and a cast featuring several artists making Company debuts. Soprano Evgenia Muraveva portrays Tatyana, bass-baritone Gordon Bintner takes on the title role, Evan LeRoy Johnson is Lensky and Aigul Akhmetshina sings Olga. Chorus Director John Keene prepares the San Francisco Opera Chorus.

Inspired by Alexander Pushkin's eponymous novel in verse and the tumultuous events in Tchaikovsky's personal life, *Eugene Onegin* is a work of intense emotions and brilliant musical invention. The opera has remained a repertory favorite for more than 140 years after its Moscow premiere. The story centers around Tatyana, an impulsive young woman who is smitten with the handsome Onegin only to be rejected by him, sending them both on divergent paths.

Carsen's staging, hailed as "exhilaratingly unsentimental" by *Opera News*, has become a classic. Featuring sets and costumes designed by Michael Levine, the production "remains beautiful to see, with its tall and bare walls, softly colored lighting, crucial scenes done in silhouette, and, in the first act, the entire stage floor covered with fallen autumn leaves" (*New York Times*). First unveiled at the Metropolitan Opera in 1997, the production has been revived by stage director Peter McClintock on many occasions at the Met and at other opera houses including, most recently, Canadian Opera Company. McClintock directs the production's West Coast premiere, which also features the work of lighting designer Christine Binder and choreographer Serge Bennathan.

Since her standout appearances at the Salzburg Festival in 2017 and 2018, Evgenia Muraveva has appeared on the leading stages of Europe, including Milan's Teatro alla Scala, the Vienna State Opera and Tokyo's New National Theatre. The soprano, who has been praised for her "mix of earthy colorings and vulnerability" (*New York Times*), portrays Tatyana in her first performances in America.

Bass-baritone Gordon Bintner makes his Company debut as Onegin, a role he recently performed in the Carsen production with Canadian Opera Company. *The Toronto Star* praised the developmental arc he brought to the role: "The dots were connected smoothly, the character evolving naturally. And Bintner's rich voice made that journey compelling." The 2012 Merola Opera Program participant is currently an ensemble member with Frankfurt Opera.

Evan LeRoy Johnson brings his “meltingly lovely lyric tenor” (Parterre) to the poet Lensky. Mezzo-soprano Aigul Akhmetshina makes her first appearance on an American stage as Tatyana’s sister, Olga. Renowned bass Ferruccio Furlanetto, who made his San Francisco Opera debut in 1979 and returned most recently in the Company’s 2021 new production of *Così fan tutte*, is Prince Gremin. In her first appearance with the Company, Deborah Nansteel is Madame Larina and mezzo-soprano Ronnita Miller, a standout in San Francisco Opera’s performances of Wagner’s *Ring* cycle, is Filipyevna. Brenton Ryan portrays the Frenchman, Triquet.

Tchaikovsky’s *Eugene Onegin* entered San Francisco Opera’s repertory in 1971, the Company’s 49th season, under the baton of future Principal Guest Conductor Charles Mackerras with Evelyn Lear as Tatyana and Thomas Stewart in the title role. Artists who have performed the work in previous San Francisco Opera presentations also include Mirella Freni (1986) and Elena Prokina (1997, 2004) as Tatyana, Thomas Allen (1986) and Lucas Meachem (2004) as Onegin, and Polish tenor Piotr Beczala, in his American debut, as Lensky (2004).

San Francisco Opera shares articles, information and resources in support of the people and artists of Ukraine at sfopera.com/onegin and in our digital and print program books. The Company will continue to share updates resources and information about related events, please visit sfopera.com/onegin for ongoing updates.

The seven performances of *Eugene Onegin* are scheduled for September 25 (2 p.m.), 28 (7:30 p.m.); October 1 (7:30 p.m.), 6 (7:30 p.m.), 9 (2 p.m.); October 11 (7:30 p.m.), 14 (7:30 p.m.), 2022.

LIVESTREAM: October 1 Performance

The Saturday, October 1 performance will be livestreamed at 7:30 pm PT (not available in Canada). The performance will be available to watch on-demand for 48 hours beginning on Sunday, October 2 at 10 am PT. Virtual tickets for the livestream and limited on-demand viewing are \$27.50. For more information about livestreams of San Francisco Opera’s 2022 Fall Season, visit sfopera.com/digital.

TICKETS AND INFORMATION

Subscriptions to San Francisco Opera's 100th season are now on sale via the San Francisco Opera Box Office at (415) 864-3330 and online at sfopera.com.

Tickets for *Eugene Onegin* range from \$26 to \$408 and are available at the San Francisco Opera Box Office, by phone at (415) 864-3330 and online at sfopera.com. The San Francisco Opera Box Office window is located in the Opera House at 301 Van Ness Avenue. Box Office hours are Monday 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Tuesday through Friday 10 a.m.–6 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m.–6 p.m. (Saturdays phone only except during performance season). A \$2 per-ticket facility fee is included in Balcony 1, 2 and 3 zone prices; all other zones include a \$3 per-ticket facility fee.

Virtual tickets for the October 1 livestream of *Eugene Onegin* are \$27.50. For more information, visit sfopera.com/digital.

Opera for the Bay tickets, offered in partnership with the Dolby family, are offered for all performances of *Eugene Onegin* at \$10 each. Each eligible Bay Area residents (home address zip code between 94000–95999 who have not purchased a San Francisco Opera ticket in the past three years) may purchase two \$10 tickets for one performance during the Centennial Season. For tickets and more information about *Opera for the Bay*, visit sfopera.com/seasons/2022-23-season/dolby-family-s-opera-for-the-bay.

COVID-19 safety protocols will be in effect for all performances and events. For up-to-date information about San Francisco Opera's safety measures, visit sfopera.com/safetyfirst.

The War Memorial Opera House is located at 301 Van Ness Avenue. Patrons are encouraged to use public transportation to attend San Francisco Opera performances. The War Memorial Opera House is within walking distance of the Civic Center BART/Muni Station and near numerous bus lines, including 5, 21, 47, 49 and F Market Street. For further public transportation information, visit bart.gov and sfmta.com.

Gifts of all sizes help create San Francisco Opera's programs and are much appreciated. To donate visit sfopera.com/donate.

All casting, programs, schedules and ticket prices are subject to change. For further information about San Francisco Opera's 2022–23 Season, visit sfopera.com.

CASTING AND CALENDAR

**American Debut *San Francisco Opera Debut †Role Debut ‡Current Adler Fellow +Merola Opera Program Graduate

All performances take place at the War Memorial Opera House, 301 Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco

EUGENE ONEGIN by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

September 25 (2 p.m.), 28 (7:30 p.m.); October 1 (7:30 p.m.), 6 (7:30 p.m.), 9 (2 p.m.), 11 (7:30 p.m.), 14 (7:30 p.m.), 2022

Libretto by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky and Konstantin S. Shilovsky, based on the novel in verse by Alexander Pushkin

Canadian Opera Company production, originally created for the Metropolitan Opera

Approximate running time: 3 hours including one intermission

Sung in Russian with English supertitles

First performance: Maly Theatre, Moscow, March 29, 1879
First SFO performance: October 13, 1971 (in English)
Most recent SFO performances: November/December 2004

Cast:

<i>Tatyana</i>	Evgenia Muraveva**
<i>Eugene Onegin</i>	Gordon Bintner*+
<i>Lensky</i>	Evan LeRoy Johnson*
<i>Olga</i>	Aigul Akhmetshina**
<i>Prince Gremin</i>	Ferruccio Furlanetto
<i>Madame Larina</i>	Deborah Nansteel*+
<i>Filipyevna</i>	Ronnita Miller+
<i>Monsieur Triquet</i>	Brenton Ryan†
<i>Zaretsky</i>	Stefan Egerstrom †‡+
<i>A Captain</i>	Stefan Egerstrom †‡+
<i>Guillot</i>	Ely Orquiza*
<i>Peasant</i>	Michael Jankosky
<i>Solo Dancers</i>	Brett Conway, Jamielyn Duggan, Blanche Hampton, Jekyns Peláez

Creative Team:

<i>Conductor</i>	Vassilis Christopoulos**
<i>Production</i>	Robert Carsen
<i>Stage Director</i>	Peter McClintock
<i>Production Designer</i>	Michael Levine
<i>Lighting Designer</i>	Christine Binder
<i>Choreographer</i>	Serge Bennathan*
<i>Chorus Director</i>	John Keene

San Francisco Opera Orchestra, San Francisco Opera Chorus and San Francisco Opera Dance Corps

San Francisco Opera is sponsored, in part, by Norby Anderson, Jerome L. and Thao N. Dodson, 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.

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The Taube Media Suite is made possible in part by Dianne and Tad Taube and John A. and Cynthia Fry Gunn.

San Francisco Opera livestreams are made possible, in part by George and Leslie Hume

Yamaha is the official piano of San Francisco Opera.

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PRESS PHOTOS: High-resolution, downloadable production images and artist headshots for *Eugene Onegin* are available at sfopera.com/press.

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