



SAN FRANCISCO OPERA EDUCATION

DIE MEISTERSINGER VON NÜRNBERG

PRODUCTION TEAM BIOGRAPHY



James Rutherford (Hans Sachs) made his San Francisco Opera debut in 2007 performing the role of Wolfram von Eschenbach in Wagner's *Tannhäuser*. Since winning the inaugural Seattle Opera International Wagner competition in 2006, Rutherford has become renowned for his interpretations of German romantic opera. He has sung Hans Sachs (*Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*) for the Bayreuth Festival in 2010 and 2011, Vienna State Opera, Hamburg Opera, Cologne Opera, Budapest Wagner Festival, and in the David McVicar production at the Glyndebourne Festival; Kurwenal (*Tristan und Isolde*) for Washington National Opera; and the title role in *Der fliegende Holländer* with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and Andris Nelsons. In 2009 he began a major association with the Graz Opera, singing his first

Hans Sachs and returning for Barak (*Die Frau ohne Schatten*), Germont (*La Traviata*), Iago (*Otello*), Orest (*Elektra*), and the title role of *Falstaff*. He has performed Jochanaan (*Salome*) at the Vienna State Opera, Berlin State Opera, and Opéra National de Montpellier. Other appearances include the Royal Opera, Covent Garden; Paris Opéra; Lyric Opera of Chicago; Welsh National Opera; English National Opera; Scottish Opera; and Opera North. Recent concert appearances include Adams' *Nixon in China* (BBC Proms, Berlin Festival), conducted by the composer; Mandryka (*Arabella*) in Amsterdam and Hamburg; Wotan in Act 3 of *Die Walküre* (Philharmonia Orchestra) for Wagner's 200th birthday; and an invitation by Prince Charles to sing Hans Sachs at his 65th birthday Wagner gala at Buckingham Palace. Last season, Rutherford sang the title role of *Guillaume Tell* and Scarpia (*Tosca*) in Graz, Orest in Hamburg, and Lysiart (*Euryanthe*) in Frankfurt. He recently sang Orest with the Boston Symphony Orchestra at Carnegie Hall and Boston's Symphony Hall. Upcoming performances include his first Wotan in Frankfurt Opera's *Ring* cycle. His CD of Wagner arias with Andrew Litton and the Bergen Philharmonic is available on the BIS label.

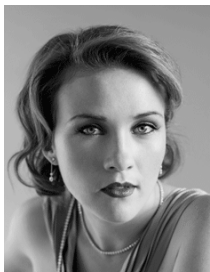


Brandon Jovanovich (Walther von Stolzing) Winner of the 2007 Richard Tucker Award, Brandon Jovanovich made his San Francisco Opera debut as Pinkerton (*Madama Butterfly*) in 2007 and returned in 2009 as Luigi (*Il Tabarro*) in *Il Trittico*; as Siegmund and Froh in the 2011 *Ring* cycle, in the title role of *Lohengrin* (2012); and as Sam Polk (*Susannah*) in 2014.

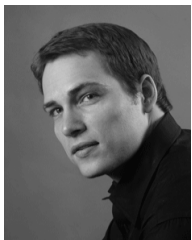
The American tenor's career highlights include Don José (*Carmen*) at the Metropolitan Opera, Opera of Chicago, and in Munich, Berlin, Verona, and Barcelona; Cavaradossi (*Tosca*) with Canadian Opera Company, Seattle Opera, the Bregenz Festival, and in Nice and Cologne; Pinkerton with the Santa Fe Opera, the Dallas Opera, New York City Opera, and in Toulouse, Stuttgart, and Bordeaux; Boris (*Kát't Kabanová*) with Lyric Opera of Chicago; the title roles of *Candide* and *Peter Grimes* in Naples; Turiddu (*Cavalleria Rusticana*) with Houston Grand Opera and New York City Opera; Števa (*Jenůfa*) in Munich; Pollione (*Norma*) in Trieste; the Prince (*Rusalka*) with Minnesota Opera and at the Glyndebourne Festival; Aeneas (*Dido and Aeneas*) and the title role of *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* at Milan's La Scala; Bacchus (*Ariadne auf Naxos*) with Lyric Opera of Chicago; and the title role of *Don Carlos* with Houston Grand Opera. Jovanovich's recent engagement include *Don José* with Los Angeles Opera, the Dallas Opera, and Houston Grand Opera; *Don José* and Florestan (Fidelio) in Zurich; and the Prince (*Rusalka*) with Lyric Opera of Chicago.



Rachel Willis-Sørensen (Eva) Soprano Rachel Willis-Sørensen makes her San Francisco Opera debut as Eva in *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*. Recent engagements include Gutrune (*Götterdämmerung*) and Countess Almaviva (*Le Nozze di Figaro*) with the Royal Opera, Covent Garden; and Donna Anna (*Don Giovanni*) with Houston Grand Opera, where she is a graduate of their young artist program. A winner of the 2010 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, her other awards include winning the 2011 Hans Gabor Belvedere Singing Competitions, a 2014 Richard Tucker Award, and first prize in the 2014 Operalia Competition. A member of the ensemble with Dresden's Semperoper, Willis-Sørensen's roles with that company include the title role of *Die Lustige Witwe*, Mimi (*La Bohème*), Fiordiligi (*Così fan tutte*), Rachel (*La Juive*) and Diemut (R. Strauss's *Feuersnot*), among others. Her engagements in the 2014–15 season include Rosalinde (*Die Fledermaus*) and Agathe (*Der Freischütz*) in Dresden; Fiordiligi with Houston Grand Opera; and Countess Almaviva at the Met.



Sasha Cooke (Magdalene) Mezzo-soprano Sasha Cooke made her San Francisco Opera debut creating the title role in the world premiere of Adamo's *The Gospel of Mary Magdalene* in 2013. Recent engagements include Magnolia (*Show Boat*) at Houston Grand Opera; Sonja (Argento's *The Aspern Papers*) with the Dallas Opera; a European tour with Michael Tilson Thomas and the San Francisco Symphony; concerts with Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, Cleveland Symphony, Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Columbus Symphony, Orchestre de Lyon, Detroit Symphony, the L.A. Philharmonic, Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin, and the Miro Quartet. She sang Kitty Oppenheimer in the Metropolitan Opera premiere of John Adams's *Doctor Atomic*, the DVD release of which won the 2012 Grammy Award for Best Opera Recording. 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. A dedicated recitalist, Cooke was presented by Young Concert Artists in her widely acclaimed New York and Washington debuts at Carnegie Hall and at the Kennedy Center. Her recordings are available on Bridge, Naxos, Music@Menlo Live labels in addition to her solo album with the Colburn Orchestra on Yarlung Records. Cooke's engagements in the 2014–15 season include the world premieres of Kaminsky's *As One* and Talbot's *Everest* with the Dallas Opera; Anna (*Les Troyens*) at San Francisco Opera; and concerts with the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester, Houston Symphony, Melbourne Symphony, the Philadelphia Orchestra, San Francisco Symphony, Colorado Symphony, and Seattle Symphony as well as a recital with San Francisco Performances.



Alek Shrader (David) Former San Francisco Opera Adler Fellow Alek Shrader made his San Francisco Opera debut as Victorin in 2008's *Die Tote Stadt* and returned as Nemorino in both *The Elixir of Love* and *The Elixir of Love for Families* as well as Tamino (*The Magic Flute*); Count Almaviva (*Il Barbiere di Siviglia*); and Emilio (*Partenope*). Recent engagements include Count Almaviva at Lyric Opera of Chicago and the Dallas Opera; Tamino, Count Almaviva, and Ferdinand (Adès's *The Tempest*) at the Metropolitan Opera; Ernesto (*Don Pasquale*) at Santa Fe Opera and the Glyndebourne Festival; Don Ramiro (*La Cenerentola*) with Hamburg State Opera; Ferrando (*Così fan tutte*) in Los Angeles; Tom Rakewell (*The Rake's Progress*) with Lille Opera; Tamino at Lyric Opera of Chicago; the title role of *Albert Herring* with Los Angeles Opera and the Santa Fe Opera; as well as Oronte (*Alcina*), Tamino, and Lindoro (*L'Italiana in Algeri*) at Bordeaux Opera. Other recent and upcoming appearances include Camille de Rosillon (*Die Lustige Witwe*) at the Met, Count Almaviva in Toronto, Jupiter and Apollo (*Semele*) with Seattle Opera, and Tonio (*La Fille du Régiment*) in Santa Fe. An alumnus of the Merola Opera Program and Music Academy of the West, Shrader is a 2007 winner of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, and he received a 2007 Sarah Tucker Grant from the Richard Tucker Foundation.



Martin Gantner (Sixtus Beckmesser) German baritone Martin Gantner makes his San Francisco Opera debut as Sixtus Beckmesser in *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*, a role he has performed with Zurich Opera. A former ensemble member of Munich's Bavarian State Opera, his roles with that company include Papageno (*Die Zauberflöte*), Dr. Malatesta (*Don Pasquale*), Dr. Falke (*Die Fledermaus*), Silvio (*Pagliacci*), Harlekin (*Ariadne auf Naxos*), Marcello (*La Bohème*), and Ottokar (*Der Freischütz*), among others. Career highlights include Dandini (*La Cenerentola*) in Barcelona and Dresden; Albert (*Werther*) with the Vienna State Opera; the title role of *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* in Baden-Baden; the title role of *Don Giovanni* in Hof; Papageno, Guglielmo (*Così fan tutte*), Dandini, and Harlekin in Dresden; Dr. Falke (*Die Fledermaus*) in Zurich and Chicago; and engagements with Los Angeles Opera, Berlin State Opera, and Teatro Regio in Turin, among others. Recent and upcoming engagements include Faninal (*Der Rosenkavalier*) in Munich, Paris, Chicago, and Amsterdam; Kurwenal (*Tristan und Isolde*) in Florence; Gunter (*Götterdämmerung*) in Seville and Toronto; Telramund (*Lohengrin*) in Zurich; the Music Master (*Ariadne auf Naxos*) in Paris and Munich; Sixtus Beckmesser at the Met; and Don Pizarro (*Fidelio*) in Zurich.



Ain Anger (Veit Pogner) makes his San Francisco Opera debut as Veit Pogner, a role he has previously performed with the Vienna State Opera. In the 2014 season, his engagements include Dosifej (*Khovanshchina*) with the Vienna State Opera, Hermann (*Tannhäuser*) and King Heinrich (*Lohengrin*) with Deutsche Oper Berlin; and Daland (*Der Fliegende Holländer*) with Washington National Opera, as well as concerts with the Cleveland Orchestra. A former member of the ensemble at the Vienna State Opera, his roles with that company have included Phillip II (*Don Carlo*), Don Basilio (*Il Barbiere di Siviglia*), Sarastro (*Die Zauberflöte*), Des Grieux (*Manon*), Zaccaria (*Nabucco*), Hunding (*Die Walküre*), and Jacopo Fiesco (*Simon Boccanegra*), among others.



Philip Horst (Fritz Kothner) A graduate of the Merola Opera Program and a former San Francisco Opera Adler Fellow, Philip Horst made his San Francisco Opera debut as Leporello (*Don Giovanni*) in 1999 and returned in productions of *Parsifal*, *The Rake's Progress*, *Dead Man Walking*, *The Ballad of Baby Doe*, *Carmen*, *Kát'a Kabanová*, *Rigoletto*, and *Jenůfa*; he also appeared as Pantheus in 2015's *Les Troyens*. Recent career highlights include the title role of *Wozzeck* for New Israeli Opera, Zemlinsky's *A Florentine Tragedy* (Simone) with Greek National Opera, Tomsky (*Pique Dame*) in Berlin, *Arabella* (Mandryka) with Theater St. Gallen and Frankfurt Opera, the Gamekeeper (*Rusalka*) with Lyric Opera of Chicago, and roles in *The Nose* in Aix-en-Provence and Lyon. He has appeared at the Metropolitan Opera as Ostasio (*Francesca da Rimini*), and in that company's productions of *The Nose*, *La Traviata*, *Roméo et Juliette*, *Das Rheingold*, *The Gambler*, and *Capriccio*. Engagements this season include Scarpia (*Tosca*) with Seattle Opera and Opera Grand Rapids, Lieutenant Horstmayer in the European premiere of Putz's *Silent Night*, and creating the role of Tortsheiner in the world premiere of Moore's *Enemies, A Love Story* with Palm Beach Opera.



AJ Glueckert (Kunz Vogelgesang) Tenor AJ Glueckert is a former San Francisco Opera Adler Fellow who made his Company debut in various roles in the world premiere of *The Gospel of Mary Magdalene* in 2013. Other Company appearances include Mr. Knox in *Dolores Claiborne*, the Steersman in *Der Fliegende Holländer*, Ambrogio in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* and *The Barber of Seville for Families*, Flavio in *Norma*, Elder Gleaton in *Susannah*, and the Chief Magistrate in *Un Ballo in Maschera*. Glueckert is an alumnus of the 2012 Merola Opera Program, where he performed Mr. Owen in Argento's *Postcard from Morocco*. Upcoming engagements include Bacchus (*Ariadne auf Naxos*) with Opera Theatre of St. Louis and roles with the Glyndebourne Festival and English National Opera. In the 2014–15 season he was seen as the Prince (*Rusalka*) with Frankfurt Opera. As a former resident artist with Minnesota Opera, Glueckert was heard as Arturo (*Lucia di Lammermoor*) and also created the role of the Crown Prince in the world premiere of Puts's *Silent Night* with Opera Philadelphia. He is a graduate of the young artists programs at Santa Fe Opera and Utah Opera. A two-time winner of the regional Metropolitan Opera National Auditions, he holds a degree from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and appeared as the Drum Major (*Wozzeck*) with Opera Parallèle in San Francisco.



Joel Sorensen (Balthasar Zorn) American tenor Joel Sorensen made his San Francisco Opera debut in 2004 as the Mosquito in Janáček's *The Cunning Little Vixen*, returning as Spoletta in *Tosca*, Dr. Caius in *Falstaff*, and creating the role of Mr. Pease in the 2013 world premiere of *Dolores Claiborne*. He appeared as Elder Hayes in last fall's *Susannah* and created the role of Sciortino in last summer's world premiere of *Two Women*. He appeared as Balthasar Zorn in *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* at Lyric Opera of Chicago in 2013. During his long association with New York City Opera he performed in more than two dozen productions, including *Prince Igor*, *Falstaff*, *La Rondine*, *Il Trittico*, *Mefistofele*, and *Mathis der Maler*. Other career highlights include Goro (*Madama Butterfly*), Monostatos (*Die Zauberflöte*) and Andrès, Cochenille, Pitichinaccio, and Frantz in *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* at the Metropolitan Opera; Don Curzio (*Le Nozze di Figaro*) and Wilhelm (*The Ghosts of Versailles*) at LA Opera; Mime (*Das Rheingold*) with Longborough Festival, UK; and Andres (*Wozzeck*) with the Landestheater in Salzburg.



Corey Bix (Augustin Moser) The tenor made his San Francisco Opera debut as the Fourth Jew in *Salome* (2009). Other career highlights include Heinrich (*Tannhäuser*) and *Rusalka* with Lyric Opera of Chicago; Lennie (*Of Mice and Men*) with Tulsa Opera; Sir Edgar Aubry (*Der Vampyr*) with New Orleans Opera; Bacchus (*Ariadne auf Naxos*) at the Glimmerglass Festival, Washington National Opera, the Vienna Volksoper, Fort Worth Opera, and Hungarian National Opera; Erik (*Der Fliegende Holländer*) with Los Angeles Opera and Arizona Opera; and Alfred (*Die Fledermaus*) with Anchorage Opera; the Prince (*Rusalka*) and the title role of Stravinsky's *Oedipus Rex* with Greek National Opera; Kaiser (*Die Frau ohne Schatten*) in Graz; *Lohengrin* with Milan's Teatro alla Scala; Don José (*Carmen*) with Aspen Opera Theater; and Tamino (*Die Zauberflöte*) in workshop with the Metropolitan Opera. Bix is the 2008 winner of the Robert Lauch Memorial Grant from the Wagner Society of New York and the 2007 winner of the George London/Kirsten Flagstad Award for a singer with potential for a Wagnerian career as well as the foundation's prestigious Vienna Prize. Additionally, he has been a prizewinner in both the New England and Southeast regions of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. He is a former member of the apprentice programs of the Santa Fe Opera, Florida Grand Opera, Glimmerglass Opera, and Des Moines Metro Opera.



Joseph Hu (Ulrich Eisslinger) Taiwanese-American Joseph Hu makes his debut with San Francisco Opera with his appearance as Ulrich Eisslinger in *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*. The tenor has portrayed Goro in *Madama Butterfly*, Pang/Pong in *Turandot*, Steuermann in *Der fliegende Holländer*, and Spoletta in *Tosca*. Other roles include Beppe in *I Pagliacci*, Nathaniel/Cochenille in *Les contes d'Hoffmann*, Brighella in *Ariadne auf Naxos*, Chekalinsky in *Pique Dame*, Borsa in *Rigoletto*, Wirt in *Der Rosenkavalier*, Rodrigo in *Otello*, the Chief Magistrate in *Un ballo in maschera* and Arturo in *Lucia di Lammermoor*. In concert he has performed works of Bach, Handel and Mozart with the Tulsa Philharmonic, San Antonio Symphony and the National Symphony of Taiwan. He made his Carnegie Hall debut as a tenor soloist in Mozart's *Requiem*.



Sam Handley (Konrad Nachtigall) Mr. Handley debuts at San Francisco Opera in the role of Konrad Nachtigall in *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg*. He sang the Sprecher in Opera Colorado's production of *The Magic Flute*, and on the concert stage he performed as soloist in a concert performance of Roger Waters' opera *Ca Ira* with the Nashville Symphony, both in the 2014-15 season. Other performances include Leporello in *Don Giovanni* with the Ryan Opera Center, Don Magnifico in *La Cenerentola* with the Merola Opera Program, the title role in *Don Pasquale* on tour with the Santa Fe Opera, Mr. Emerson in Nelson's *A Room with a View* (DVD by Newport Classics), Sancho in Telemann's *Don Quichott* and Polyphemus in *Acis and Galatea* with Houston's Mercury Baroque (KUHF records), Bottom in Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Caspar in Weber's *Der Freischütz*, Jaggars in Argento's *Miss Havisham's Fire*, The King in Prokofiev's *The Love for Three Oranges*, Dikoy in Janáček's *Katya Kabanova*, and Dr. Miracle in Offenbach's *Les Contes d'Hoffmann*.



Anthony Reed (Hans Schwarz) Bass Anthony Reed made his San Francisco Opera debut in various roles in 2015's *Les Troyens*. He is a first-year San Francisco Opera Adler Fellow and alumnus of the 2014 Merola Opera Program. Roles in his repertory include Sarastro (*Die Zauberflöte*), Truffaldin (*Ariadne auf Naxos*), Don Basilio (*Il Barbiere di Siviglia*), Dulcamara (*L'Elisir d'Amore*), Don Magnifico (*La Cenerentola*), and the Four Villains (*Les Contes d'Hoffmann*), among others. Reed received a 2011 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions Regional Encouragement Award and has been a young artist at the Wolf Trap Opera Studio and the Seagle Music Colony, in addition to his studies at the Curtis Institute of Music and the University of Wisconsin.



Edward Nelson (Hermann Ortel) A first-year San Francisco Opera Adler Fellow, baritone Edward Nelson is a graduate of the 2014 Merola Opera Program, where he sang the title role of *Don Giovanni*. In San Francisco Opera's 2014–15 season, he created the role of Lieutenant John Buckley in the world premiere of Marco Tutino's *Two Women*. Recent engagements include the Ferryman (Britten's *Curlew River*) with the Mark Morris Dance Group/Tanglewood Music Festival and Montreal's Ballet-Opéra-Pantomime, covering Miller in Montsalvatge's *El Gato con Botas* with Gotham Chamber Opera, as well as the title role of Britten's *Owen Wingrave*, Dandini (*La Cenerentola*) and Le Podestat (Bizet's *Le Docteur Miracle*) with the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (CCM), where he holds undergraduate and graduate degrees. On the concert stage, he has been a soloist with the American Choral Directors Association and the Reno Philharmonic. He is a national semi-finalist in the 2013 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and the 2014 Naumburg International Voice Competition, 1st Prize winner of the 2014 Corbett Opera Competition at CCM, and a winner in the 2013 Opera Columbus and 2014 Mildred Miller International Voice Competition.



Andrea Silvestrelli (A night watchman) Bass Andrea Silvestrelli made his San Francisco Opera debut as Oroveso in *Norma* (1998) and returned as Fasolt (*Das Rheingold*), Il Talpa (*Il Tabarro*) and Simone (*Gianni Schicchi*) in the Company's production of *Il Trittico*, and as Osmin (*Die Entführung aus dem Serail*), Fasolt and Hagen in the 2011 *Ring* cycle, Sparafucile (*Rigoletto*), and Basilio (*Il Barbiere di Siviglia*). Silvestrelli's career highlights include Simone and Basilio (*Il Barbiere di Siviglia*) with Los Angeles Opera; *Sparafucile* with Houston Grand Opera and Washington National Opera; Hunding and Fasolt in Seattle Opera's *Ring* cycle; and Colline (*La Bohème*), Ferrando (*Il Trovatore*), and Timur (*Turandot*) with Lyric Opera of Chicago. Other credits include Caronte (*Orfeo*) and Goffredo (*Il Pirata*) at the Paris Théâtre du Châtelet; Oroveso and Fafner (*Das Rheingold*) in Turin; Lodovico (*Otello*) and the Commendatore (*Don Giovanni*) with the Royal Opera, Covent Garden, the latter of which was recorded and received a 1995 Grammy Award; Hermann (*Tannhäuser*) in Naples and Japan; and Titurel (*Parsifal*) at Florence's Maggio Musicale Festival. Silvestrelli's other recent engagements include Sarastro and Osmin with the Santa Fe Opera; Fafner with Deutsche Oper Berlin; Bartolo (*Le Nozze di Figaro*) in Chicago; and his Metropolitan Opera debut as Sparafucile.



Matthew Stump (Hans Foltz) Bass-baritone Matthew Stump is a first-year San Francisco Opera Adler Fellow and graduate of the 2014 Merola Opera Program, where he appeared as the Commendatore in *Don Giovanni*. He made his Company debut as a Trojan Soldier and Sentry in *The Trojans* in 2015. He has appeared in the title role of *Sweeney Todd*, the Prime Minister (*Cendrillon*), the Pirate King (*The Pirates of Penzance*), and Capulet (*Roméo et Juliette*) at the University of North Texas as well as the title role of *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Don Alfonso (*Così fan tutte*), and Frank (*Street Scene*) at Luther College, where he holds a bachelor's degree. He holds awards from the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and Dallas Opera Guild.



Laurel Porter (An apprentice) Mezzo soprano Laurel Porter, a member of the San Francisco Opera Chorus, made her solo debut with the Company in the 2013 world premiere of *The Gospel of Mary Magdalene*. She has performed with the Metropolitan Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Glimmerglass Opera, Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, Chicago Opera Theater, Sarasota Opera, Utah Festival Opera, and Virginia Opera. Roles in her repertoire include Cherubino (*Le Nozze di Figaro*), Dorabella (*Così fan tutte*), and the title roles in of *La Cenerentola* and *Ariodante*.