



SAN FRANCISCO OPERA HOSTS FREE  
COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23, 9:30 A.M.–3:30 P.M.



Community Open House (2012/2013) Photos: Kristen Loken

Family-Friendly Opportunity to Explore Historic  
War Memorial Opera House (301 Van Ness Ave, San Francisco)



The War Memorial Opera House as seen in September 1932 and, 90 years later, in September 2022 for the opening night of San Francisco Opera's Centennial Season.

Photos: San Francisco Opera Archives (left); Drew Altizer Photography (right)

Registration Available at [sfopera.com/openhouse](https://sfopera.com/openhouse)

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (October 11, 2022) — For those who've always wanted to take a "selfie" on the stage of the War Memorial Opera House, learn about the role of a conductor, witness how opera is made from behind the curtain or ask the Opera's general

director anything about opera, San Francisco Opera has just the ticket—and it's free. In celebration of its Centennial Season, San Francisco Opera hosts a Community Open House, opening the doors of its historic home for a special day of sharing the fun and magic that transpires inside this U.S. landmark.

In addition to San Francisco Opera's 100th season, this year also marks the 90th anniversary of the War Memorial Opera House. In celebration of both anniversaries, the Community Open House will host a day of special events and interactive activities for all ages, along with exciting giveaways and special showcases highlighting the Opera and Opera House's history. San Francisco Opera's Community Open House takes place Sunday, October 23, 2022 from 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. at the War Memorial Opera House (301 Van Ness Ave, San Francisco).

The event is FREE. Registration in advance is encouraged but not required, and all are welcome. Registration will also be available at the door on the day of the event. More information can be found at [sfopera.com/openhouse](https://sfopera.com/openhouse).

San Francisco Opera's Community Open House offers a day of fun, interactive activities and workshops designed for both adults and families, including:

- Giveaways
- Scavenger hunt and prizes
- Onstage performances
- Theatrical prop crafting station
- "From the Archives" display
- Costume showcases
- Hair, Wig and Make-up demonstrations
- Instrument show and tell
- Conducting lessons
- "Opera in an Hour" family movie screenings
- The opportunity to snap a "stage selfie"

Open to anyone with a curiosity about the world of opera, the Community Open House offers a closer look at how the magic is made, with an invitation to explore the Opera House's nooks and crannies.

Most activities are continuous throughout the day, but guests are encouraged to attend scheduled events such as:

- Onstage musical performances by the San Francisco Opera Orchestra, Chorus and soloists, accompanied by kid-friendly narration (12:15 p.m. and 3:15 p.m.).
- "Ask Me Anything" sessions with San Francisco Opera General Director Matthew Shilvock (11 a.m. and 2 p.m.)
- Backstage show-and-tell tours (9:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.)
- "Opera in an Hour" family screenings of *Cinderella* (9:45 a.m.), *The Magic Flute* (11 a.m.), *The Barber of Seville* (12:45 p.m.) and *The Elixir of Love* (2 p.m.).

Food and refreshments during the event will be available from Global Gourmet Catering, offering a full lunch menu for purchase in the outdoor courtyard from 11 a.m.–3 p.m. Food and beverage concessions will also be available throughout the day in the basement café.

COVID-19 safety protocols will be in effect for all indoor open house activities. Masks are required for all guests over the age of 2 except when actively eating or drinking in designated areas, and all patrons aged 5 and older must show proof of full vaccination with photo ID. Children under 5 must show either proof of full vaccination, proof of a negative "rapid" antigen test taken within one calendar day prior to entry, or a negative PCR test taken within two calendar days prior to entry. For up-to-date information about San Francisco Opera's safety measures, visit [sfopera.com/safetyfirst](https://sfopera.com/safetyfirst).

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For Calendar Editors

**WHAT:** In celebration of its Centennial Season, San Francisco Opera hosts a Community Open House at the War Memorial Opera House featuring events and activities for all ages. In addition to San Francisco Opera's 100th season, this year also marks the 90th anniversary of the War Memorial Opera House. In celebration of both anniversaries, San Francisco Opera opens the doors of its historic home to reveal some of the fun and magic that transpires inside this U.S. landmark, along with exciting giveaways and special showcases highlighting the Opera and Opera House's legacies.

TICKETS: FREE. Registration in advance is encouraged but not required. Registration will also be available at the door on the day of the event. More information can be found at [sfopera.com/openhouse](https://sfopera.com/openhouse).

WHEN: Sunday, October 23, 2022, 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

WHERE: War Memorial Opera House (301 Van Ness Ave, San Francisco)

#### ABOUT SAN FRANCISCO OPERA

Gaetano Merola inaugurated his new resident company for the opera-loving metropolis of San Francisco on September 26, 1923 with a performance of Puccini's *La Bohème* at the Civic Auditorium. A century later, San Francisco Opera remains a vital and dynamic artistic institution under the leadership of General Director Matthew Shilvock and Music Director Eun Sun Kim. The Company's culture of innovation has led to pioneering uses of technology and repertory-expanding new works by leading composers; its audience has witnessed the American debuts of operatic legends; and its training programs have equipped generations of new artists for stages around the world.

#### ABOUT THE WAR MEMORIAL OPERA HOUSE

The War Memorial Opera House has been San Francisco Opera's home since its inaugural opening night on October 15, 1932 of a performance of Giacomo Puccini's *Tosca* conducted by Company founder Gaetano Merola and starring legendary diva Claudia Muzio. Designed by Arthur Brown, Jr. in the American Renaissance style, the 3,006-seat Opera House is a California Historical Landmark that has played host to many historic events, including the drafting of the charter of the United Nations in 1945 and the ceremony where the United States restored Japanese sovereignty in 1951. The Opera House is also home to the San Francisco Ballet and served as home to the San Francisco Symphony until Louise M. Davies Symphony Hall opened in September 1980.

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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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Yamaha is the official piano of San Francisco Opera.

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PRESS PHOTOS: High-resolution, downloadable photographs for the Community Open House and San Francisco Opera's 2022–23 Centennial Season are available at [sfopera.com/press](https://sfopera.com/press).

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