SAN FRANCISCO
OPERA

SOPRANO KATHLEEN O'MARA JOINS SAN FRANCISCO OPERA'S *STRAUSS IN CONCERT* ON NOVEMBER 6, REPLACING ADELA ZAHARIA



Kathleen O'Mara (Photo: Dario Acosta)





Eun Sun Kim and the San Francisco Opera Orchestra;
Photos: Kristen Loken (l), Matthew Washburn (r)

Music Director Eun Sun Kim leads program including U.S. Premiere of a new *Der Rosenkavalier* Suite, *Till Eulenspiegel* and Four Last Songs

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

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (October 30, 2026) — Due to illness, soprano Adela Zaharia will be replaced by soprano **Kathleen O'Mara** as soloist for San Francisco Opera's ***Strauss in Concert*** conducted by Caroline H. Hume Music Director **Eun Sun Kim** on Friday, November 6 at the War Memorial Opera House. O'Mara will perform Strauss' Four Last Songs in place of the previously scheduled *Brentano Lieder*.

Kathleen O'Mara was recently awarded 1st Prize at the 2025 Queen Sonja Singing Competition and 1st Prize and the Birgit Nilsson Prize at the 2024 Operalia Competition. She is a graduate of LA Opera's Domingo-Colburn-Stein Young Artist Program and is a 2024 recipient of the prestigious Sara Tucker Study Grant from the Richard Tucker Foundation. O'Mara's current season includes Micaëla (*Carmen*) and Liù (*Turandot*) at LA Opera and house debuts at Dallas Opera (Elsa in *Lohengrin*) and Santa Fe Opera (Liù). On the concert stage, O'Mara debuts with the Barcelona Symphony in Act I of *Die Walküre* conducted by Ludovic Morlot and makes her Carnegie Hall recital debut presented by The Juilliard School. Her engagements last season included her Edinburgh International Festival debut in Mahler's *Das Klagende Lied* conducted by Donald Runnicles, the Oslo Philharmonic's annual outdoor concert at The Palace Square, Metropolitan Opera (Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni*), Milan's Teatro alla Scala (Helmwige in *Die Walküre*), Munich's Bavarian State Opera (Fifth maidservant in *Elektra*) and Seattle Opera (Micaëla). A native of Fort Washington, Pennsylvania, O'Mara holds a Master of Music degree from the Juilliard School and a Bachelor of Music degree from Westminster Choir College.

Following sold-out concerts of symphonies by Ludwig van Beethoven in 2024 and 2025, **Maestro Kim** and the **San Francisco Opera Orchestra** return to the War Memorial Opera House stage with an evening dedicated to the music of Richard Strauss. This one-night-only event includes the U.S. premiere of a new suite of music from Strauss' opera *Der Rosenkavalier*; one of the composer's early tone poems, *Till Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks*; and in what would become his songs of farewell, the Four Last Songs.

The program opens with *Till Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks*, the 1895 tone poem that musically illustrates the irreverent adventures and demise of the trickster Till, a German folk hero. The Four Last Songs (1948), among the composer's most profound and beautiful works, will be performed by soprano Kathleen O'Mara.

After intermission, Maestro Kim and the San Francisco Opera Orchestra will present the U.S. premiere of *Der Rosenkavalier* Suite, a new arrangement by Swiss conductor Philippe Jordan and Czech arranger Tomáš Ille. The well-known *Rosenkavalier* Suite from the past century, thought to have been arranged by conductor Artur Rodzinski in 1944, emphasizes the waltz music in Strauss' 1911 opera but bears little relation to its dramatic plot. At 35 minutes in duration, Jordan and Ille's new suite, commissioned by Radio France and premiered in 2021, is longer than the older *Rosenkavalier* Suite and utilizes the colors of the orchestra to relate the story of Strauss' beloved romantic comedy.

Throughout her tenure as San Francisco Opera's Music Director, **Eun Sun Kim** has led a wide repertoire of opera and concert works, including the world premiere of John Adams' *Antony and Cleopatra*, Richard Wagner's *Parsifal*, Giuseppe Verdi's *Simon Boccanegra*, Ludwig van Beethoven's *Fidelio* and his Ninth and Fifth Symphonies. In 2026, Maestro Kim has conducted the music of

Richard Strauss, including *Ariadne auf Naxos* in Berlin, along with *Elektra* with San Francisco Opera. The *San Francisco Chronicle* said of *Elektra*, "Kim leads with propulsion and breathtaking control over the immense orchestra—Strauss never met an instrument he couldn't stuff into a score—and miraculously retains clarity even in the loudest passages." During San Francisco Opera's current season, Maestro Kim also conducts Massenet's French repertoire gem *Manon* (October 15–November 1) and Wagner's *Das Rheingold* (May 29–June 22, 2027), the latter a prelude to complete cycles of Wagner's *Ring* in Summer 2028.

TICKETS AND INFORMATION

Tickets for *Strauss in Concert* are priced from $30 to $255. 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. Contact the San Francisco Opera Box Office at 301 Van Ness Avenue, call (415) 864-3330 or visit sfopera.com.

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 the 5, 6, 49 and F Market Street bus lines. For public transportation information, visit bart.gov and sfmta.com.

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Casting, program, schedule and ticket prices are subject to change. For information about San Francisco Opera's 2026–27 Season, visit sfopera.com.

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FOR CALENDAR EDITORS

STRAUSS IN CONCERT
Friday, November 6, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.

War Memorial Opera House, 301 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco
Approximate running time: 1 hour, 33 minutes with one intermission

Eun Sun Kim, conductor
Kathleen O'Mara, soprano
San Francisco Opera Orchestra

All-Richard Strauss Program:

Till Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks, Op. 28

Four Last Songs
- Frühling
- September
- Beim Schlafengehen
- Im Abendrot

U.S. PREMIERE
Der Rosenkavalier Suite
arranged by Philippe Jordan and Tomáš Ille

Music Director Eun Sun Kim leads the San Francisco Opera Orchestra in an evening dedicated to the music of Richard Strauss. The program highlights one of the composer's most early tone poems, *Till Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks*, Four Last Songs featuring soprano Kathleen O'Mara and the U.S. premiere of a new suite of music from Strauss' popular opera *Der Rosenkavalier*.

San Francisco Opera is sponsored, in part, by Dr. & Mrs. William M. Coughran, Julie Dickson, Jerome & Thao Dodson, Dagmar Dolby, Carol & Dixon Doll, Bertie Bialek Elliott, The Ann and Gordon Getty Foundation for the Arts, Louise Gund, John A. & Cynthia Fry Gunn, The Jen-Hsun & Lori Huang Foundation, Franklin & Catherine* Johnson, Edmund W. & Jeannik Méquet Littlefield Fund, Bernard & Barbro Osher, Marieke & Jeff Rothschild, Jan Shrem* & Maria Manetti Shrem, Dianne Taube, Phyllis C. Wattis Endowment Funds, Diane B. Wilsey, Barbara A. Wolfe, and Anonymous (2).

Strauss in Concert is made possible, in part, by John A. & Cynthia Fry Gunn, Jan Shrem* & Maria Manetti Shrem, through the *Luminaries Concert Fund.* With special thanks to Jerome & Thao Dodson for making possible the Dodson Orchestra Shell.

*deceased

Yamaha is the official piano of San Francisco Opera.

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PRESS PHOTOS: High-resolution, downloadable photos for *Strauss in Concert* are available at sfopera.com/press.

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