



SAN FRANCISCO OPERA PRESENTS MASSENET'S *MANON*
War Memorial Opera House, October 15–November 1



Scenes from *Manon*. Photos: Cory Weaver/San Francisco Opera

**Music Director Eun Sun Kim conducts the romantic French masterwork in
Vincent Boussard's production starring Amina Edris and Pene Pati**



Eun Sun Kim (conductor); Vincent Boussard (director); Amina Edris (Manon); Pene Pati (Des Grieux)

Tickets available at (415) 864-3330 and [sfopera.com](https://www.sfopera.com)
October 21 performance will be livestreamed

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (September 8, 2026) — San Francisco Opera's 104th season features Jules Massenet's romantic masterwork *Manon*, opening at the War Memorial Opera House on October 15. Caroline H. Hume Music Director **Eun Sun Kim** leads the San Francisco Opera Orchestra and cast headed by soprano **Amina Edris** and tenor **Pene Pati** in **Vincent Boussard's** production, last seen here in 2017.

Massenet's most popular opera follows its eponymous heroine, the charming Manon, whose self-determination leads to romance, material wealth and, ultimately, misfortune. The composer found

his inspiration for the work in Abbé Prévost's controversial 1731 novel, *L'histoire du chevalier des Grieux et de Manon Lescaut*. While composing the score in 1882, Massenet even moved, for a time, into the same residence in The Hague where Prévost had worked 150 years earlier. Through his sensuous, perfumed melodies, delectable tête-à-têtes and tense situations, Massenet created a compassionate portrait of Manon and a love letter to the city of Paris itself. The opera's musical highlights, including Manon's "Adieu, notre petite table" (Farewell, our little table), Des Grieux's "Le rêve" (or Dream aria) and their passionate encounter in the Church of Saint-Sulpice, have made *Manon* one of the most enduring and thrilling lyric works of the Belle Époque.

Eun Sun Kim has led a broad repertoire throughout her tenure as San Francisco Opera's Music Director, from the world premiere of John Adams' *Antony and Cleopatra* to her annual explorations of works by Giuseppe Verdi and Richard Wagner, which this season includes *Simon Boccanegra* (September 12–27) and *Das Rheingold* (May 29–June 22, 2027). With *Manon*, Kim returns to the French repertoire, which she has conducted on concert programs with the Opera and, in 2022, the Centennial Season performances of Poulenc's *Dialogues of the Carmelites*. The *San Francisco Chronicle* said her interpretation of *Dialogues* "conjures up every expressive strand in Poulenc's suave score and weaves it into a rich dramatic tapestry."

Director and costume designer Vincent Boussard returns to stage this co-production of San Francisco Opera, Lithuanian National Opera and Ballet Theatre and the Israeli Opera, in collaboration with set designer Vincent Lemaire and lighting designer Gary Marder. The production was hailed by San Francisco Classical Voice: "The lighting plays a huge role in the staging's success, from the colorful washes of the first act, through the bare bulb and oversized shadows of the second, to the overwhelming darkness of Manon's death scene." Boussard said of the opera: "I believe the story of a young lady who wants to listen to a call for freedom and pleasure belongs to our time."

Egyptian soprano Amina Edris performs the title role of *Manon*. Since making her Company debut in 2016 as Frasquita in Bizet's *Carmen* while an Adler Fellow, Edris has returned to sing Juliette in Gounod's *Roméo et Juliette* in 2019 (also with Pene Pati) and, in 2022, to create Cleopatra in the world premiere of John Adams' *Antony and Cleopatra*, which launched the Company's Centennial Season. Her success quickly spread to the stages of Europe, where she is especially known for her portrayals of French heroines like Manon, Juliette, Marguerite, Thaïs and lesser-known roles like the title part in Massenet's *Ariane* and Alice in Meyerbeer's *Robert le Diable* (the latter two recorded for Palazetto Bru Zane). The French opera magazine Olyrix observed: "Her stage presence is irreproachable, taking us intensely through Manon's painful journey." San Francisco Classical Voice praised her Juliette as "... a performance that combined dexterous, pinpoint coloratura with lilting lyricism, an abundance of youthful romantic verve and just the right touch of naïve innocence. And

in the climactic final aria, she manifested a level of emotional maturity that has long been the signature of great Juliets."

Pene Pati returns to the War Memorial Opera House stage as Manon's devoted lover, the Chevalier des Grieux. Among today's leading tenors on the operatic stage, Pati began his sensational rise in leading roles with San Francisco Opera as the Duke of Mantua in Verdi's *Rigoletto* in 2017 while still an Adler Fellow. He has flourished in Paris, Milan, Vienna and New York in an array of roles. His excellence in the French repertoire was recognized in May 2026 when he was knighted by the French government and named Chevalier de l'ordre des Arts and des Lettres. Pati, who is offstage the husband of Amina Edris, is the subject, along with his brother Amitai Pati, of the documentary film *TENOR: My Name is Pati*, which had its premiere earlier this year at the 41st Santa Barbara International Film Festival.

Baritone **Vitor Bispo** makes his American debut as Lescaut, Manon's protective cousin who attempts to uphold the family name. **Stephen Gaertner** joins the Company as the nobleman De Brétigny; **James Creswell** reprises the role of Comte des Grieux; **Stephen Cole** is Guillot de Morfontaine; the Innkeeper is **Olivier Zerouali**; the three young actresses are performed by **Sofia Gotch** (Poussette), **Laura Krumm** (Javotte) and **Taylor Raven** (Rosette); and many other roles are taken by artists of the San Francisco Opera Chorus, which is prepared by Chorus Director **John Keene**.

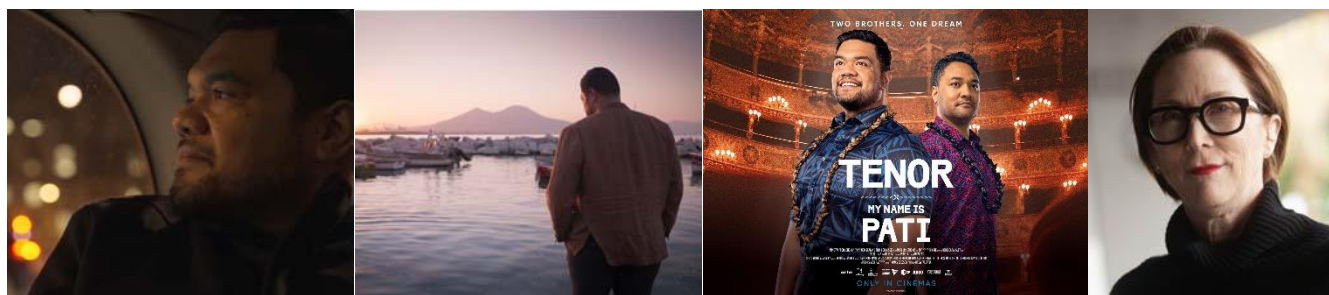
San Francisco Opera first presented *Manon* in 1924, the Company's second season, with Company founder Gaetano Merola conducting a cast featuring Greek soprano Thalia Sabanieva in the title role and Italian tenor Tito Schipa as Des Grieux. Casts in later seasons have featured operatic luminaries such as sopranos Bidú Sayão, Grace Moore, Leyla Gencer, Beverly Sills, Sheri Greenawald and Ruth Ann Swenson. The list of tenors who performed Des Grieux with the Company includes Beniamino Gigli, Nicolai Gedda, Jerry Hadley and Michael Fabiano.

Performed in French with English supertitles, the seven performances of *Manon* are scheduled for October 15 (7:30 p.m.), 18 (2 p.m.), 21 (7:30 p.m.), 24 (7:30 p.m.), 27 (7:30 p.m.), 30 (7:30 p.m.); November 1 (2 p.m.), 2026.

PRE-OPERA TALKS

Michael Mohammed presents a 20-minute overview of *Manon* beginning 55 minutes prior to each performance for ticketholders. An audio recording of the talk will be made available at sfopera.com/manon after the first performance.

**FILM SCREENING: *TENOR: My Name is Pati*, October 11 at 6 p.m., post-screening Q&A with
tenor Pene Pati and film director Rebecca Tansley
Roxie Theater, 3117 16th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103**



Scenes from *TENOR: My Name is Pati*. Filmmaker Rebecca Tansley

On Sunday, October 11 at 6 p.m., the Roxie Theater in San Francisco's Mission District will screen *TENOR: My Name is Pati*, director Rebecca Tansley's documentary about Samoan tenor brothers Pene and Amitai Pati. The film includes Pati family home movies and soaring performance footage of the Patis at San Francisco Opera and on other major stages around the world. Blending humor and heart, the film underscores family and cultural pride, and how determination and resilience can yield rewards when chasing a dream. **Pene Pati**, who stars in San Francisco Opera's production of Massenet's *Manon* (October 15–November 1), is scheduled to participate in a post-screening Q&A with director **Rebecca Tansley**. Watch a trailer of *TENOR: My Name is Pati* [HERE](#). For tickets and more information about the Roxie screening, visit [HERE](#).

LIVESTREAM: *MANON*, Wednesday, October 21

The Wednesday, October 21 performance of *Manon* will be livestreamed at 7:30 p.m. PT and available to watch on demand for 48 hours beginning on Thursday, October 22 at 10 a.m. PT. Tickets for the livestream and on-demand period are \$25. For tickets and more information, visit sfopera.com/digital.

POST-PERFORMANCE TALKBACK WITH EUN SUN KIM: Sunday, November 1

Following the Sunday, November 1 matinee of *Manon*, San Francisco Opera Music Director Eun Sun Kim will host a post-performance talkback with Rehearsal Department Director Trey Costerisan. Ticketholders are invited to gather for this discussion about presenting a work like *Manon*, both on the stage and behind the scenes.

TICKETS AND INFORMATION

Tickets for *Manon* are priced from \$30 to \$447. 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. For information about subscriber benefits and special series subscriptions, including the Student & Teacher Series offering 50% off select Full, Half and DYO Series, visit sfopera.com/subscribe.

Tickets for the October 21 livestream and on-demand period of *Manon* are \$25. For more information, visit sfopera.com/digital.

The Dolby Family's *Opera for the Bay* \$10 tickets to *Manon* go on sale Tuesday, September 15 at 12 p.m. These tickets are available for Bay Area residents (home address zip code between 94000–95999) who have not purchased tickets in the past three seasons. Dolby tickets are limited to two tickets per eligible patron, and inventory is limited and often sells out within a matter of hours. For more information, visit sfopera.com/dolby.

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.

Gifts of all sizes help create San Francisco Opera's programs and are greatly 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 2026–27 Season, visit sfopera.com.

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MANON CASTING AND CALENDAR

#U.S. debut *San Francisco Opera Debut ♪Role Debut †Current Adler Fellow

◊Adler Fellowship Graduate +Merola Opera Program Graduate

All performances take place at the War Memorial Opera House (301 Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco), unless noted.

MANON by Jules Massenet

October 15 (7:30 p.m.), **18** (2 p.m.), **21** (7:30 p.m.), **24** (7:30 p.m.), **27** (7:30 p.m.), **30** (7:30 p.m.);
November 1 (2 p.m.), 2026

San Francisco Opera co-production with Lithuanian National Opera and Ballet Theatre and the Israeli Opera

Libretto by Henri Meilhac and Philippe Gille after Antoine-François Prévost's novel *L'histoire du chevalier des Grieux et de Manon Lescaut*

Approximate running time: 3 hours, 25 minutes with 2 intermissions

Performed in French with English supertitles

World Premiere:

Paris, Opéra-Comique; January 19, 1884

First San Francisco Opera performance: September 29, 1924
Most recent: November 2017

Cast:

<i>Manon</i>	Amina Edris ⁺
<i>Chevalier des Grieux</i>	Pene Pati ⁺
<i>Lescart</i>	Vitor Bispo [#] ♪
<i>Comte des Grieux</i>	James Creswell ⁺
<i>Guillot de Morfontaine</i>	Steven Cole♪
<i>De Brétigny</i>	Stephen Gaertner [*] ♪
<i>Poussette</i>	Sofia Gotch ⁺ ♪
<i>Javotte</i>	Laura Krumm ⁺
<i>Rosette</i>	Taylor Raven ⁺ ♪
<i>An innkeeper</i>	Olivier Zerouali ⁺ ♪
<i>An old lady</i>	Cheryl Cain [*] ♪
<i>A porter</i>	William Lee Bryan♪
<i>A female traveler</i>	Jesslyn Thomas♪
<i>Another female traveler</i>	Whitney Steele♪
<i>Yet another female traveler</i>	Sally Mouzon♪
<i>A male traveler</i>	Chester Pidduck♪
<i>Another male traveler</i>	Eric Levintow [*] ♪
<i>Yet another male traveler</i>	Andrew Thomas Pardini♪
<i>First guard</i>	Michael Jankosky♪
<i>Second guard</i>	Kevin Gino♪
<i>Third guard (Archer)</i>	Andrew Thomas Pardini♪
<i>A maid-servant</i>	Silvie Jensen♪
<i>Dealer</i>	Nikolas Nackley♪
<i>Gamblers</i>	Daniel Cilli ⁺ ♪, B Schaubhut [*] ♪
<i>A voice</i>	Nikolas Nackley♪
<i>Sergeants</i>	Nikolas Nackley ⁺ ♪, Kevin Gino ⁺ ♪, Michael Jankosky
<i>Ballerina</i>	Blanche Hampton♪
<i>Prostitute</i>	Chiharu Shibata♪

Creative Team:

<i>Conductor</i>	Eun Sun Kim
<i>Director</i>	Vincent Boussard
<i>Set Designer</i>	Vincent Lemaire
<i>Costume Designer</i>	Vincent Boussard
<i>Lighting Designer</i>	Gary Marder
<i>Chorus Director</i>	John Keene
<i>Fight Director</i>	Dave Maier
<i>Intimacy Director</i>	Maya Herbsman

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

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

San Francisco Opera is supported, in part, by a grant from Grants for the Arts.



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*deceased

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

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