



SAN FRANCISCO OPERA PRESENTS

LA BOHÈME

June 3–21



Scenes from *La Bohème* (Photos: Cory Weaver/San Francisco Opera); Ramón Tebar

Ramón Tebar leads revival of John Caird's staging featuring two international casts in nine performances at the War Memorial Opera House

Tickets available at (415) 864-3330 and [sfopera.com](https://www.sfopera.com)

***Bohème Out of the Box* mobile-stage production brings Puccini's classic to four Bay Area communities April–June**

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (April 25, 2025) — San Francisco Opera's 2025 Summer Season opens June 3 with one of opera's all-time classics, Giacomo Puccini's *La Bohème* in director John Caird's "elegant staging" (*Mercury News*). Ramón Tebar conducts the San Francisco Opera Orchestra and two brilliant casts in nine performances through June 21. John Keene, the Company's Chorus Director, prepares the San Francisco Opera Chorus.

Based on French writer Henri Murger's autobiographical *Scènes de la vie de bohème*, Puccini's opera follows the lives and loves of a group of impoverished Parisian artists. Nearly 130 years after its world premiere in Italy, *La Bohème* is among the most popular and frequently performed operas in the repertoire. San Francisco Opera opened its inaugural season in 1923 with *La Bohème*, conducted by Company founder Gaetano Merola.

Caird's staging, inspired by the pictorial world of Belle Époque artist Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec, is a co-production between San Francisco Opera, Houston Grand Opera and Canadian Opera Company and was first presented here in 2014 and revived in 2017. The presentation showcases the work of production designer David Farley, lighting designer Michael Clark and is directed in revival by Katherine M. Carter.



Cast for the June 3, 7, 10, 12, 15, 19 performances include: Pene Pati (Rodolfo), Karen Chia-ling Ho (Mimi), Andrea Carroll (Musetta), Lucas Meachem (Marcello)

Samoan tenor **Pene Pati** brings his portrayal of the poet Rodolfo, which has touched audiences in Europe, Canada and, most recently, Chicago, to San Francisco for the first time. Heralded as “a Rodolfo to die for” by *Chicago Reader*, Pati returns to the stage where he began as an Adler Fellow and has since won critical and popular acclaim in operas by Verdi, Gounod and Donizetti. Tenor **Evan LeRoy Johnson**, whose Company debut as Lensky in *Eugene Onegin* “filled the cavernous War Memorial with gorgeous, well-focused, lyrical voice” (San Francisco Classical Voice), alternates as Rodolfo beginning June 13.

Taiwanese soprano **Karen Chia-ling Ho**, who won praise for her “powerful” (*San Francisco Chronicle*) appearances with the Company as Princess Jia in Bright Sheng and David Henry Hwang’s *Dream of the Red Chamber*, makes her role debut as Mimi. Sharing the role is Australian soprano **Nicole Car** who made her 2022 Company debut as Donna Elvira in Mozart’s *Don Giovanni*. The *New York Times* hailed Car’s “fine-grained tone and nuanced acting” as Mimi.



Cast for June 13, 18, 21 performances include: Evan LeRoy Johnson (Rodolfo), Nicole Car (Mimi), Brittany Renee (Musetta), Will Liverman (Marcello)

Andrea Carroll makes her Company debut as Musetta, sharing the role with **Brittany Renee**, who was last seen on the War Memorial Opera House stage as Julie in Rhiannon Giddens and Michael

Abels' *Omar*. In a return to the works of Puccini in San Francisco, **Lucas Meachem** portrays the painter Marcello. During the Company's Centennial Season performances of Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*, San Francisco Classical Voice said: "Meachem was as strong and satisfying as ever ... he sang in a voice that reflected authority, concern and alarm. And in the final act ... the warmth that makes him such an endearing favorite of San Francisco audiences came to the fore." Baritone **Will Liverman**, a standout at the Metropolitan Opera in recent performances of Terence Blanchard's *Fire Shut Up in My Bones* and Anthony Davis' *X: The Life and Times of Malcolm X*, shares the role beginning June 13.



Cast for all performances include: Bogdan Talos (Colline), Samuel Kidd (Schaunard),
Dale Travis (Benoit/Alcindoro)

Romanian bass **Bogdan Talos** joins the Company as Colline for all performances, and second-year San Francisco Opera Adler Fellow **Samuel Kidd** is Schaunard. San Francisco Opera Medal recipient **Dale Travis** performs the dual roles of the landlord Benoit in Act I and Alcindoro in Act II.

Spanish conductor **Ramón Tebar**, who brought "vivacious energy" (*San Francisco Chronicle*) to Donizetti's *The Elixir of Love* (*L'Elisir d'Amore*) in his 2023 San Francisco Opera debut, will conduct. Tebar is the principal conductor and artistic director of Opera Naples in Florida and he has conducted *La Bohème* at the Vienna State Opera, Hamburg State Opera and the Aspen Music Festival.

The exuberance of *La Bohème*'s Parisian setting extends into the lobby areas of the Opera House with décor and entertainers providing selfie opportunities inspired by the Café Momus, Parpignol's toy shoppe and other Latin Quarter scenes from the opera's second act.

Sung in Italian with English supertitles, the nine performances of *La Bohème* are scheduled for June 3 (7:30 p.m.), 7 (7:30 p.m.), 10 (7:30 p.m.), 12 (7:30 p.m.), 13 (7:30 p.m.), 15 (2 p.m.), 18 (7:30 p.m.), 19 (7:30 p.m.), 21 (7:30 p.m.), 2025.

LIVESTREAM on June 10 at 7:30 p.m. Pacific

The third performance of *La Bohème* on Tuesday, June 10 at 7:30 p.m. Pacific, will be livestreamed. Tickets, which include a 48-hour on-demand window beginning June 16 at 10 a.m. Pacific, are \$27.50. For more information, visit sfopera.com/digital/livestream.

BOHÈME OUT OF THE BOX



Scenes from *Bohème Out of the Box*.

Photos: Kristen Loken (l), Reneff-Olson Productions (c), Stefan Cohen (r)

Returning for its third consecutive year, San Francisco Opera's popular *Bohème Out of the Box* presentation of an abridged version of *La Bohème* staged on a converted shipping container will visit Sausalito (April 26, 27), San Ramon (May 1), Los Altos Hills (May 3, 4) and Hayward (June 28, 29). Performances take place outdoors and are free of charge. The cast will include current San Francisco Opera Adler Fellows **Caroline Corrales** (Mimi), **Samuel White** (Rodolfo), **Georgiana Adams** (Musetta), **Samuel Kidd** (Marcello) and **Jongwon Han** (Colline) with guest artist **Philip Skinner** (Benoit/Alcindoro). Adler Fellows **Ji Youn Lee** and **Julian Grabarek** will alternate performances at the piano, and **Jose Maria Condemi** directs. For complete venue information, directions, parking, public transit and event updates, visit sfopera.com/box.

TICKETS AND INFORMATION

Tickets for *La Bohème* range from \$28–\$438 and are available at the San Francisco Opera Box Office (301 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco), by calling (415) 864-3330 and online at sfopera.com. San Francisco Opera 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). 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.

Tickets for the June 10 livestream are \$27.50 each. For more information, visit sfopera.com/digital/livestream.

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, 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 appreciated. To donate visit sfopera.com/donate.

Pre-opera talks take place 55 minutes prior to every performance in the orchestra level of the Opera House. The 20-minute overview of *La Bohème* is presented by Robert Hartwell.

All casting, schedule and ticket prices are subject to change. For further information, visit sfopera.com.

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LA BOHÈME CASTING AND CALENDAR

*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.

LA BOHÈME by Giacomo Puccini

June 3 (7:30 p.m.), 7 (7:30 p.m.), 10 (7:30 p.m.), 12 (7:30 p.m.), 13 (7:30 p.m.), 15 (2 p.m.), 18 (7:30 p.m.), 19 (7:30 p.m.), 21 (7:30 p.m.), 2025

Libretto by Giuseppe Giacosa and Luigi Illica

Co-production of San Francisco Opera, Houston Grand Opera and Canadian Opera Company

Approximate running time: 2 hours, 15 minutes including one intermission

Sung in Italian with English supertitles

World Premiere: Turin; February 1, 1896

First SFO performance: September 26, 1923

Most Recent: June–July 2017

Cast:

<i>Mimi</i>	Karen Chia-ling Ho†+ (June 3, 7, 10, 12, 15, 19) Nicole Car (June 13, 18, 21)
<i>Rodolfo</i>	Pene Pati◇+ (June 3, 7, 10, 12, 15, 19) Evan LeRoy Johnson (June 13, 18, 21)
<i>Musetta</i>	Andrea Carroll* (June 3, 7, 10, 12, 15, 19) Brittany Renee (June 13, 18, 21)
<i>Marcello</i>	Lucas Meachem◇+ (June 3, 7, 10, 12, 15, 19) Will Liverman* (June 13, 18, 21)
<i>Colline</i>	Bogdan Talos*

Schaunard
Benoit / Alcindoro
Parpignol
Custom House Officer
Sergeant
Prune Vendor

Samuel Kidd†+
Dale Travis◇+
Chester Pidduck
Nikolas Nackley*♪
Andrew Pardini♪
C. Michael Belle♪

Creative Team:

Conductor
Production
Revival Director
Production Designer
Lighting Designer
Chorus Director

Ramón Tebar
John Caird
Katherine M. Carter*
David Farley
Michael Clark
John Keene

San Francisco Opera Orchestra and San Francisco Opera Chorus

BOHÈME OUT OF THE BOX

Returning for its third consecutive year, San Francisco Opera's free *Bohème Out of the Box* presentation of an abridged version of *La Bohème* on a converted shipping container will visit Bay Area communities from April through June. The cast features San Francisco Opera Adler Fellows and is directed by Jose Maria Condemí. For venue information and directions, visit sfopera.com/box.

SAUSALITO

Parking lot next to the Sausalito Center for the Arts
50 Humbolt Avenue, Sausalito, CA 94965
Saturday, April 26 at 2 p.m.
Sunday, April 27 at 2 p.m.

SAN RAMON

Alexander Square at City Center, Bishop Ranch
6000 Bollinger Canyon Road, San Ramon, CA 94583
Thursday, May 1 at 12:30 p.m.

LOS ALTOS HILLS

Hidden Villa (registration, parking fee, and early arrival are required, visit sfopera.com/box.)
26870 Moody Road, Los Altos Hills, CA 94022
Saturday, May 3 at 2 p.m.
Sunday, May 4 at 2 p.m.

HAYWARD

Heritage Plaza

835 C Street, Hayward, CA 94541

Saturday, June 28 at 2 p.m.

Sunday, June 29 at 2 p.m.

San Francisco Opera is sponsored, in part, by Julie Dickson, Jerome & Thao Dodson, The Dolby Family, Bertie Bialek Elliott, Keith & Priscilla Geeslin, Gordon P. Getty, Louise Gund, John A. & Cynthia Fry Gunn, J. Burgess Jamieson (in memoriam) & Elizabeth B. Jamieson, Franklin & Catherine Johnson, Edmund W. & Jeannik Méquet Littlefield Fund, Steven M. Menzies, Bernard & Barbro Osher, Barbara Oshman, Marieke & Jeff Rothschild, Jan Shrem & Maria Manetti Shrem, Dianne & Tad Taube, Phyllis C. Wattis Endowment Funds, Diane B. Wilsey, Barbara A. Wolfe and an anonymous donor.

La Bohème is made possible, in part, by Jerome L. & Thao N. Dodson; Bertie Bialek Elliott; Staffan & Margareta Encrantz; John A. & Cynthia Fry Gunn; J. Burgess Jamieson (in memoriam) & Elizabeth B. Jamieson; Franklin & Catherine Johnson; and Dianne & Tad Taube.

Ramón Tebar's appearance is made possible by
the Jan Shrem & Maria Manetti Shrem Conductors Fund

Karen Chia-ling Ho, Evan LeRoy Johnson, Brittany Renee, Will Liverman, Pene Pati, & Andrea Carroll's appearances are made possible by a gift to the Emerging Stars Fund by Jan Shrem & Maria Manetti Shrem.

Bohème Out of the Box is made possible, in part, by the Creative Edge Fund with major support from founding funders Carol and Dixon Doll, Peter Fenton and Kate Greer, and Bob Ellis.
Additional support is provided by Dolby Laboratories, The Diana Dollar Knowles Foundation,
and an anonymous donor.

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

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



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

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