



SAN FRANCISCO  
OPERA

## OPERA BALL AND VERDI'S *RIGOLETTO* LAUNCH SAN FRANCISCO OPERA'S NEW SEASON ON SEPTEMBER 5



*Rigoletto* (photo: Cory Weaver); *Opera Ball 2024* (photos: Drew Altizer Photography)

### Music Director Eun Sun Kim Conducts International Cast in Production Inspired by Giorgio de Chirico's Artwork

### Palazzo-Themed Gala Dinner and After-Party at San Francisco City Hall

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (September 2, 2025) — To raise the curtain on San Francisco Opera's 103rd season, San Francisco Opera and San Francisco Opera Guild present *Opera Ball* on Friday, September 5, 2025. The festive evening includes a cocktail reception, dinner and after-party in San Francisco's City Hall along with the opening night performance of Giuseppe Verdi's *Rigoletto* in the War Memorial Opera House. *Opera Ball* is co-chaired by Jennifer Bienaimé and Isabel Rhee and proceeds raised at the event directly support San Francisco Opera's artistic initiatives and San Francisco Opera Guild's education programming which reach thousands of arts lovers of all ages in K-12 classrooms and after-school programs.

Co-Chairs Jennifer Bienaimé and Isabel Rhee said: "*Opera Ball 2025* will be an Italian extravaganza inspired by the Duke of Mantua's Palazzo Ducale, from our opening night opera, *Rigoletto*. Imagine the Renaissance court entertaining their guests in majestic style, and we envisioned the same by transforming City Hall into a palazzo. As our signature fundraiser, *Opera Ball* would not be a success without the support of our community of philanthropists, corporate sponsors and patrons. Thank you for your continued partnership and generosity in building a vibrant opera and Guild education program! It is a sincere honor to co-chair *Opera Ball* and to give back to the Company. We look

forward to an enchanting evening with friends, where our heartstrings will inevitably be pulled in unexpected ways during *Rigoletto* and where we can all join the merriment at the after-party!"

As the evening's musical centerpiece, *Rigoletto*, Verdi's propulsive drama about a tormented court jester who tries to protect his sheltered daughter, features Caroline H. Hume Music Director **Eun Sun Kim** on the podium and the San Francisco Opera Orchestra and Chorus with an international cast, including **Amartuvshin Enkhbat** (*Rigoletto*), **Yongzhao Yu** (the Duke), **Adela Zaharia** (Gilda) and **J'Nai Bridges** (Maddalena). **Jose Maria Condemi** directs the Giorgio de Chirico-inspired production, filled with tall archways and long shadows, created by set designer **Michael Yeargan**, costume designer **Constance Hoffman** and lighting designer **Justin A. Partier**.

Beginning at 5 p.m., *Opera Ball* guests arrive on the red carpet and promenade to a festive cocktail reception in the Beaux-Arts rotunda of San Francisco's City Hall, transformed by event designer **J. Riccardo Benavides**. A lavish culinary experience created by the local chefs of **McCalls Catering & Events** will follow at 6 p.m. Guests then make their way across Van Ness Avenue to the War Memorial Opera House for the 8 p.m. performance of Verdi's *Rigoletto*. After the curtain goes down, the after-party at City Hall awaits. Attendees can dance the night away to **DJ heyLove** and live music by **The Dick Bright Orchestra** or lounge with their elixir of choice, sweet and savory bites and enjoy the revelry.

In partnership with San Francisco Opera's BRAVO! Club, the season-opening celebration also offers *BRAVO! Ball*, including a cocktail celebration and buffet dinner, beginning at 6 p.m., and after-party at City Hall.

Tickets for the *Rigoletto* performance and the After-Party only are also available.

*Opera Ball 2025* sponsors include **Diane B. Wilsey** (Opening Weekend Grand Sponsor), **TriplePoint Capital** (Platinum Sponsor), **Amazon** (Gold Sponsor), **Scharffenberger Cellars** (Sparkling Wine Sponsor), **Frog's Leap Winery** and **La Sirena Napa Valley** (White Wine Sponsors), **Château de Pommard** and **Famille Carabello-Baum** (Red Wine Sponsor), **Bvlgari** (Benefactor Party Sponsor), **181 Fremont Residences** (Advocate Party Sponsor), **J. Riccardo Benavides Event Styling** (Event Design), **McCalls Catering & Events** (Catering), **The Caviar Co.** (Caviar Sponsor) and **Haute Living San Francisco** and **Nob Hill Gazette** (Media Sponsors). Special thanks to **DJ heyLove**, **SnapFiesta**, **Soirée Valet**, **The Dick Bright Orchestra** and **Olivia Warnecke**.

# # # #

## TICKETS AND INFORMATION

*Opera Ball* is sold out; contact the Box Office to join the waitlist. Tickets for *Opera Ball 2025: Palazzo* range from \$2,000 to \$10,000 for individuals with the option to purchase a table seating 10. All tickets include cocktail reception, dinner, after-party, and a tax-deductible donation to San Francisco Opera (FMV \$350). *Opera Ball* tickets do not include performance tickets. For more information and to join the waitlist, please call (415) 864-3330 or visit [sfopera.com/operaball](https://sfopera.com/operaball).

Tickets for the BRAVO! Club's *BRAVO! Ball* range from \$475–\$950. Tickets include the cocktail celebration, buffet and after-party. (BRAVO! Club membership is not required for *BRAVO! Ball* tickets).

Tickets for the *Rigoletto* performance are \$36–\$447.

Tickets for the After-Party only are \$195.

For tickets, visit [sfopera.com](https://sfopera.com), call (415) 864-3330 or visit the Box Office in the lobby of the War Memorial Opera House at 301 Van Ness Avenue.

# # # #

**Friday, September 5, 2025**

### ***Opera Ball***

5 p.m. Cocktail Reception

6 p.m. Dinner

11 p.m. After-Party

### **City Hall**

1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place

San Francisco, CA 94102

### ***BRAVO! Ball***

6 p.m. Cocktails and Dinner Buffet

11 p.m. After-Party

### **City Hall**

1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place

San Francisco, CA 94102

### ***Rigoletto***

8 p.m. Opening Night Performance

### **War Memorial Opera House**

301 Van Ness Avenue

San Francisco, CA 94102

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

Yamaha is the official piano of San Francisco Opera.

*Opera Ball* is made possible, in part, by Opening Weekend Grand Sponsor Diane B. Wilsey.

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



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PRESS PHOTOS: High-resolution, downloadable event images and production photos of *Rigoletto* are available at [sfopera.com/press](http://sfopera.com/press).

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