



**SAN FRANCISCO OPERA PRESENTS NEW PRODUCTION OF
RICHARD WAGNER'S *PARSIFAL*, OCTOBER 25–NOVEMBER 13**

Music Director Eun Sun Kim conducts the composer's final masterwork in new staging by director Matthew Ozawa with choreography by Rena Butler



Design for *Parsifal*; Eun Sun Kim (conductor); Matthew Ozawa (director); Rena Butler (choreographer)

International cast features Brandon Jovanovich, Brian Mulligan, Kwangchul Youn, Falk Struckmann and Company debut of Tanja Ariane Baumgartner



Brandon Jovanovich (*Parsifal*); Brian Mulligan (*Amfortas*); Kwangchul Youn (*Gurnemanz*); Falk Struckmann (*Klingsor*); Tanja Ariane Baumgartner (*Kundry*)

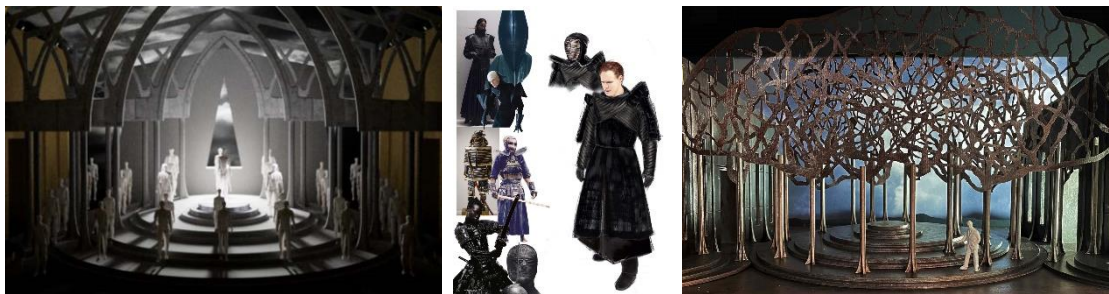
**Tickets available at (415) 864-3330 and [sfopera.com](https://www.sfopera.com)
Sunday, November 2 performance will be livestreamed**

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (September 26, 2025) — In one of the benchmark events of San Francisco Opera's 103rd season, Caroline H. Hume Music Director Eun Sun Kim conducts Richard Wagner's *Parsifal* from October 25–November 13. Wagner's enigmatic final work returns to the War Memorial

Opera House stage in a new production by director **Matthew Ozawa**. Company Chorus Director **John Keene** prepares the San Francisco Opera Chorus for *Parsifal*'s choral scenes featuring knights of the Holy Grail, seductive flower maidens and celestial voices.

Occupying Wagner for the last 25 years of his life, *Parsifal* premiered at the composer's theater in Bayreuth, Germany, in 1882, six months before his death. The score marks the apex of the composer's paradigm-shaping craft, with its variegated soundscape of textures, colors, melodic themes and suspended harmonies that intensify the emotional resonance of this story about finding enlightenment through compassion.

Parsifal marks the continuation of **Eun Sun Kim**'s exploration of Wagner's works each season in San Francisco. Her Wagner journey began in 2023 with *Lohengrin*, the preparation for which was captured in the NorCal Emmy-nominated documentary [*Eun Sun Kim: A Journey Into Lohengrin*](#). Last season, she conducted her first performances of *Tristan und Isolde* of which the *San Francisco Chronicle* said, "Kim commands every page of this daunting and harmonically unsettled score, from the hushed opening of the prelude through to Isolde's concluding aria nearly five hours later."



Designs for *Parsifal* by Yuki Nakase Link (l), Jessica Jahn (c), Robert Innes Hopkins (r)

Director **Matthew Ozawa** said: "At a time when the world seems increasingly fractured, I believe *Parsifal* speaks directly to the crisis of disconnection so many of us feel. Its music and message reach into something primal—a longing for healing and meaning. As we participate together in this shared theatrical ritual, may we be reminded of the possibility of transformation—through empathy, through compassion and through art."

The creative team for Ozawa's vision of *Parsifal* includes three collaborators from his critically acclaimed 2022 production of Gluck's *Orpheus and Eurydice* for San Francisco Opera: costume designer **Jessica Jahn**, lighting designer **Yuki Nakase Link** and choreographer **Rena Butler**. **Robert Innes Hopkins**, who designed the Company's productions of *Tosca* (2017, 2021), *La Traviata* (2022), *The Elixir of Love* (2023) and *Tristan und Isolde* (2024), is the set designer.

The international cast is headed by American tenor **Brandon Jovanovich** as Parsifal, the naïve youth who stumbles upon the knights of the Holy Grail and begins a hero's journey of enlightenment. Among the world's leading interpreters of Wagner's heldentenor roles, Jovanovich

made his role debuts as Froh in *Das Rheingold*, Siegmund in *Die Walküre*, the title role of *Lohengrin* and Walther in *Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg* with San Francisco Opera.

German mezzo-soprano **Tanja Ariane Baumgartner** makes her Company debut as the mysterious Kundry. A frequent star with the Vienna State Opera, Baumgartner made headlines when she replaced an injured colleague as Brangäne in *Tristan und Isolde* at the 2024 Glyndebourne Festival. *Opera* reported: "Baumgartner gave an object lesson in projection of the words and, an experienced Wagnerian, sang in exemplary style."

South Korean bass **Kwangchul Youn** returns to the Company as the wise, elder knight, Gurnemanz, a role for which he is renowned and has performed around the world, including in Houston under Kim's baton. Youn is scheduled to eclipse his 100th performance of the role while in San Francisco. Baritone **Brian Mulligan** portrays Amfortas, the Grail King who suffers from a wound that can only be healed through redemption. Mulligan has portrayed a variety of roles in his distinguished association with San Francisco Opera, including his recent role debut as Telramund in *Lohengrin*. Celebrated Wagnerian **Falk Struckmann**, who made his Company debut as Alberich in Wagner's *Ring* cycle in 2018, portrays the sorcerer, Klingsor.

Knights of the Grail, Esquires and Flower Maidens are performed by **Samuel White** (First Knight), **Jongwon Han** (Second Knight), **Elisa Sunshine** (First Esquire/First Flower Maiden), **Laura Krumm** (Second Esquire/Third Flower Maiden), **Christopher Oglesby** (Third Esquire), **Thomas Kinch** (Fourth Esquire), **Georgiana Adams** (Second Flower Maiden), **Jana McIntyre** (Fourth Flower Maiden), **Olivia Smith** (Fifth Flower Maiden) and **Caroline Corrales** (Sixth Flower Maiden). Bass **David Soar** is Titurel, the former Grail King, and mezzo-soprano **Nikola Printz** is the Voice. Dancer **Charmaine Butcher** portrays Parsifal's Mother.

In 1950 *Parsifal* was among the last of Wagner's mature operas to enter the repertoire of San Francisco Opera (followed only by *Der Fliegende Holländer* in 1954). The Company's presentations of *Parsifal* have featured many of the leading interpreters, including Jess Thomas and René Kollo as Parsifal; Kirsten Flagstad, Astrid Varnay and Waltraud Meier as Kundry; and bass Kurt Moll who made his American debut with San Francisco Opera as Gurnemanz in 1974 and reprised the role in 1988 and 2000. Conductors of the work in San Francisco include Jonel Perlea, Erich Leinsdorf, Georges Prêtre, Otmar Suitner and former Company music directors John Pritchard and Donald Runnicles.

Performed in German with English supertitles, the five performances of *Parsifal* are scheduled for October 25 (1 p.m.), 28 (6 p.m.); November 2 (1 p.m.), 7 (6 p.m.), 13 (6 p.m.), 2025.

LIVESTREAM: *PARSIFAL*, Sunday, November 2

The Sunday, November 2 matinee of *Parsifal* will be livestreamed at 1 p.m. PT. The opera will also be available to watch on demand for 48 hours, beginning on Monday, November 3 at 10 a.m. PT. Tickets for the livestream and limited on-demand viewing are \$25. For tickets and more information about livestreams, visit sfopera.com/digital.

POST-PERFORMANCE TALKBACK WITH EUN SUN KIM: Sunday, November 2

Following the Sunday, November 2 matinee of *Parsifal*, Music Director Eun Sun Kim, who conducts the performance, will host a post-performance talkback in the theater. Ticketholders are invited to gather after the performance for a discussion about Wagner's epic meditation on compassion and the work that goes into presenting it in the pit, on the stage and behind the scenes.

PRE-OPERA TALKS

Conductor and music historian Peter Susskind presents a 20-minute overview of *Parsifal* beginning 55 minutes prior to each performance for ticketholders. An audio recording of the talk will be made available at sfopera.com/parsifal.

ANCILLARY EVENTS

WAGNER SOCIETY OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA LECTURES ABOUT *PARSIFAL*

"The Redeemer Reborn, *Parsifal* as the Fifth Opera of Wagner's *Ring*" with Paul Schofield

Saturday, October 18, 1–2:30 p.m.

Virtual meeting on Zoom

The Wagner Society's presentations for members about the works of Wagner continue with writer, musician and former Zen Buddhist monk Paul Schofield discussing *Parsifal*. For information about becoming a member, visit wagnersf.org/join-renew.

"Outside/Inside: Sacred Spaces in *Parsifal*" with Professor Thomas Grey

Saturday, November 1, 1–2:30 p.m.

Jewish Community Center of San Francisco, 3200 California Street, San Francisco

Stanford University's Professor Emeritus of Musicology Thomas Grey addresses Wagner's ideas about sacred spaces in *Parsifal*. For information about becoming a member, visit wagnersf.org/join-renew.

TICKETS AND INFORMATION

Tickets for *Parsifal* are priced from \$35 to \$447. Design Your Own (DYO) subscriptions (minimum three operas) start at \$87. 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. For tickets and more information, contact the San Francisco Opera Box Office at 301 Van Ness Avenue, call (415) 864-3330 or visit at sfopera.com.

Tickets for the November 2 livestream of *Parsifal* are \$25. For more information, visit sfopera.com/digital.

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, 6, 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 much 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 2025–26 Season, visit sfopera.com.

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PARSIFAL 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)

PARSIFAL by Richard Wagner

October 25 (1 p.m.), 28 (6 p.m.); November 2 (1 p.m.), 7 (6 p.m.), 13 (6 p.m.), 2025

New San Francisco Opera production

Opera in three acts

Libretto by the composer

Approximate running time: 4 hours and 50 minutes with two intermissions

Performed in German with English supertitles

World Premiere:

Bayreuth Festival, July 26, 1882

First San Francisco Opera Performance:

October 27, 1950

Most Recent:

June/July 2000

Cast:

Parsifal
Gurnemanz
Amfortas
Kundry
Klingsor
Titirel
First Knight of the Grail
Second Knight of the Grail
First Esquire/First Flower Maiden
Second Esquire/Third Flower Maiden
Third Esquire
Fourth Esquire
Second Flower Maiden
Fourth Flower Maiden
Fifth Flower Maiden
Sixth Flower Maiden
Voice
Mother

Brandon Jovanovich
 Kwangchul Youn
 Brian Mulligan
 Tanja Ariane Baumgartner*
 Falk Struckmann
 David Soar♪
 Samuel White♪♯+
 Jongwon Han♪♯
 Elisa Sunshine♪♯+
 Laura Krumm♪♯+
 Christopher Oglesby♪♯+
 Thomas Kinch♪♯+
 Georgiana Adams♪♯+
 Jana McIntyre*♪+
 Olivia Smith♪♯+
 Caroline Corrales♪♯+
 Nikola Printz♪♯+
 Charmaine Butcher*

Creative Team:

Conductor
Director
Set Designer
Costume Designer
Lighting Designer
Choreographer
Chorus Director
Fight Director

Eun Sun Kim
 Matthew Ozawa
 Robert Innes Hopkins
 Jessica Jahn
 Yuki Nakase Link
 Rena Butler
 John Keene
 Dave Maier

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

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



San Francisco Opera is a member of



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

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