



SAN FRANCISCO OPERA 2025 SUMMER SEASON CASTING UPDATE

Sapphira Cristál will emcee the *Pride Concert* on June 27,
replacing Monét X Change



Sapphira Crystál; War Memorial Opera House in San Francisco
Photos: Joe Mac Creative (l); Reneff-Olson Productions (r)

Tickets to the *Pride Concert* are available at
(415) 864-3330 and sfopera.com

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (June 16, 2025) — San Francisco Opera today announced a change for the *Pride Concert*, which closes the Company's 2025 Summer Season mainstage presentations on Friday, June 27. Due to a scheduling conflict stemming from the extension of a [filming project](#), Monét X Change is unable to be the emcee for San Francisco Opera's inaugural *Pride Concert*. The Company looks forward to working with her in the future.

This season's *Pride Concert* will be hosted by Sapphira Cristál, a classically trained opera singer, composer and drag queen known for her theatrical lip-sync style and six-octave vocal range. She was the runner-up and named "Miss Congeniality" on season 16 of *RuPaul's Drag Race*, where she exhibited her versatility as a performer, including a special performance of "O mio babbino caro" from Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi*. In 2019, Cristál shared the stage with mezzo-soprano Stephanie Blythe at the Philadelphia Fringe Festival. She returned to the festival in 2023 as a headliner and *Philadelphia* magazine named her 2023's "Best Drag Queen Who Actually Sings." She was featured

on Madonna's Celebration Tour in 2024 and debuted *Soundcake*, her original operatic production with Monét X Change and Thorgy Thor at Lincoln Center in New York City. She has since toured her one-woman show *The Cristal Ball Tour*, brought *Sapphira Cristal Presents: One Slue Over the Cuckoo's Nest* to City Winery and appeared at New York's famed 54 Below. She is currently starring in *RuPaul's Drag Race Live* in Las Vegas.

PRIDE CONCERT

Friday, June 27



Eun Sun Kim and the San Francisco Opera Orchestra; tech rehearsal for Tal Rosner's projections; post-show dance party

Photos: Drew Altizer Photography (l), Matthew Washburn (c), Kristen Loken (r)

Coinciding with San Francisco's annual Pride Weekend, San Francisco Opera celebrates the LGBTQIA+ community with the June 27 Pride Concert, which features the San Francisco Opera Orchestra, conducted by Caroline H. Hume Music Director **Eun Sun Kim** and **Robert Mollicone**, with soloists mezzo-sopranos **Jamie Barton** and **Nikola Printz** and baritone **Brian Mulligan**. Along with the concert program, hosted by **Sapphira Cristal**, the evening will include dazzling animations by **Tal Rosner** and historic images from past Pride celebrations and milestones projected onto the walls of the auditorium, and a post-show dance party.

The 80-minute musical program will include selections from opera composers Leonard Bernstein, Jake Heggie, Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky and Camille Saint-Saëns; songs from screen and stage, such as *A Star is Born* (1954), *Mame* and *La Cage aux Folles*; and folk, pop, jazz and disco anthems by Freddie Mercury, Indigo Girls and Melissa Etheridge, among others. The concert is followed by a dance party in the lobby with **DJ Juanita MORE!**

For this special celebration, San Francisco Opera is partnering with local organizations, including San Francisco Pride, The Tenderloin Museum, National AIDS Memorial, Compton's Cafeteria Riot, Marigold Project, GLBT Historical Society and Twin Peaks Tavern.

Pride Concert Event Highlights:

- Pre-show Happy Hour with discounted food and drinks
- Interactive Altar of Remembrance by the Marigold Project

- LGBTQIA+ Historical Exhibit by the GLBT Historical Society
- Sections of the AIDS Memorial Quilt display by the National AIDS Memorial
- Pre-show discussion with Suzanne Ford, executive director of SF Pride
- Concert hosted by Sapphira Cristál with soloists Jamie Barton, Brian Mulligan and Nikola Printz, conducted by Eun Sun Kim and Robert Mollicone
- Post-show dance party with DJ Juanita MORE!

On Sunday, June 29, cheer on members of San Francisco Opera and other arts organizations at the 55th annual San Francisco Pride Parade, one of the oldest celebrations of LGBTQIA+ identity in the world. For more information about the 55th San Francisco Pride Parade and Celebration, visit sfpride.org.

#

SAN FRANCISCO OPERA *PRIDE CONCERT*

Friday, June 27, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.

War Memorial Opera House, 301 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, 94102

Eun Sun Kim, conductor

Robert Mollicone, conductor

San Francisco Opera Orchestra, Kay Stern, concertmaster

Soloists:

Jamie Barton

Nikola Printz

Brian Mulligan

Georgiana Adams, Caroline Corrales, Thomas Kinch

Sapphira Cristál, emcee

E. Reed Fisher, stage director

Tal Rosner, video concept and direction

Justin A. Partier, lighting designer

For information, visit sfopera.com/pride-concert.

Tickets are priced from \$30–\$225 and are available at sfopera.com, the San Francisco Opera Box Office at (415) 864-3330 and in-person at 301 Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco.

#

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, Elizabeth B. Jamieson, in memory of Burgess 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 Anonymous.

Special thanks to Jerome & Thao Dodson for making possible the Dodson Orchestra Shell.

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



San Francisco Opera is a member of

**OPERA
AMERICA**

#

PRESS PHOTOS: High-resolution, downloadable photos are available at sfopera.com/press.

For further press information, please contact San Francisco Opera Communications:

Julia Inouye (415) 565-6430 / jinouye@sfopera.com

Jeffery McMillan (415) 565-6451 / jmcmillan@sfopera.com

Teresa Concepcion (415) 565-6470 / tconcepcion@sfopera.com