



## 2025 SCHWABACHER RECITAL SERIES CONCLUDES APRIL 10

**Soprano Leah Crocetto and Pianist Carrie-Ann Matheson Perform Music by Clara Schumann, Strauss, Rachmaninoff, Verdi and Sondheim**



Leah Crocetto, Carrie-Ann Matheson

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

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (March 26, 2025) — The Schwabacher Recital Series, presented by Merola Opera Program and San Francisco Opera Center, concludes its 41st season on Thursday, April 10 in the Dianne and Tad Taube Atrium Theater at the Diane B. Wilsey Center for Opera.

The third concert of the series showcases the artistic collaboration between soprano **Leah Crocetto** and pianist **Carrie-Ann Matheson**. The program features music by Clara Schumann, Richard Strauss, Sergei Rachmaninoff and Giuseppe Verdi, with a selection from Stephen Sondheim's *Follies* and "I'll Be Seeing You," famously recorded by Billie Holiday. Baritone Lester Lynch will join Crocetto for a duet from Verdi's *Aida*—Crocetto made her role debut as Aida with San Francisco Opera in 2016.

Described by *The New York Times* as possessing an "agile coloratura technique and a feeling for the Italianate style . . . with warmth, full penetrating sound and tenderness," American soprano **Leah Crocetto's** recent career highlights include the title roles of *Aida* and *Luisa Miller*, Liù in *Turandot* and Mimi in *La Bohème* with San Francisco Opera; Aida and Madame Lidoine in *Dialogues of the Carmelites* with Washington National Opera; Odabella in *Attila* at Teatro Petruzelli; Aida with the Metropolitan Opera, Opera Australia and Seattle Opera; Alice Ford in *Falstaff* and Leonora in *Il Trovatore* with Oper Frankfurt; Mimi and the title role of *Tosca* with Pittsburgh Opera; Eleonora in the first US performances of Donizetti's *L'Assedio di Calais* with the

Glimmerglass Festival; Desdemona in *Otello* and the titular character in Rossini's *Semiramide* with Opera National de Bordeaux; Anna in *Maometto II* with the Canadian Opera Company; Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni* with Santa Fe Opera; Desdemona with English National Opera; and Elisabetta di Valois in *Don Carlo* with Opera Philadelphia. A graduate of the Merola Opera Program (2008) and Adler Fellowship Program (2009–11), Crocetto is a Grand Finals Winner of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions.

**Carrie-Ann Matheson** has a multi-faceted international career as a pianist, conductor and educator. She is the Artistic Director of the world-renowned San Francisco Opera Center and Merola Opera Program. A native of Canada, Matheson began her career at the Metropolitan Opera as assistant conductor, prompter, pianist and vocal coach. Following her time at the Met, she joined the conducting and coaching staff at Opernhaus Zürich and also worked at Salzburger Festspiele and the Seiji Ozawa Matsumoto Festival. As a recital pianist, her collaborations with many of the world's leading opera singers include Piotr Beczala, Benjamin Bernheim, Diana Damrau, Joyce DiDonato, Jonas Kaufmann and Rolando Villazón. Her debut CD, *Douce France*, with tenor Benjamin Bernheim was recently released on the prestigious Deutsche Grammophone label. Matheson made her conducting debut in 2015 at Opernhaus Zürich, where she led works such as *La Finta Giardiniera*, *Don Pasquale* and *Iphigénie en Tauride*. Passionate about nurturing the next generation of artists, Matheson has been master class clinician and guest coach at Canadian Opera Company, Opernhaus Zürich, Metropolitan Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Music Academy of the West, Yale University and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. She is also an International Coaching Federation certified personal and leadership coach, specializing in working with artists who are striving to achieve their full potential.

### TICKETS AND INFORMATION

Tickets (general seating) are \$30 and can be purchased at the San Francisco Opera Box Office (301 Van Ness Avenue), by phone at (415) 864-3330 and online at [sfopera.com/srs](https://sfopera.com/srs). 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).

Please note: Student rush tickets, subject to availability, are available for \$15 at the Atrium Theater 30 minutes prior to the recital. (Limit of two tickets per person; valid ID is required.)

Artists, programs, schedules and ticket prices are subject to change.

The Dianne and Tad Taube Atrium Theater is a state-of-the-art performance venue utilizing the Constellation® acoustic system from Berkeley-based Meyer Sound. The Taube Atrium Theater is part of San Francisco Opera's Diane B. Wilsey Center for Opera, located on the fourth floor of the Veterans Building at 401 Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco.

To ensure flexibility for patrons, no-fee exchanges will be accepted up to two hours before performances. Patrons may donate tickets for a tax deduction until curtain time.

### 2025 SCHWABACHER RECITAL SERIES

Presented by Merola Opera Program and San Francisco Opera Center

*Artists and programs subject to change.*

Thursday, April 10, at 7:30 p.m.

Dianne and Tad Taube Atrium Theater (Veterans Building, 401 Van Ness Ave, fourth floor, San Francisco, CA 94102)

Leah Crocetto, soprano

Carrie-Ann Matheson, piano

PROGRAM includes:

- 3 Gedichte aus Ruckerts "Liebesfrühling" Op. 12 (Clara Schumann)
  - "Er ist gekommen"
  - "Liebst du um Schönheit"
  - "Warum willst du and're fragen"
- "Befreit" (Op. 39, No. 4), "Die Nacht" (Op. 10, No. 3), "Morgen!" (Op. 27, No. 4), "Cäcilie" (Op. 27, No. 2) (Richard Strauss)
- "Zdes' khorosho" (Op. 21, No. 7), "Ne poi krasavitsa, pri mne" (Op. 4, No. 4), "Vocalise" (Op. 34, No. 14), "Odinochestvo" (Op. 21, No. 6) (Sergei Rachmaninoff)
- "Ciel! mio padre" from *Aida*, with baritone Lester Lynch (Giuseppe Verdi)
- "Losing my mind" from *Follies* (Stephen Sondheim)
- "I'll be seeing you" (Sammy Fain, composer; Irving Kahal, lyricist)

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### ABOUT SAN FRANCISCO OPERA CENTER

San Francisco Opera Center operates under the auspices of San Francisco Opera. The Opera Center was created in 1982 to coordinate the Company's numerous affiliate programs that provide a continuing sequence of performance and career development opportunities to gifted young professional singers and pianists. Under the guidance of San Francisco Opera Center Artistic Director **Carrie-Ann Matheson** and General Manager **Markus Beam**, the Opera Center enables young artists of major operatic potential to develop their craft through intensive training and performance.

Founded in 1977 as the San Francisco Affiliate Artists Opera Program, Adler Fellowships are salaried, performance-oriented residencies for the most advanced young artists. Each year, a select group of exceptionally talented singers and pianists from the Merola Opera Program are

invited to continue their training through the Adler Fellowship, a program named after former San Francisco Opera General Director Kurt Herbert Adler.

San Francisco Opera Adler Fellows are trained in musical technique and preparation, foreign language skills, acting technique and movement, as well as financial management, leadership development, mental and emotional resilience, physical health and wellness, and other skills necessary for a musical career in the twenty-first century. Adler singers are often cast in mainstage roles and leading cover assignments, while Adler pianists work closely with the San Francisco Opera music staff to help prepare mainstage operas.

The program has launched the careers of many of the artists performing on our stage and on stages around the world. Alumni of the Adler Fellowship Program include sopranos Julie Adams, Amina Edris, Elza van den Heever, Patricia Racette, Nadine Sierra, Ruth Ann Swenson and Deborah Voigt; mezzo-sopranos Daniela Mack, Zanda Švède and Dolora Zajick; countertenor Aryeh Nussbaum Cohen; tenors Brian Jagde, David Lomeli, Amitai Pati, Pene Pati and Stuart Skelton; baritones Alfredo Daza, Mark Delavan, Joo Won Kang and Lucas Meachem; bass-baritones Philip Skinner, Philippe Sly and John Relyea; and bass Kenneth Kellogg.

### **ABOUT MEROLA OPERA PROGRAM**

Widely regarded as the foremost opera training program for aspiring singers, pianists and stage directors, the **Merola Opera Program** has served as a proving ground for hundreds of artists. Many Merola alumni are now among the most recognized names in the opera world.

Every summer the program offers young operatic artists the rare opportunity of studying, coaching and participating in master classes with established professionals for twelve weeks. Participants also perform in complete opera productions, concerts and recitals. Offered free of charge for all participants, the Merola Opera Program is unique in the industry in many ways. Merola was the first young artist program to provide financial support to developing artists for five years following participation through Career Grants.

In addition to members of the Adler Fellowship, alumni of the Merola Opera Program include Leona Mitchell, Ailyn Pérez, Carol Vaness, Joyce DiDonato, Susan Graham, Rolando Villazón, Thomas Hampson, Quinn Kelsey, Patrick Summers and numerous other opera luminaries.

Headed by Executive Director **Sean Waugh**, Merola Opera Program is a financially independent organization with a separate 501(c)3 which operates in close collaboration with the San Francisco Opera Center and San Francisco Opera.

Merola Opera Program is the lead sponsor of the Schwabacher Recital Series.

For more information on the San Francisco Opera Center, Adler Fellowship and Merola Opera Program, visit [sfopera.com](http://sfopera.com) and [merola.org](http://merola.org).

The Schwabacher Recital Series is sponsored, in part, by Merola Opera Program and endowed in perpetuity by the generosity of celebrated Bay Area singer, scholar and teacher James Schwabacher.

Yamaha is the official piano of San Francisco Opera. Pianos are generously provided by Piedmont Piano Company.

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To obtain further press information, including artist headshots, please visit [sfopera.com/press](http://sfopera.com/press) or contact:

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