

# SAN FRANCISCO OPERA'S 2025 SUMMER SEASON War Memorial Opera House, June 3–27

Puccini's LA BOHÈME returns under the baton of Ramón Tebar with two casts including Pene Pati and Evan LeRoy Johnson as Rodolfo and Karen Chia-ling Ho and Nicole Car as Mimì

Music Director Eun Sun Kim leads Mozart's IDOMENEO in Lindy Hume' production starring Matthew Polenzani, Daniela Mack, Ying Fang, Elza van den Heever

PRIDE CONCERT hosted by Monét X Change celebrates LGBTQIA+ community with concert and dance party in the Opera House







Puccini's *La Bohème*; Mozart's *Idomeneo*; *Pride Concert*. Photos: Cory Weaver (I), Charlie Kinross (c), Reneff-Olson Productions (r)

Free, mobile-stage BOHÈME OUT OF THE BOX production visits Bay Area communities beginning in April

Tickets available at (415) 864-3330 and sfopera.com

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (March 4, 2025) — San Francisco Opera's 2024–25 mainstage season continues at the War Memorial Opera House June 3–27 with a revival of Puccini's *La Bohème* featuring two extraordinary casts, a new-to-San Francisco Opera production of Mozart's early masterpiece *Idomeneo* and a one-night-only *Pride Concert*.

Design Your Own subscriptions and single tickets are available now for the Summer Season. Discounted Dolby Family *Opera for the Bay* tickets at \$10 each for Bay Area residents who have not purchased a performance ticket in the past three years will be offered beginning at noon on April 22 (*La Bohème*) and 29 (*Idomeneo* and *Pride Concert*). For tickets and information, visit <u>sfopera.com</u>. The third performance of *La Bohème* (June 10) and *Idomeneo* (June 20) will be livestreamed, with a 48-hour on-demand period. Tickets and information about livestreams available at <u>sfopera.com/digital/livestream</u>.

## LA BOHÈME by Giacomo Puccini June 3–21





Scene from *La Bohème*; Conductor Ramón Tebar Photos: Cory Weaver/San Francisco Opera (I), Alvaro Jarmillo (r)

La Bohème, Puccini's beloved opera about love and loss among a group of Parisian artists, returns to the War Memorial Opera House stage in San Francisco Opera's "elegant staging" (Mercury News) by John Caird with production designer David Farley, lighting designer Michael Clark and revival director Katherine M. Carter. Conductor Ramón Tebar, who was hailed for bringing "vivacious energy" (San Francisco Chronicle) to Donizetti's L'Elisir d'Amore in 2023, leads the San Francisco Opera Orchestra, Chorus and two brilliant casts in Puccini's popular work. John Keene, the Company's Chorus Director since 2022, prepares the artists of the San Francisco Opera Chorus.

Samoan tenor Pene Pati brings his portrayal of the poet Rodolfo, which has touched audiences in Europe and Canada, to San Francisco for the first time. 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. Taiwanese soprano Karen Chialing Ho, who first appeared with the Company as Princess Jia in the world premiere of Bright Sheng and David Henry Hwang's Dream of the Red Chamber, makes her role debut as Mimì. Soprano Nicole Car, a "poignant, eloquent figure" (San Francisco Chronicle) in her 2022 Company debut as Donna Elvira in Mozart's Don Giovanni, shares the role of Mimì.

Musetta will be performed by Andrea Carroll, in her Company debut, and Brittany Renee, who was last seen on the War Memorial Opera House stage as Julie in Rhiannon Giddens and Michael Abels'

Omar. Beloved San Francisco Opera artist Lucas Meachem shares the role of Marcello with debuting 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. 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 Benoit and Alcindoro.

## NEW-TO-SAN FRANCISCO OPERA PRODUCTION IDOMENEO by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart June 14–25





Scene from Mozart's *Idomeneo*; San Francisco Opera Music Director Eun Sun Kim Photos: Charlie Kinross/Opera Australia (I); Cody Pickens/San Francsico Opera (r)

Mozart's *Idomeneo* takes place in the aftermath of the Trojan War when a fateful oath to the gods by a shipwrecked king precipitates an impossible dilemma: save his people or his own son. San Francisco Opera's Caroline H. Hume Music Director **Eun Sun Kim**, who brought "the supportive grace we've come to expect from her" (*San Francisco Chronicle*) to Mozart's *The Magic Flute* last summer, conducts one of the composer's first operas which he completed when he was only 24 years old. Chorus Director John Keene prepares the San Francisco Opera Chorus for the moving choral scenes in Mozart's opera.

Lindy Hume makes her Company debut directing her recent Opera Australia and Victoria Opera coproduction which enhances the dramatic tensions onstage with imagery of the surging seas and craggy coastlines of Tasmania. The production features scenery originally designed by Michael Yeargan with additional consulting by Richard Roberts and the work of costume designer Anna Cordingley, lighting designer Verity Hampson, projection designer David Bergman and cinematography by Catherine Pettman of Sheoak Films.

Tenor **Matthew Polenzani** brings his acclaimed portrayal of Idomeneo to San Francisco Opera for the first time. **Daniela Mack**, who portrayed Frida Kahlo in Gabriela Lena Frank and Nilo Cruz's *El último sueño de Frida y Diego* and Rosmira in Handel's *Partenope* in recent seasons, returns as Idomeneo's son, Idamante, a role she first sang here in 2008. Chinese soprano **Ying Fang**, whom the

New York Times declared "indispensable in Mozart," makes her house debut as the captured Trojan princess, Ilia. Leading dramatic soprano Elza van den Heever returns to San Francisco Opera as Elettra, a rival for Idamante's love. Tenor Alek Shrader, who recently appeared with the Company as Emilio in Partenope alongside his wife, Daniela Mack, reprises his role as the High Priest, Arbace, which he performed in 2008 while the couple were San Francisco Opera Adler Fellows.

The cast includes third-year Adler Fellow **Jongwon Han** (Voice of the Oracle) and a quartet of Adlers making house debuts: **Samuel White** (Voice of Neptune, Trojan Man), **Georgiana Adams** (Cretan Woman), **Mary Hoskins** (Cretan Woman) and **Olivier Zerouali** (Trojan Man).

## PRIDE CONCERT Friday, June 27 at 7:30 p.m.





War Memorial Opera House ; HostMonét X Change Photos: Reneff-Olson Productions (I); Steven Simione (r)

San Francisco Opera has been a proud participant in San Francisco Pride since it began in the 1970s. The Company's 2025 Summer Season draws to a close on the eve of San Francisco Pride Weekend with a celebration of the LGBTQIA+ community hosted by multi-hyphenate artist Monét X Change. Classically trained in opera and winner of Season 4 of *RuPaul's Drag Race All Stars*, Monét X Change will be joined by San Francisco Opera soloists mezzo-soprano Jamie Barton, baritone Brian Mulligan and mezzo-soprano Nikola Printz for an 80-minute program featuring music by queer composers, librettists and songwriters including Tchaikovsky, Jake Heggie, Harold Arlen and the Indigo Girls. San Francisco Opera Music Director Eun Sun Kim and conductor Robert Mollicone, a former Adler Fellow, lead the San Francisco Opera Orchestra while Tal Rosner's video projections extend from the stage into the auditorium in this immersive visual and musical experience. Following the concert, a dance party will ensue in the lobby of the War Memorial Opera House with music by DJ Juanita MORE!

#### LIVESTREAM SCHEDULE

The third performances of *La Bohème* and *Idomeneo* will be livestreamed. Tickets for the streams, which include a 48-hour on-demand window to access the performance, are \$27.50. Times for

livestream performances below are Pacific Time (PT). For more information, visit sfopera.com/digital/livestream.

LA BOHÈME IDOMENEO

Tuesday, June 10 at 7:30 p.m. Friday, June 20 at 7:30 p.m.

### BOHÈME OUT OF THE BOX





Scenes from *Bohème Out of the Box*.

Photos: Reneff-Olson Productions (I). 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* with piano accompaniment out of a converted shipping container will visit Bay Area communities in April, May and June. The cast will include current San Francisco Opera Adler Fellows Caroline Corrales (Mimì), Samuel White (Rodolfo), Georgiana Adams (Musetta), Samuel Kidd (Marcello) and Jongwon Han (Colline) with Philip Skinner (Benoit/Alcindoro). Adler Fellows Ji Youn Lee and Julian Grabarek will alternate performances at the piano and Jose Maria Condemi directs. Full venue details will be announced soon. For more information, including directions, parking, public transit and event updates, visit sfopera.com/box.

#### TICKETS AND INFORMATION

Design Your Own Summer Season subscriptions are priced from \$86 to \$1,074. Single tickets for *La Bohème* and *Idomeneo* range from \$28–\$438 and the *Pride Concert* \$30–\$225. Tickets are available at the San Francisco Opera Box Office (301 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco), by calling (415) 864-3330 and online at <a href="stopera.com">stopera.com</a>. 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 and 20 livestreams are \$27.50 each. For more information, visit stopera.com/digital/livestream.

On-sale dates for the discounted \$10 Dolby tickets are April 22 (*La Bohème*) and April 29 (*Idomeneo* and *Pride Concert*). Bay Area residents (home address zip code between 94000-95999) who have not purchased tickets in the past three seasons are eligible (limit 2 seats per eligible patron) while supplies last. Visit sfopera.com/dolby for more information.

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 <a href="mailto:bart.gov">bart.gov</a> 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. The 20-minute talks provide an overview of the opera. Speakers are Robert Hartwell (*La Bohème*) and Laura Prichard (*Idomeneo*).

All casting, programs, schedules and ticket prices are subject to change. For further information about the 2025 Summer Season, visit sfopera.com.

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### 2025 SUMMER SEASON 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:

Mimi Karen Chia-ling Ho. → (June 3, 7, 10, 12, 15, 19)

Nicole Car (June 13, 18, 21)

Rodolfo Pene Pati◊ (June 3, 7, 10, 12, 15, 19)

Evan LeRoy Johnson (June 13, 18, 21)

Musetta Andrea Carroll\* (June 3, 7, 10, 12, 15, 19)

Brittany Renee (June 13, 18, 21)

Marcello Lucas Meachem (June 3, 7, 10, 12, 15, 19)

Will Liverman\* (June 13, 18, 21)

CollineBogdan Talos\*SchaunardSamuel Kidd†Benoit / AlcindoroDale Travis◊

**Creative Team:** 

Conductor Ramón Tebar Production John Caird

Revival Director Katherine M. Carter\*

Production Designer

Lighting Designer

Chorus Director

David Farley

Michael Clark

John Keene

San Francisco Opera Orchestra and San Francisco Opera Chorus

IDOMENEO by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

June 14 (7:30 p.m.), 17 (7:30 p.m.), 20 (7:30 p.m.), 22 (2 p.m.), 25 (7:30 p.m.), 2025

Libretto by Giambattista Varesco

Co-production by Opera Australia and Victorian Opera

Approximate running time: 3 hours and 30 minutes including two intermissions

Sung in Italian with English supertitles

World Premiere: Munich; January 29, 1781
First SFO performance: September 10, 1977
Most Recent: October 2008

Cast:

IdomeneoMatthew PolenzaniIdamanteDaniela Mack◊IliaYing Fang⁺

Elettra Elza van den Heever

ArbaceAlek Shrader◊High Priest of NeptuneSamuel White\*‡+♪Voice of the OracleJongwon Han†♪

Two Cretan WomenGeorgiana Adams\*+♪, Mary Hoskins\*+♪Two Trojan MenSamuel White\*+♪, Olivier Zerouali\*+♪

**Creative Team:** 

ConductorEun Sun KimDirectorLindy Hume\*Set DesignerMichael YearganCostume DesignerAnna Cordingley\*Lighting DesignerVerity Hampson\*Projection DesignerDavid Bergman\*Set Design ConsultantRichard Roberts\*

Cinematographer Catherine Pettman, Sheoak Films\*

Chorus Director John Keene

San Francisco Opera Orchestra and San Francisco Opera Chorus

#### PRIDE CONCERT

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

Monét X Change, host Eun Sun Kim, conductor Robert Mollicone, conductor

Soloists: mezzo-sopranos Jamie Barton and Nikola Printz; baritone Brian Mulligan

San Francisco Opera Orchestra

Tal Rosner, video concept and direction

The 2025 Summer Season draws to a close with a celebration of the LGBTQIA+ community hosted by Monét X Change, a trained opera singer, comedian and winner of Season 4 of *RuPaul's Drag Race All Stars*. Music Director Eun Sun Kim and conductor Robert Mollicone lead the San Francisco Opera Orchestra with soloists Jamie Barton, Brian Mulligan and Nikola Printz in an eclectic program of classical arias and anthems across genres that explore the music by queer composers, librettists and songwriters including Tchaikovsky, Jake Heggie, Harold Arlen and the Indigo Girls.

#### **BOHÈME** OUT OF THE BOX

Returning for its third consecutive year, San Francisco Opera's popular *Bohème Out of the Box* presentation of an abridged version of *La Bohème* with piano accompaniment out of a converted shipping container will visit Bay Area communities in April, May and June. The cast features San Francisco Opera Adler Fellows and is directed by **Jose Maria Condemi**. City and venue details will be announced soon. For more information, including directions, parking, public transit and event updates, visit sfopera.com/box.

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.

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

Idomeneo is made possible by Louise Gund.

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

San Francisco Opera livestreams are made possible, in part, by George and 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 the 2025 Summer Season are available at <a href="mailto:sfopera.com/press.">sfopera.com/press.</a>

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