

POCKET OPERA 2020 Season

Nicolas A. Garcia
Artistic Director

Jeffrey Jordan
Executive Director

Donald Pippin
Artistic Director Emeritus

*Discover the Magic of
Opera in English!*



2020 Season Schedule

A 20/20 Vision for the Future

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Don Giovanni

Mozart

March 1, 8, 15

Cavalleria Rusticana

Mascagni

The Cat Became a Woman

Offenbach

March 29, April 5

No Love Allowed (Das Liebesverbot)

Wagner

April 26, May 3

Carmen

Bizet

June 7, 14, 21

Cinderella (La Cenerentola)

Rossini

July 12, 19, 26

Welcome to Pocket Opera's exciting 2020 season! This marks our 43rd year presenting grand opera on an intimate scale to Bay Area audiences. Our theme for this year is "A 20/20 Vision For the Future." 2019 proved to be our most artistically successful season ever, with more performances reviewed to critical acclaim than ever before; it also was a record year for fundraising and audience growth. This has propelled us into the next decade with renewed energy and excitement. It was our first full season with our new team in place. Jeffrey Jordan, Executive Director, and Chung-Wai Soong, General Manager, have been instrumental in creating the success that we hope to build upon for 2020.

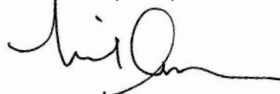
What does our 20/20 vision include? We will be expanding our Pocket Philharmonic from eight players to nine or ten, depending on the show. In the coming years I hope to expand the budget to allow for an orchestra of ten for every performance. Part of our fundraising drive this year will be dedicated to expanding orchestra rehearsal time, to ensure that our musical standards continue to exceed audience expectations. We have given a much-deserved pay increase to our singers, so that we can attract the best talent in the area. Even our look will change. The main curtain will be closed when audiences first arrive, and a new orchestra layout will allow the action onstage to draw the audience more fully into the story.

And what stories! We start the season with Mozart's masterpiece, *Don Giovanni*. Anders Froehlich, seen at San Francisco Opera as The Spanish Sailor in *Moby Dick* and Ed in *It's a Wonderful Life*, will sing the title role. He will be joined by fellow SF Opera singers Chris Filipowicz (Leporello) and Mitchell Jones (Masetto). Sara LeMesh, fresh off her triumph as Bess in *Breaking the Waves* at West Edge Opera, will sing the role of Zerlina in her Pocket Opera debut. Next up will be our double bill, *Cavalleria Rusticana* paired with *The Cat Became a Woman*. That will be followed by an opera that we have only tackled once, thirty years ago—Wagner's early work, *No Love Allowed (Das Liebesverbot)*, which will be helmed by Jonathan Khuner. The season continues with audience favorite, *Carmen*, and closes with another co-production with our colleagues at Cinnabar Theater, Rossini's *Cinderella (La Cenerentola)*.

Thrilling new talent, brilliant new musical and stage directors, musical and dramatic excellence—all of this highlights our 20/20 Vision. We hope you'll join us as we embark on a new decade of intimate opera in English.

From all of us here at Pocket Opera—our Board, artists, Donald, Jeffrey, Chung-Wai, and me—we thank you for your continued support. It is our honor and pleasure to have an audience like you!

Faithfully yours,



Nicolas A. Garcia
Artistic Director



NICOLAS A. GARCIA



DONALD PIPPIN



JEFFREY JORDAN

Save the Date: Pocket Opera's Gala and Silent Auction

Please join us once again for our annual gala! This is our most important fundraiser of the year, and is always a delightful afternoon of music and friendship. We will honor Elliot Franks for his many years of wonderful performances on the Pocket Opera stage. We'll have gourmet food and wine, lavish auction items including luxury vacations, restaurants, theater, opera, and dance tickets, plus top notch entertainment from some of your favorite Pocket singers!

Sunday, January 26th | 12:30–4:00 PM

SAN FRANCISCO WAR MEMORIAL GREEN ROOM

INVITATION
COMING SOON!

Reviews

.....

Why all the excitement?

Here's what some reviewers wrote about our 2019 season...

"Pocket Opera's 'The Two Widows' was a treat. A Smetana rarity, Pocket Opera performed the work with gusto."

- Lois Silverstein, Operawire

"The joy is in the music, and in Pocket Opera's production of The Two Widows the music carried the day...Tempos were sprightly and the ensemble was tight."

- Nicholas Jones, San Francisco Classical Voice

"(La Rondine) was a delightful performance to savor and to remind us of just how much fine work is being done in this opera world we so love. Pocket Opera, despite not relying on the largest of budgets, put together a commendable performance of a work that deserves more presentations around the world."

- Lois Silverstein, Operawire

"The characters (in Tales of Hoffmann) are well-defined, enhanced by the creative and imaginative, colorful and asymmetrical costumes by Maria Graham. Everything seems to be a little off balance, keeping the audience guessing as to what is really going on. The Pocket Philharmonic... headed by pianist Frank Johnson... is well-integrated"

- Gaetana Caldwell-Smith, For All Events

"During the full-voice finales of the two acts (of The Barber of Seville), the sound was enormously rich. There is an alchemy to any successful theatrical production, and it was obvious this group had stumbled across some of that magic."

- Michael Strickland, Civic Center Blog

Don Giovanni

Mozart

Opera's most notorious seducer returns to the Pocket Opera stage. Which of his spurned lovers will exact her revenge and drive him to the gates of Hell? Comedy, tragedy, and the supernatural mix in this, Mozart at his finest.

.....
MUSIC DIRECTOR: CÉSAR CAÑÓN
.....

ANDERS FROELICH
as DON GIOVANNI,
SARA LEMESH
as ZERLINA,
RABIHAH DUNN
as DONNA ANNA,
AND JAIME KORKOS
as DONNA ELVIRA



Sunday, March 1 | 2 PM
HILLSIDE CLUB in BERKELEY

Sunday, March 8 | 2 PM
LEGION OF HONOR in SAN FRANCISCO

Sunday, March 15 | 5 PM
OSHMAN FAMILY JCC in PALO ALTO

The Cat Became a Woman Offenbach

Guido is a charming young man with a wonderful life ahead of him—the only problem? He's madly in love...with his cat. When he speaks the magic words, she transforms into a stunning young lady, but her feline nature continues to assert itself in Offenbach's delightful one-act opera.

MUSIC DIRECTOR:
DAVID DRUMMOND
STAGE DIRECTOR:
NICOLAS A. GARCIA

CHELSEA HOLLOW
as MINETTE,
SAM FAUSTINE as GUIDO,
ALEXANDRA ARMANTRADING
as MARIANNE

Performed as a double bill with
CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA

Sunday, March 29 | 2 PM
HILLSIDE CLUB in BERKELEY

Sunday, April 5 | 2 PM
LEGION OF HONOR in SAN FRANCISCO



Get your tickets today!

Full Season Subscription

Attend all five operas for only \$230, and enjoy a 16% discount from the single ticket price.

Mini Subscriptions

Devise your own three- or four-opera season for only \$141 for three and \$188 for four.

Oshman Subscription

We are offering a special ticket price for our Palo Alto audiences at the Oshman Family JCC! Subscribe for all three Palo Alto performances now and get a special price of just \$120!

Subscription Perks

Best seats at the best price:
Buy 3, 4 or 5 operas and save!
With a purchase of any of our opera subscription packages, you are entitled to additional tickets at your subscription price.

Free exchanges:

Change of plans? No problem!

Ticket insurance:

Lost tickets? No worries!

Seating for **Elsewhere Foundation** members will be assigned first, followed by subscribers, then by single ticket orders in the sequence received.

Single Tickets

General: \$55 advance / \$60 door
Senior: \$48 advance / \$54 door
Oshman: \$50 adults / \$45 senior
Age 30 and under: \$25 (available for purchase only by mail or by phone)

Student Rush

When available, day of show
\$15 (with a valid Student ID)

How to Order

By Phone: Call (415) 972-8934,
Mon-Fri, 12-4pm

By Mail: Mail the completed
order form with your credit
card info or check to:

Pocket Opera
469 Bryant Street
San Francisco, CA 94107-1316

In Person: At each venue's box
office one hour before curtain.

Group Sales: 10+ for one
performance qualifies for
group rate—call for info

Performance Locations

**Gunn Theater at the
Legion of Honor in Lincoln Park**
100 34th Aveue
San Francisco, CA 94121

The Hillside Club
2286 Cedar Street
Berkeley, CA 94709

Oshman Family JCC
3921 Fabian Way
Palo Alto, CA 94303

www.pocketopera.org

2020 Season Order Form

DON GIOVANNI		No. of seats
March 1	Hillside Club	
March 8	Legion of Honor	
March 15	Oshman	
CAT/CAVALLERIA		
March 29	Hillside Club	
April 5	Legion of Honor	
NO LOVE ALLOWED		
April 26	Hillside Club	
May 3	Legion of Honor	
CARMEN		
June 7	Hillside Club	
June 14	Legion of Honor	
June 21	Oahman	
CENERENTOLA		
July 12	Hillside Club	
July 19	Legion of Honor	
July 26	Oahman	

STEP 1

Enter the no. of seats you would like for each performance

STEP 2

Calculate the ticket prices

HILLSIDE CLUB/LEGION OF HONOR

5-opera Full subscriptions	@	\$230	= \$	
4-opera subscriptions	@	\$188	= \$	
3-opera subscriptions	@	\$141	= \$	
Single tickets: Adult (advance purch)	@	\$ 55	= \$	
Senior	@	\$ 48	= \$	
30 & under	@	\$ 25	= \$	

OSHMAN FAMILY JCC

3-opera subscriptions	@	\$120	= \$	
Single tickets: Adult (advance purch)	@	\$ 50	= \$	
Senior	@	\$ 45	= \$	
30 & under	@	\$ 25	= \$	

Thank you for your tax-deductible contribution of: \$ _____

Handling fee: \$ _____ **6**

STEP 3

Make a contribution

TOTAL \$ _____

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State/Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____ Cell _____

NOTES: _____

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AND MAIL ME IN
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not smudge on this paper)

POCKET OPERA

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PAH	EM
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Ensure Pocket Opera's Future: Join the Elsewhere Foundation

Help bridge the gap between our ticket price and the real cost of producing opera. For a contribution of **\$250** or more, enjoy priority seating in the Orchestra sections' first rows, advance notice of the upcoming season, invitations to members-only special events (season auditions, for instance) ... and our gratitude!

STEP 4

Contact and Payment info

☐ Enclosed is my check payable to POCKET OPERA

☐ Please charge my credit card:

Card# _____

Exp Date _____ 3 digit code _____
(month / year)

Name on Card _____

Signature _____

A Message from Board Members Lisa Moore and Paul Lorton, Jr.

..... *Monthly Giving Program*

Dear Pocket Opera Supporters,

First, thank you for your great generosity in 2019 to help us close our 2018/2019 financial year in the black! This has been a financially challenging year, but you enabled us to make it through. Going forward, we on the Board are determined to build a healthy financial reserve so that our wonderfully invigorated performances of opera in English can continue to delight Bay Area audiences. To do this, Paul Lorton and I have started a monthly giving program that will go directly to building this reserve. No monthly amount is too small: \$20, \$50, \$100, or \$200 all will go to building the foundation for sustained and excellent performances of Donald Pippin's witty and charming English language translations.

We hope you will join us in building the future with this new giving program. Please contact our office to learn how you can enroll. We offer multiple ways of participating and can find a way that works best for you.

Join us in making each month a step forward...thank you for being part of the Pocket Opera family!



LISA MOORE,
TREASURER



PAUL LORTON,
SECRETARY

Please contact us at (415) 972-8930 or info@pocketopera.org

Cavalleria Rusticana Mascagni

Excommunicated from the church, spurned by her entire village, Santuzza seeks only the love of Turiddu. An embittered love triangle sparks a Sicilian vendetta. Featuring Mascagni's glorious Easter Chorus and the famous Intermezzo.

.....
MUSIC DIRECTOR:
DAVID DRUMMOND

STAGE DIRECTOR:
NICOLAS A. GARCIA

.....
MARCELLE DRONKERS
as SANTUZZA,
DAVID GUSTAFSON
as TURIDDU,
and HARLAN HAYS as ALFIO

.....
Performed as a double bill with
THE CAT BECAME A WOMAN

Sunday, March 29 | 2 PM
HILLSIDE CLUB in BERKELEY

Sunday, April 5 | 2 PM
LEGION OF HONOR in
SAN FRANCISCO



No Love Allowed (Das Liebesverbot)

Wagner

Passions run high in Palermo, until a newly appointed head-of-state decrees that all pleasures—including love—are forbidden. Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure* is given musical life in Wagner's second opera.

.....
MUSIC DIRECTOR: JONATHAN KHUNER

STAGE DIRECTOR: NICOLAS A. GARCIA
.....

ELLEN LESLIE as ISABELLA,
PATRICK HAGEN as LUZIO,
JUSTIN BRUNETTE as CLAUDIO,
and SPENCER DODD as FRIEDRICH



Sunday, April 26 | 2 PM
HILLSIDE CLUB in BERKELEY

Sunday, May 3 | 2 PM
LEGION OF HONOR in SAN FRANCISCO

Carmen

Bizet

Carmen, a stunning gypsy woman, loves freely and passionately. Don Jose and Escamillo both vie for her affections, but when love reaches a fever pitch, jealousy leads to murder. From the first note of the overture to the final chords, Bizet delivers the most famous tunes in all of opera.

.....
MUSIC DIRECTOR:
FRANK JOHNSON
.....

SILVIE JENSEN as CARMEN,
TBA as DON JOSÉ, and
LINDSAY ROUSH
as MICAËLA



Sunday, June 7 | 2 PM
HILLSIDE CLUB in BERKELEY

Sunday, June 14 | 2 PM
LEGION OF HONOR in SAN FRANCISCO

Sunday, June 21 | 5 PM
OSHMAN FAMILY JCC in PALO ALTO

Cinderella (La Cenerentola) Rossini

No Fairy Godmother, no glass slipper—Rossini's Cinderella uses the transformative power of true love to tell the classic tale. Can Angelina escape the villainy of her wicked step family with the help of a dashing Prince and his wise tutor?

Presented as a co-production with Cinnabar Theater.

MUSIC DIRECTOR:

MARY CHUN

STAGE DIRECTOR:

ELLY LICHENSTEIN

KINDRA SCHARICH

as ANGELINA,

IGOR VIEIRA as DANDINI,

LEE STRAWN

as DON MAGNIFICO, and

XAVIER PRADO as RAMIRO

Sunday, July 12 | 2 PM

HILLSIDE CLUB in BERKELEY

Sunday, July 19 | 2 PM

LEGION OF HONOR in SAN FRANCISCO

Sunday, July 26 | 5 PM

OSHMAN FAMILY JCC in PALO ALTO



Our 2020 Artists

Sopranos

Autumn Allee - Clorinda

Alexandra Armantrading - Marianne

Marcelle Dronkers - Santuzza

Rabihah Davis Dunn - Donna Anna

Chelsea Hollow - Minette

Michelle Kennedy - Mariana

Sara LeMesh - Zerlina

Ellen Leslie - Isabella

Liesl McPherrin - Frasquita

Jennifer Mitchell - Lola

Lindsay Roush - Micaëla

Michael Mendelsohn - Pontius Pilate

Michael Orlinsky - Dancaire

Carmello Tringali - Remendado

Baritones

Anders Froehlich - Don Giovanni

Michael Grammer - Brighella

Harlan Hays - Alfio

Mitchell Jones - Masetto

Steve Kahn - Angelo

Jonathan Spencer - Danieli

Lee Strawn - Don Magnifico

Igor Vieira - Dandini

Mezzo- Sopranos

Sonia Gariaeff - Dorella

Tania Mandzy Inala - Mercédès

Silvie Jensen - Carmen

Jaime Korkos - Donna Elvira

Sally Mouzon - Mamma Lucia

Kindra Scharich - Angelina

Deborah Rosengaus - Tisbe

Bass-Baritones/Basses

Spencer Dodd - Friedrich

Julio Ferrari - Zuniga

Chris Filipowicz - Leporello

Robert Stafford - Alidoro

Tenors

Justin Brunette - Claudio

Samuel Faustine - Guido

Kevin Gino - Don Ottavio

David Gustafson - Turiddu

Patrick Hagen - Luzio

Justin Marsh - Antonio

Chorus

Natalie Buck-Bauer - Soprano

Maria Caycedo - Soprano

Caroline Flett - Mezzo-soprano

Andrew Green - Tenor

Michael Kuo - Baritone

Chase Kupperberg - Baritone

Marcus J. Paige - Tenor

Pete Shoemaker - Baritone

Make POCKET OPERA a part of your LEGACY!

Help sustain the FUTURE of POCKET OPERA and the work of our treasured artists by leaving a gift in your estate plan. It can take the form of a bequest in your will or trust; or a beneficiary designation on your IRA, a bank account, or a life insurance policy. For more information call Jeffrey Jordan @ 415-972-8934, or email jjordan@pocketopera.org

POCKET OPERA

489 Bryant Street
San Francisco, CA 94107-1316

2020 season

Opera in English! Live orchestra! Fabulous voices! Sparkling wit!



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