

# 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*

### Subscribe today and enjoy these perks!

Best seats at the best price:

Buy a 5, 4 or 3 opera season and save!

Free exchanges:

Change of plans? No problem!

Ticket insurance:

Lost tickets? No worries!

Spectacular savings: Savings on additional  
tickets at your subscription price!

### **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.

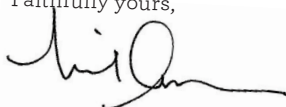
What does our 20/20 vision include? We will be expanding our Pocket Philharmonic from eight players to nine or ten, depending on the show. In the coming years I hope to expand the budget to allow for an orchestra of ten for every performance. Part of our fundraising drive this year will be dedicated 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

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## *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!

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## 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 Avenue  
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](http://www.pocketopera.org)

**TEAR ME OUT  
AND MAIL ME IN**  
(Please use a pen that does  
not smudge on this paper)

# POCKET OPERA

2020 Season Order Form		No. of seats
<b>DON GIOVANNI</b>		
March 1	Hillside Club	
March 8	Legion of Honor	
March 15	Oshman	
<b>CAT/CAVALLERIA</b>		
March 29	Hillside Club	
April 5	Legion of Honor	
<b>NO LOVE ALLOWED</b>		
April 26	Hillside Club	
May 3	Legion of Honor	
<b>CARMEN</b>		
June 7	Hillside Club	
June 14	Legion of Honor	
June 21	Oahman	
<b>CENERENTOLA</b>		
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

OFFICE USE ONLY	
REC	PRO
SP	
PD	
WC	PR
ML	DT
PAH	EM
	NEW

**HILLSIDE CLUB/LEGION OF HONOR** No. of seats

5-opera Full subscriptions \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$250 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

4-opera subscriptions \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$188 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

3-opera subscriptions \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$141 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**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!

3-opera subscriptions \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$141 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Single tickets: Adult \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$ 55 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Senior \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$ 48 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 30 & under \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$ 25 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

OSHMANN FAMILY JCC

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

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

Handling fee: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **6**

**TOTAL** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**STEP 3**  
 Make a contribution

**STEP 4**  
 Contact and Payment info

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check payable to POCKET OPERA  
 Please charge my credit card:

Card# \_\_\_\_\_  
 Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_ 3 digit code \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

NOTES:

# 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!



A stylized, handwritten signature of Lisa Moore in black ink.

LISA MOORE,  
TREASURER



A handwritten signature of Paul Lorton, Jr. in black ink, written in a cursive style.

PAUL LORTON,  
SECRETARY

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

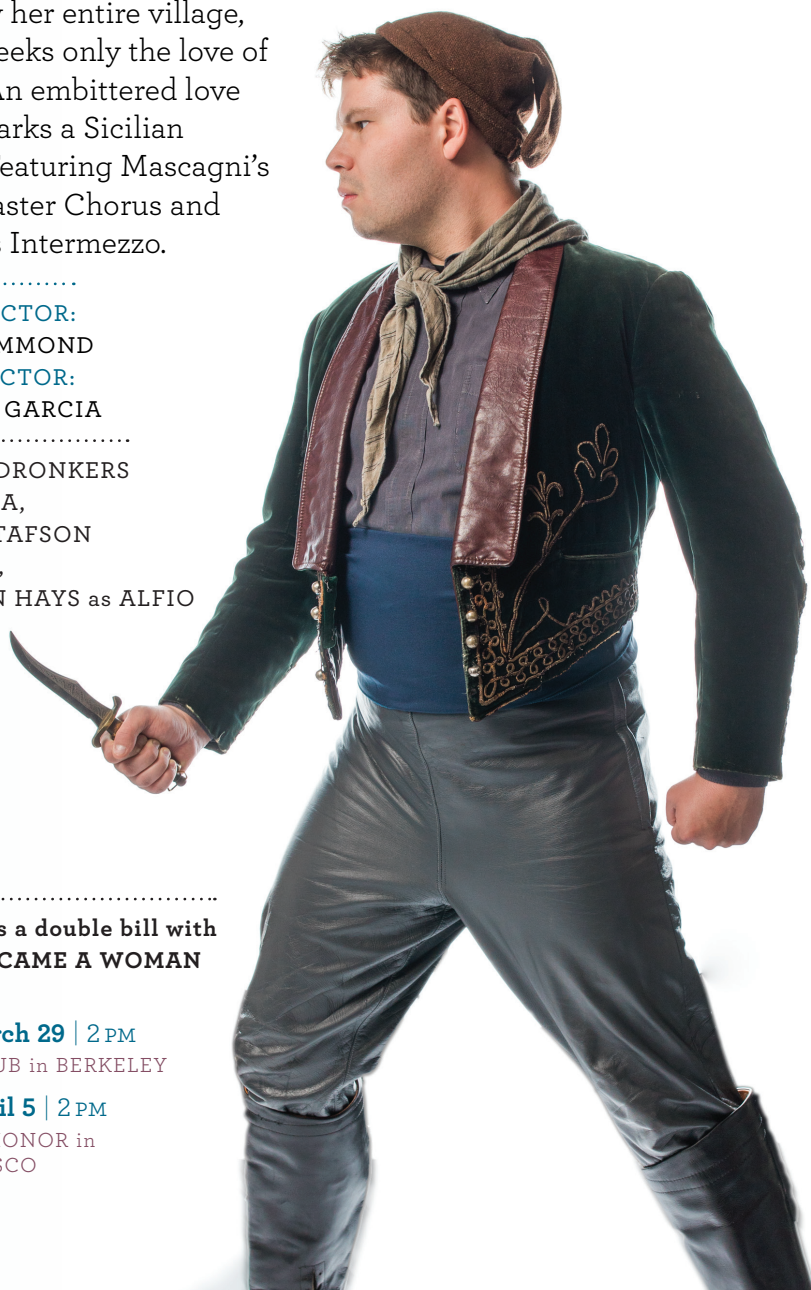
.....  
**Performed as a double bill with  
THE CAT BECAME A WOMAN**

**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  
OSHMANN 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

OSHMEN FAMILY JCC in PALO ALTO



# Our 2020 Artists

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## 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

## 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

## Tenors

Justin Brunette - Claudio  
Samuel Faustine - Guido  
Kevin Gino - Don Ottavio  
David Gustafson - Turiddu  
Patrick Hagen - Luzio  
Justin Marsh - Antonio

Michael Mendelsohn - Pontius Pilate  
Michael Orlinsky - Dancaïre  
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

## Bass-Baritones/Basses

Spencer Dodd - Friedrich  
Julio Ferrari - Zuniga  
Chris Filipowicz - Leporello  
Robert Stafford - Alidoro

## 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

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## 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](mailto:jjordan@pocketopera.org)

# POCKET OPERA

469 Bryant Street  
San Francisco, CA 94107-1316

2020 season

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



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[facebook.com/pocketoperasf](https://facebook.com/pocketoperasf)

**A Special Thank You To:** San Francisco Grants for the Arts  
The Bernard Osher Foundation | The Fleishhacker Foundation  
[Salesforce.com](http://Salesforce.com) Foundation | The Frank A. Campini Foundation