

POCKET OPERA

2023 Season

*Discover the Magic of
Opera in English!*

Nicolas A. Garcia
General Director

Chung-Wai Soong
General Manager

Donald Pippin
Founder



2023 Season Schedule

.....
Let's raise a glass to love...

Subscribe today and enjoy these perks!

Best seats at the best price: Buy a 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!

Die Fledermaus

JOHANN STRAUSS II

March 19 - Hillside Club
March 26 - Mountain View
April 2 - Legion of Honor

Albert Herring

BENJAMIN BRITTEN

April 23 - Hillside Club
April 30 - Legion of Honor
May 7 - Mountain View

Orpheus in the Underworld

JACQUES OFFENBACH

June 11 - Hillside Club
June 18 - Mountain View
June 25 - Legion of Honor

Tosca

GIACOMO PUCCINI

July 16 - Mountain View
July 23 - Hillside Club
July 30 - Legion of Honor



To Our Beloved Audience—

Coming out of the pandemic last season, I was admittedly concerned. Would our audience return? Would we be able to navigate this strange new world of masks and vaccine cards, while still presenting the very best our artform has to offer? I am thrilled to say yes, we accomplished all that and so much more. Not only did our audience return, ticket sales exceeded our projections. It was clear that people were aching for the return of live performance, and Pocket Opera's intimate presentations, sparkling with energy, delivered with delight.

Now we forge ahead with another exciting season of opera in English, featuring not only works from our standard repertoire, but also a comedic masterpiece never before seen on the Pocket stage. We open the season with the rousing waltzes of Johann Strauss' *Die Fledermaus*, where Sandra Bengochea makes her Pocket Opera debut as Rosalinde.

Next will come our very first Benjamin Britten opera, *Albert Herring*. This comedic masterpiece is ideal for Pocket Opera, as it was written as a chamber opera in English. Britten's lush score and witty story will feel right at home on the Pocket stage.

Offenbach's *Orpheus in the Underworld* is always an audience favorite. Amy Foote will charm in her Pocket debut as Eurydice, with Andrew Metzger as Pluto, and Nathanael Fleming debuting as Orpheus. You'll be doing the can-can in your seats!

Last up is our co-production with Cinnabar Theater. Every year, this collaboration allows us to stretch our budget, and continue to bring in the very best talent. This year's offering is Puccini's *Tosca*, which Pocket hasn't produced in over two decades. Michelle Drever, whom Pocket Opera audiences will remember from her three standing ovations as Violetta in *La Traviata*, returns as the doomed soprano, Floria Tosca. Making his Pocket Opera debut will be Alex Boyer as Cavaradossi. Sure to be a season highlight, *Tosca* will be directed by Elly Lichenstein with Mary Chun conducting. 2023 will truly be a season of sparkling song and daring drama.

On behalf of everyone here at Pocket Opera—our wonderful artists, our board, Chung-Wai, Eirini, Diane, and myself—thank you for your continued support and patronage of Pocket Opera. We know that 2023 will be a wonderful year for us all!

Nicolas A. Garcia
General Director



NICOLAS A. GARCIA

Save the Date: 2023 Gala and Silent Auction

We hope you will join us once again for our annual gala! This fundraiser is always a delight, filled with music, wine, and delicious food. There will be lavish auction items, including luxury vacations, restaurants, theater, opera, and dance tickets. This year we honor **Diana Dorman!** After a decades-long career as Pocket Opera's Orchestra Contractor and Principal Clarinet, Diana is retiring. Please join us as we celebrate Pocket's longest serving employee!

Sunday, February 26th | 12:30–4:00 PM
SAN FRANCISCO WAR MEMORIAL GREEN ROOM

INVITATION
COMING SOON!

Die Fledermaus

JOHANN STRAUSS II

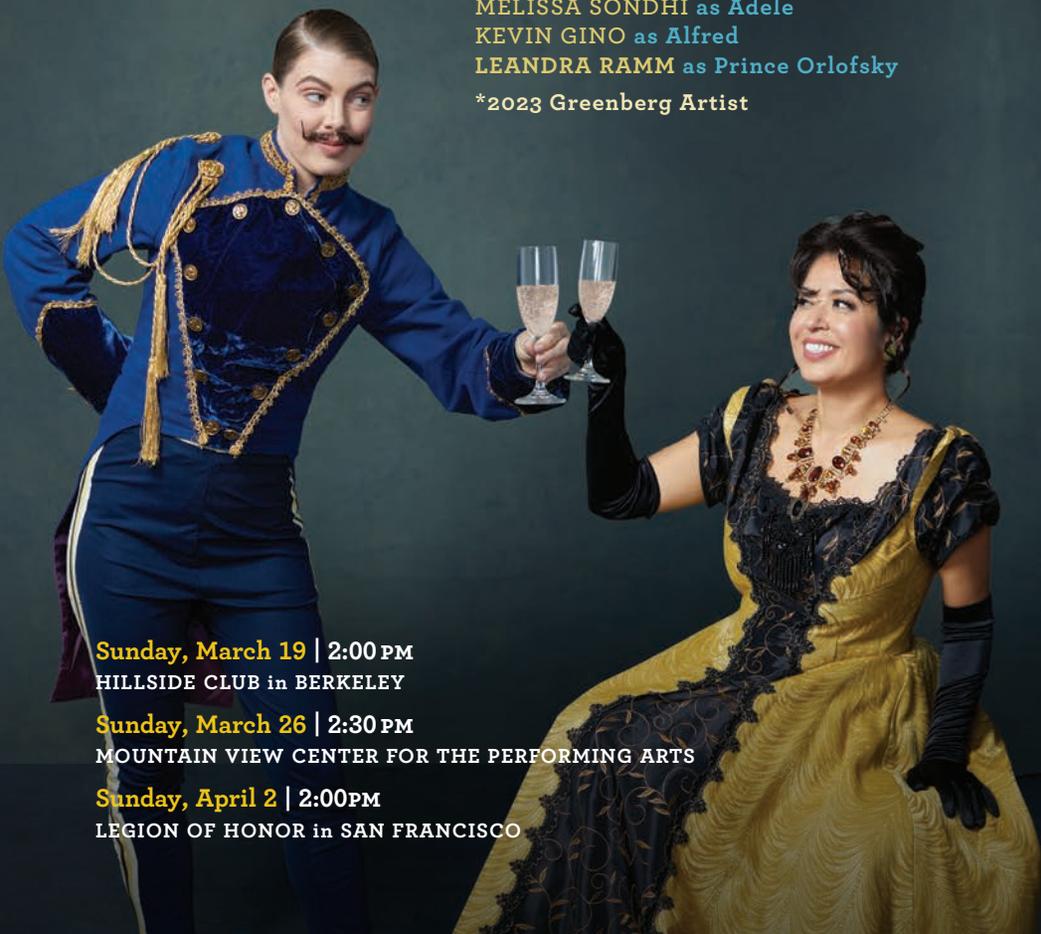
Love can be a Ball!

Vienna is abuzz with excitement—Prince Orlofsky is throwing a party, and the cream of society is coming! While the guests toast to champagne and brotherhood, a tryst between masked lovers lays the groundwork for a prank repaid. Beware the Bat!

Music Director: PAUL DAB
Stage Director: MADELINE ABEL-KERNS

SANDRA BENGOCHEA* as Rosalinde
PATRICK HAGEN as Eisenstein
MELISSA SONDHI as Adele
KEVIN GINO as Alfred
LEANDRA RAMM as Prince Orlofsky

*2023 Greenberg Artist



Sunday, March 19 | 2:00 PM
HILLSIDE CLUB in BERKELEY

Sunday, March 26 | 2:30 PM
MOUNTAIN VIEW CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Sunday, April 2 | 2:00PM
LEGION OF HONOR in SAN FRANCISCO

Albert Herring

BENJAMIN BRITTEN

Love can be Pure...

Often called the greatest operatic comedy of the 20th century, Albert Herring is a charming tale of lost innocence, Victorian morality, and coming of age. Pocket Opera breaks new ground with its first production by the great Benjamin Britten.

Music Director: DAVID DRUMMOND
Stage Director: NICOLAS A. GARCIA

SAM FAUSTINE as Albert Herring
CHERYL CAIN as Lady Billows
KATHLEEN MOSS MILLER
as Florence Pike



Sunday, April 23 | 2:00 PM
HILLSIDE CLUB in BERKELEY

Sunday, April 30 | 2:00 PM
LEGION OF HONOR in SAN FRANCISCO

Sunday, May 7 | 2:30 PM
MOUNTAIN VIEW CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Orpheus in the Underworld

JACQUES OFFENBACH

Love can be Hell!

Can it be true? Orpheus and his beloved Eurydice are on the outs? She has taken a lover in Pluto, the god of the Underworld, but Public Opinion—ever alert—ensures that all of Olympus stay on their toes. Offenbach's most thrilling score, featuring the famous Can-Can of the Galop Infernal.

Music Director: FRANK JOHNSON
Stage Director: BETHANIE BAEYEN

AMY FOOTE as Eurydice
NATHANAEL FLEMING as Orpheus
ANDREW METZGER as Pluto

Sunday, June 11 | 2:00 PM
HILLSIDE CLUB in BERKELEY

Sunday, June 18 | 2:30 PM
MOUNTAIN VIEW CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Sunday, June 25 | 2:00 PM
LEGION OF HONOR in SAN FRANCISCO



Tosca

GIACOMO PUCCINI

Love can be Murder...

Floria Tosca, the greatest soprano in Italy, is caught in a web of political intrigue and seduction at the hands of the diabolical Baron Scarpia. Only she can intercede on behalf of her beloved Mario, as he faces torture and death. Puccini's splendid score reaches for the stars!

Music Director: MARY CHUN
Stage Director: ELLY LICHENSTEIN

MICHELLE DREVER as Floria Tosca
ALEX BOYER* as Mario Cavaradossi
SPENCER DODD as Baron Scarpia

*2023 Hurst Artist

Sunday, July 16 | 2:30 PM
MOUNTAIN VIEW CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Sunday, July 23 | 2:00 PM
HILLSIDE CLUB in BERKELEY

Sunday, July 30 | 2:00 PM
LEGION OF HONOR in SAN FRANCISCO



A co-production with Cinnabar Theater

A Pocket Magic Flute

Our work continues on an exciting, groundbreaking project, Pocket Opera's animated/live-action hybrid program. We have completed filming of the live-action sequences and are nearly halfway through the animation process. Our youth orchestra is rehearsing for their recording of the score in February, and our team is hard at work on the study guides that will accompany this educational program. Set in Africa, this retelling of Mozart's masterpiece features an all-Black cast, and a predominantly Black (and largely female) creative team.



We are incredibly grateful to the National Endowment for the Arts, Opera America, and our lead sponsor Ruth Reznikoff for their support of this project. Look for more announcements about the finished product later in 2023!

Lead sponsor:
Ruth Reznikoff

**OPERA
AMERICA**



Get your tickets today!

Full Season Subscription

Attend all four operas for only \$250, and enjoy a 16% discount from the single ticket price.

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Devise your own three-opera season for only \$195.

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Best seats at the best price: Buy 3 or 4 operas and save! With a purchase of either subscription package, you are entitled to a discount on additional single tickets.

Seats will be assigned to subscribers first before single tickets go on sale!

Free Exchanges & Ticket insurance:

If you have a change of plans, or have misplaced your tickets, just give us a call.

Elsewhere Foundation

members will have seating assigned first, followed by subscribers, then by single ticket orders in the order received.

Single Tickets

General: \$75

Senior: \$69

Age 30 and under: \$30 (available for purchase only by mail or by phone)

How to Order

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

By Mail: Complete the order form with your credit card info or check, and mail to:

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

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

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

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

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

Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts
500 Castro Street
Mountain View, CA 94041

www.pocketopera.org

2023 Season Order Form

POCKET OPERA

DIE FLEDERMAUS

	No. of seats
March 19	Hillside Club
March 26	MVCPA
April 2	Legion of Honor

ALBERT HERRING

April 23	Hillside Club
April 30	Legion of Honor
May 7	MVCPA

ORPHEUS IN THE UNDERWORLD

June 11	Hillside Club
June 18	MVCPA
June 25	Legion of Honor

TOSCA

July 16	MVCPA
July 23	Hillside Club
July 30	Legion of Honor

STEP 1

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

OR

Select a subscription

The health and safety of our patrons and artists is paramount. We will be announcing the appropriate COVID protocols closer to the dates of the performances.

STEP 2

Calculate the ticket prices

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

No. of seats

4-opera subscriptions _____ @ \$250 = \$ _____
 3-opera subscriptions _____ @ \$195 = \$ _____
 Single tickets: **Adult** _____ @ \$ 75 = \$ _____
 Senior _____ @ \$ 69 = \$ _____
 30 & under _____ @ \$ 30 = \$ _____

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

Handling fee: \$ _____ **8**

TOTAL \$ _____

STEP 3
Make a contribution

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

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 _____
(month / year)

Name on Card _____

Signature _____

NOTES:

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

Become an Artist Sponsor

After the success of our artist sponsorship last year, we are delighted to continue this endeavor in 2023. Any of the wonderful artists listed in the pages ahead can be sponsored. Simply reach out to Pocket Opera and let us know which artist you'd like to support with your donation. Once again, Pocket has named two extraordinary talents as our Greenberg Artist Award Winner and our Hurst Artist Award Winner.

This year's Greenberg Artist, Sandra Bengochea, makes her Pocket Opera debut singing the role of Rosalinde in *Die Fledermaus*. Sandra was a longtime Resident Artist at Opera San José and went on to a very successful career before joining the staff of San Jose State University.

"I'm excited to be a part of the Pocket Opera family and proud to be granted the Greenberg Artist Award. It is sponsorship like this that places an emphasis in the value of the arts and giving back to the community."

- Sandra Raquel Bengochea



Our 2023 Hurst Artist is Alex Boyer, a tenor in high demand in the Bay Area and around the country. Also a former Resident Artist at OSJ, Alex has gone on to appear on many of the great stages, notably appearing as Remendado in *Carmen* at San Francisco Opera.



"I'm thrilled to be the recipient of the Hurst Artist Award this year. Artist sponsorship is so important for both artists and communities to thrive. Being aware of our shared cultural heritage and experiencing it are very different things. The power of music can help us to understand ourselves, or can change the course of a person's life, as it did mine. Bringing music to the community is such a worthy endeavor, and I am excited to be a part of it."

- Alex Boyer

You, too, can sponsor an artist in our 2022 season. Being a patron to an individual artist sends a message that you take pride in the work we present on the Pocket Opera stage, and want to be a part of it. These talented performers give so much to their craft. You can be a part of their artistic journey as a patron, supported, and friend.

Artist Sponsorship Benefits & Suggested Donor Levels

.....

Your contribution is vital to bringing these fine artists and performers to the Pocket Opera stages.

We truly appreciate your support.

\$1,000

Program recognition as an Artist sponsor

\$1,500

Program recognition + invitation to a meet & greet with your named artist

\$2,500

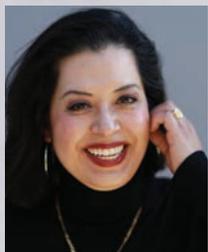
Program recognition + invitation to a meet & greet + coffee with your named artist + a personalized "behind the scenes" experience

If you are interested in sponsoring a full production or season, please contact cwsoong@pocketopera.org

THE POCKET OPERA TEAM

Nicolas A. Garcia, *General Director*
Chung-Wai Soong, *General Manager*
Eirini Courtney, *Office Administrator*
Diane Grubbe, *Bookkeeper*
Victor Ruiz, *Orchestra Contractor*
Daniel Yelen, *Props Master / Assistant Stage Manager*
Chase Kupperberg, *Production Stage Manager*
Aléxa Anderson, *Community Engagement*

Die Fledermaus



Sandra Bengochea
Rosalinde



Patrick Hagen
Eisenstein

Albert Herring



Sam Faustine
Albert Herring



Cheryl Cain
Lady Billows



Melissa Sondhi
Adele



Kevin Gino
Alfred



Andrew Pardini
Dr. Falke



Leandra Ramm
Prince Orlofsky



Kathleen Moss
Florence Pike



Samuel Rabinowitz
Sid



Courtney Miller
Nancy



Rabihah Davis Dunn
Ms. Wordsworth



Jonathan Spencer
Frank



Maria Caycedo
Ida



Michael Mendelsohn
Frosch



Eric Mellum
Blind



Lee Strawn
Gedge the Vicar



Alex Taite
Upfold the Mayor



Glenn Healy
Superintendent Budd



Mary Rauh
Mrs. Herring



Alondra Orellana
Melanie



Caroline Flett
Hermine



Ben Sasnett
Renusie



Zora Friedland
Emmie



Alliana Lili Yang
Cis



James Coniglio
Harry

Orpheus in the Underworld



Amy Foote
Eurydice



Nathanael Fleming
Orpheus



Michele Drever
Floria Tosca



Alex Boyer
Mario Cavaradossi

Tosca



Andrew Metzger
Pluto



Marcelle Dronkers
Public Opinion



Joseph Meyers
Jupiter



Sonia Gariaeff
Juno



Spencer Dodd
Scarpia



Michael Grammer
Angelotti



Gene Wright
Sacristan



Eric Levintow
Spoletta



Sidney Ragland
John Styxx



Abigail Bush
Diana



Alicia Hurtado
Cupid



Caleb Alexander
Mercury



Michael Kuo
Sciarrone



Chris Pilcher
Jailer



Rachel Beninghoff
Ensemble



Sara Sims
Ensemble



Monica Slater
Venus



Andrew Fellows
Mars



Phoebe Chee
Minerva



Sam Rubin
Bacchus



Sadye Sobel
Ensemble



Alyssa Vieau
Ensemble

2023 Production Teams



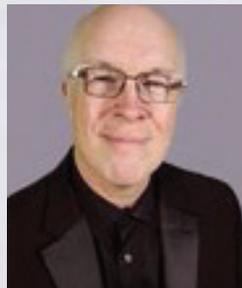
Madeline Abel-Kerns
Stage Director
Die Fledermaus



Paul Dab
Music Director
Die Fledermaus



Nicolas A. Garcia
Stage Director
Albert Herring



David Drummond
Music Director
Albert Herring



Bethanie Baeyen
Stage Director
Orpheus in the Underworld



Frank Johnson
Music Director
Orpheus in the Underworld



Elly Lichenstein
Stage Director
Tosca



Mary Chun
Music Director
Tosca

THE ELSEWHERE FOUNDATION

While attempting to raise money for the 1983 season, Pocket Opera's management continually received polite declines, suggesting that they look "elsewhere" for funding. Pocket Opera found itself in that space between "too big for community funds" and "too small for civic arts funds." So, they looked to long-time loyal supporters, the audience, for assistance and ... The Elsewhere Foundation was born!

The Elsewhere Foundation members listed here have made gifts of \$250 or more to Pocket Opera in the past 12 months through 20 October 2022, and receive priority seating at all performances, advance season notice, invitations to VIP events and, of course, *our gratitude*. We endeavor to maintain proper donation records. If you notice an error in our records, please let us know: info@pocketopera.org

Corporate, Foundation & Government Support

American Online Giving Foundation • First Republic Bank
Frank A. Campini Foundation • SF Foundation • Horizons Foundation
National Endowment for the Arts • May Luke Charitable Fund
The Bernard Osher Foundation • Opera America Inc.
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Individuals Giving \$5,000+

Yen & Mel Bachmeier • James Clavin • Paul & Sylvia Lorton
Lisa Moore • Cherie Sorokin • Pamela Sebastian

Individuals Giving \$2,500+

Lawrence Dillon • Travis Hale • Margaret Hill • Laura & Stephen H. Olson
Shahdeh Shooshtary • Sondra Zentner • Dr. George & Bay Westlake

Individuals Giving \$1,000+

Marc Hernandez • Jeffrey Jordan • David de Figueiredo • Kurt Keadle
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Edmund Graziani • Jan Halbach • Victoria Hoover • Richard & Ursula Klier • Mina Jeremy Knight
Ted & Jan Lassagne • Dennis Lickteig • Todd Liles • Bernice Lindstrom • Paul & Sharon Lingane
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Catherine Pfeil • Lissa & Eric Resnick • Dan & Jane Rosen • Miller & David Sabritt • Robert Savoie
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Jim Tellefson • Revan Tranter • Lawrence Venza • Samuel Weeks • Darla Wigginton
Gene Wright • Dave Yeske • E. William & Mary Alice Yund • Marie Zderic

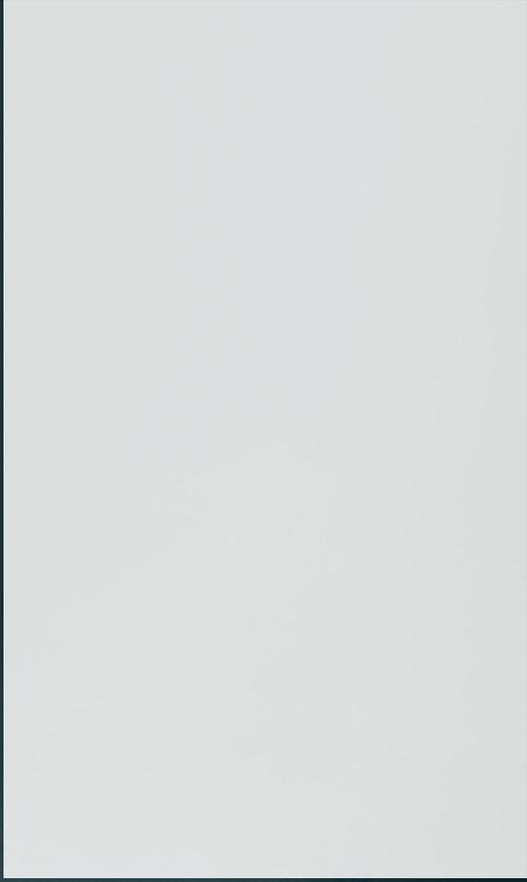
POCKET OPERA

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San Francisco, CA 94107-1316

2023 season

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

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