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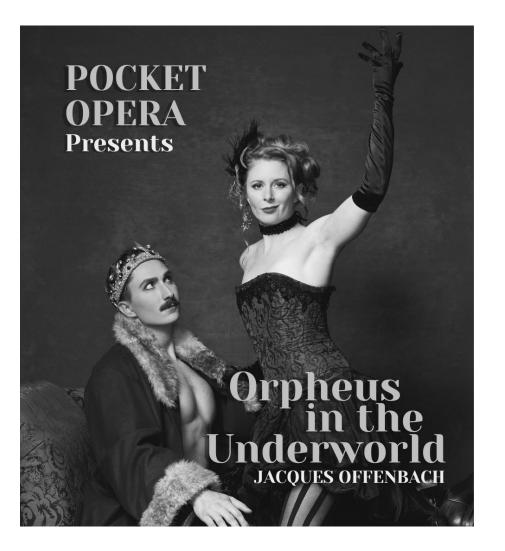


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07/05



Original French libretto by Hector Crémieux and Ludovic Halévy

English Version by Donald Pippin June 11, 2023 | 2:00 pm Hillside Club, Berkeley

June 17, 2023 | 7:00 pm Jarvis Conservatory, Napa

June 18, 2023 | 2:30 pm Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts

> June 25, 2023 | 2:00 pm Legion of Honor Museum, San Francisco

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 recorded 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.

If you would like more information about this project, including ways to sponsor it, please contact Nicolas A. Garcia at nicolas@pocketopera.org

A special Pocket Opera Thank You to:

Lamplighters Music Theatre, Melissa Wortman, Matthew P. Garcia,
TheatreWorks, Cinnabar Theater, Jesse Petrick, William and Leticia Jarvis,
and Rosemary Delia.

As we find ourselves in the midpoint of our highly touted 2023 season, we also approach our annual Midyear Appeal.

Once again we would like to express our enormous gratitude to the generous Anonymous Angel who has increased their Matching Grant for our 2023 Midyear Appeal up to \$45,000. Please give generously, and DOUBLE your contribution with this match!

CORPORATE, FOUNDATION & GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

We would like to acknowledge the crucial role that these generous organizations play in the well-being of Pocket Opera

San Francisco Grants for the Arts • Frank A. Campini Foundation Marin Community • National Endowment for the Arts Opera America • The Bernard Osher Foundation Salesforce Foundation • Benevity • Network for Good • Blackbaud

LEGACY GIVING

Have you thought about including Pocket Opera in your tax or estate planning? Over the years, a number of farsighted patrons

have been moved to support Pocket Opera beyond buying tickets and writing annual checks. In good years this additional backing has enabled expansion of our programming; in lean years it has proved crucial to survival!

Here are ways you can help ensure the company 's financial health now and in the future:

- ◆ Remember Pocket Opera in your will, living trust, or other estate planning instrument.
- ◆ Donate appreciated stock or other securities to Pocket Opera, perhaps with a substantial tax benefit to you.
- ◆ Designate Pocket Opera as a beneficiary in your IRA, retirement account, or life insurance policy.
- Of course, you should consult with your legal and/or tax advisor to determine what strategy is best for you.

For more information, feel free to contact us at info@pocketopera.org, or call 415-972-8930

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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. 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 between January 2022 and March 2023. They receive priority seating at all performances, advance season notice, invitations to VIP events and, of course, **our gratitude**.

Individuals Givina \$10.000+

The Vance E. Carney Trust D. G. Mitchell Hendrika Nevs **Anonymous**

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Mariangela Sassi

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While we endeavor to keep our records correct and current, we apologize for any mistakes. If you notice an error in our records, please let us know: info@pocketopera.org

JACQUES OFFENBACH

Orpheus in the Underworld

Eurydice	Amy Foote
Orpheus	Nathanael Fleming
Pluto	Andrew Metzger
Public Opinion	Marcelle Dronkers
Jupiter	Erich Buchholz
Juno	Sonia Gariaeff
John Styx	Sidney Ragland
Diana	Abigail Bush
Cupid	Alicia Hurtado
Mercury	Caleb Alexander
Venus	Daphne Touchais
Mars	Andrew Fellows
Minerva	Phoebe Chee
Bacchus	Sam Rubin

Music Director Fr	ank Johnson
Stage Director Bet	hanie Baeyen
Costumes Joy G	Fraham Korst
Stage Manager Chase	e Kupperberg
Properties -	
Assistant Stage Manager	Daniel Yelen
Orchestra Contractor	Nicola Gruen

Maria Discrete

Act 1: 1 hour 25 minutes

20-minute Intermission

Act 2: 50 minutes

POCKET PHILHARMONIC

/iolin	Yasushi Ogura
/iolin II	Candace Sanderson
/iola	Betsy London
Cello	Nancy Bien
Double Bass	Christy Crews
Flute/Piccolo	Diane Grubbe
Oboe	Jon Arneson
Clarinet	Lawrence London
Trumpet	Jason Park
Гіmpanі	Beverly Dorcy
Piano	Frank Johnson

This production is brought to you with the generous support of

Frank A. Campini Foundation

Director's notes

As Offenbach's Orpheus in the Underworld is a spoof, and a loving sendup to several popular myths perhaps it is time to refresh our memory.

Orpheus, the famous musician and poet, who played so sweetly that all the animals in the forest came to sit and listen, met the fair Eurydice who loved to dance to his music. After a torrid love affair, they were married.

Within days the shepherd Aristaeus saw her in the fields. So entranced by her beauty was he, that he chased her and she was bitten by a snake promptly dying.

Orpheus was devastated and determined to go to Hades to find his wife. He crossed the river Styx, paying the toll with the song he played. His lullaby for the threeheaded dog Cerberus left the fearsome creature sleeping at the cave door entrance to the underworld. After making his case to Hades and Persephone, they allowed him to lead Eurydice back to earth on the condition that he not turn around to look at her. At the mouth of the cave, he takes one step out and, not feeling Eurydice behind him, turns around, losing her forever.

Another story it would be good to know is that of Diana the huntress. One day she was bathing in a river and caught a peeping Tom named Acteon otherwise known as a sweet boy. She was so angered by his behavior that she turned him into a stag. His hunting dogs were so happy to find a deer near them that they promptly tore him apart.

Don't worry ... our show is a lot less vicious and a lot more fun. Enjoy.

— Bethanie Baeyen, Stage Director —

Nicola Gruen Orchestra Contractor

Nicola first performed violin in Pocket Opera with Donald Pippin while a UC Berkeley undergraduate. She studied violin performance at the Royal Academy of Music and performed for several years in the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Halle Orchestra, Ulster Orchestra, Bournemouth Symphony and English National Ballet and on film soundtracks such as Baz Luhrmann's Moulin Rouge. After freelancing for ten years on the East Coast, Nicola returned to the Bay Area in 2012 and has been performing regularly with Pocket Opera and regional orchestras. When she's not performing, Nicola works full time in gifts and endowments at the University of California.

LEADERSHIP STAFF

Nicolas A. Garcia Stage Director and General Director

Nicolas began his career with Pocket Opera over twenty five years ago in the chorus of Tales of Hoffmann. Since then he has gone on to perform many roles with many companies throughout the Bay Area and beyond. Nicolas began his directing career fifteen years ago, again, right here at Pocket Opera. Over those years, he worked as Assistant Director at Opera San José, Michigan Opera Theatre, and for several productions at San Diego Opera. In 2017 he worked at the Royal Swedish Opera as Associate Director on their production of *La Cenerentola*.

Chung-Wai Soong General Manager

Chung-Wai's extensive repertoire includes world premieres by David Chesworth (Sabat Jesus); Lisa Bielawa's groundbreaking opera, Vireo; Elijah (Meira Warshauer's Elijah's Violin). Concert soloist in works of Bach, Fauré, Mozart, Dvořák, Berlioz, Handel, Beethoven's Choral Fantasy under Kurt Masur, also performed at Ojai Festival with Jeremy Denk. Operatic roles include Mityukha (Boris Godunov - San Francisco Symphony), Erster Nazarener (Salome), Sadistic Sailor (Breaking the Waves), Melchior (Amahl and the Night Visitors - Hawaii Opera Theatre), Un vieux paysan (Ariane et Barbe Bleue - West Edge Opera). Upcoming engagements include Marco (Gianni Schicchi - Hawaii Opera Theatre), Chamberlain (Le Rossignol - West Edge Opera), and Il Ducato with Lamplighters Music Theatre.

George Phillips Office Manager

George Phillips is thrilled to join the Pocket Opera team as the Office Manager. George has had a long career managing some of the largest law firms in the world and is delighted to make the transition to nonprofit arts. George has also worked behind the scenes as crew at many community theater and professional companies, including Lamplighters Music Theatre and Runaway Stage Productions. George enjoys carpentry, and often lends his skills to set construction, including assisting with this season's Albert Herring.

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Bethanie Baeyen Stage Director

Bethanie Baeyen's directing credits include: *The Grand Duchess of Gerolstein* with Pocket Opera, *Pique Dame* with Sacramento Opera, *Amahl and the Night Visitors* with Livermore Valley Opera, *The Pied Piper of Hamelin* with Cantabella Children's Chorus, and *Noises Off!* with T Street Players. Companies Ms. Baeyen has worked for as a stage manager / assistant director include: San Francisco Opera's Merola Program, Marin Theater Co., Opera San Jose, California Revels, and Livermore Valley Opera. She studied at Dell 'Arte School of Physical Comedy, San Francisco Mime Troupe, Université de Paris Sorbonne Nouvelle, and CSU Sacramento: BA in Theatre Arts. www.bethaniebaeyen.com, AEA.



Frank Johnson Music Director

Frank Johnson earned piano and composition degrees at Carnegie Mellon University and the University of Pittsburgh, leading to a lengthy and wide-ranging career in opera and musical theater, "straight" theater, symphony and chamber orchestra, contemporary and classical chamber music, dance theater, cabaret, choral and religious work, media, education, administration, and production. Since coming to the Bay Area, associations here have included Beach Blanket Babylon, American Conservatory Theater (as music director and faculty member), Marin Theater, and TheatreWorks Silicon Valley. He is currently Musical Director, pianist, and host for a continuing series of monthly concerts at the Jarvis Conservatory in Napa.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Chase Kupperberg Stage Manager

Chase Kupperberg is so glad to be back with Pocket Opera for another season! Chase was most recently costumer for The Pear Theatre's productions of *Dontrell Who Kissed the Sea* and their original adaptation of *Frankenstein*. After Fledermaus, they worked as stage manager for Lamplighters Music Theatre's production of *By Georges!*, a completely new light opera. Chase is glad to be back for Pocket Opera's *Orpheus in the Underworld* and *Tosca*. They are unendingly thankful for the opportunities Pocket Opera provides and to the complete support of their family, most notably their father and sisters.

Joy Graham Korst Costumes

Joy Graham Korst is pleased to return to Pocket Opera for her 5th production as costumer. This season has also introduced her to *Albert Herring* for the very first time in her long operatic career. Just a few weeks ago she was acknowledged for her costuming and design work for the premiere of *Prospero's Island*, a Ninth Planet and InTandem Co-Production. Following *Orpheus*, she is looking forward to a well-deserved break before singing with Solo Opera's production of *The Three Feathers*.

Daniel Yelen Properties—Assistant Stage Manager

Daniel started his theatrical career in the chorus of Oakland Opera's *The Magic Flute* over three decades ago. From the beginning he couldn't help meddling with props, or applying needle and thread to costume pieces. He has performed, designed, built, sewn, and provided technical support for many Bay Area stages, including Lamplighters Music Theatre, New Conservatory Theatre, The Mountain Play, The San Francisco Mime Troupe, and A.C.T. Daniel has been prop designer for more than 80 Pocket Opera productions since 2003, and he hopes to get the hang of it soon.



Amy Foote Eurydice

Amy Foote is a soprano who bends toward the wild and uncanny. She has collaborated with many groups, including Berkeley Symphony, the SF Contemporary Music Players, UC Berkeley's Eco Ensemble, San Francisco Symphony on their Sound Box Series, and West Edge Opera where her voice was described as "sinuous [and] bright-toned...[with] an alluringly silvery sheen" (San Francisco Chronicle). Amy has premiered works by countless composers, created theatrical song cycles, leading roles in operas, virtual operas, concert rituals and has guest lectured in the composition and new music departments at UC Berkeley and Stanford University. More info: amymichellefoote.com.



Nathanael Fleming Orpheus

Nathanael Fleming is excited to be making his company debut with Pocket Opera as Orpheus! Recent engagements include Frederic (Pirates of Penzance) with Seattle Gilbert & Sullivan Society, Monty Navarro (A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder) with Lamplighters Music Theatre ,and Ensemble/Journalist (Chess in Concert) with 42nd Street Moon. Nathanael will make his debut this summer with Walla Walla Summer Theater as Dr. Neville Craven (The Secret Garden). Nathanael holds a Master of Music degree from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Thanks to my wife and family for their love and support! Nathanaelfleming.com



Andrew Metzger Pluto

Andrew Metzger showcases his stylistic versatility on concert and operatic stages across the western United States. Recent engagements include the tenor evangelist in Arvo Pärt's *Passio* with Rogue Valley Symphony, Eisenstein in *Die Fledermaus* with Opera San José. A frequent collaborator with modern composers, he created the roles of Happiness in Aleksandra Vrebalov and Niloufar Talebi's *Abraham in Flames*, and Mr. Bingley in Kirke Mechem's *Pride and Prejudice*. When not performing, Andrew works as an environmental consultant on land use and transportation projects throughout California.



Marcelle Dronkers Public Opinion

Soprano Marcelle Dronkers is tickled to tackle Public Opinion - Pocket Opera's Pinnacle! Since her Pocket debut in 1986 (yes), Marcelle has performed most of Mozart's heroines, Handel's evil sorceresses, Verdi's Lady Macbeth, and Elizabeth I in Donizetti's Roberto *Devereux*. Other favorite performances include Verdi's *Requiem*, I. Sopran in Mahler's Symphony No. 8, Strauss' *Four Last Songs*, and Britten's *War Requiem* in San Francisco's Davies Hall. A Teaching Artist with SF Opera, Professor of Voice at CSM, and former Senior Lecturer at NDNU, Marcelle holds degrees from IU Jacobs School of Music, and the Royal Conservatory, The Hague, NL.



Erich Buchholz *Jupiter*

Tenor Erich Buchholz recently sang a concert of Nordic songs at the Finnish Hall in Berkeley. He has toured the United States, Japan and Germany with comedy sextet Hudson Shad, including Kurt Weill's *Seven Deadly Sins* with Storm Large and Ute Lemper. With Chicago Folks Operetta (now Folks Operetta) he performed in many US operetta premieres, including Kalman's *Arizona Lady*. He can be heard on the Naxos recording of Leo Fall's *The Rose of Stambul*.

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Sonia Gariaeff Juno

Originally from Gilroy, Mezzo Soprano Sonia Gariaeff made her Pocket Opera debut in 2001. Since then, she has appeared in dozens of Pocket Opera productions in roles such as Dorabella in *Così fan tutte*, Rosina in *The Barber of Seville*, and Smeton in *Anna Bolena*. A three-time Metropolitan Opera National Council Awards regional finalist, Gariaeff was an apprentice artist with Portland Opera, where she performed the title role of *La Cenerentola*. Other career highlights include Prince Orlovsky in *Die Fledermaus* with Eugene Opera, Amastre in *Xerxes* with West Edge Opera, and Nicklausse in *Les Contes d'Hoffmann* with Virginia Opera.



Sidney Ragland John Styx

Sidney Ragland is a tenor based in the Bay Area. He recently made his 2022 debut at the Lyric Opera Studio Weimar in Germany where he sang the role of Eisenstein in their production of Strauss's *Die Fledermaus* and in October, he made his debut with the San Francisco based company Teatro Mistral, singing Beppe in their *I Pagliacci* production. This past June, he made his debut with the Berkeley Chamber Opera singing the title role and Hussar in their production of Stravinsky's *Mavra*. Sidney is a student of Jane Randolph.



Abigail Bush Diana

Abigail Bush, originally from Los Angeles, decided to stay in the bay after completing her Master of Music at SFCM in 2022. Thrilled to make her Pocket Opera debut, recent roles include covering the Stepmother in Opera San Jose's production of *Cinderella* by Alma Deutscher which was conducted by the composer herself. Other operatic and musical theatre roles include Miss Silverpeal in Mozart's *The Impresario*, Papagena in Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, and Clara Johnson in Adam Guettel's *Light in the Piazza*. You can follow @abigailbushsoprano on Instagram to keep up with upcoming performances.



Alicia Hurtado Cupid

Alicia "Ash" Hurtado (he/they/she) is hype to make his Pocket Opera debut as Cupid! Hurtado's recent operatic roles include Clorinda in *La Cenerentola*, Antonio in *Bless Me, Ultima*, and The Boy in *Dulcinea* with Opera Modesto; Orgo/Cyborgo in *The Boy Who Wanted to be a Robot*, and Marie in *Ghost Variations* with Thompson Street Opera; and Yniold in *Pelléas et Mélisande* with Opera Southwest. Next, catch Hurtado as Pippa in Lamplighters' *Il Ducato*, and Adele in Opera Modesto's *Die Fledermaus*. Ash hopes you "fall in love" with the beautiful chaos of Offenbach! www.thisisaliciahurtado.com



Caleb Alexander Mercury

Tenor Caleb Alexander is thrilled to be working with Pocket Opera once again this season in the role of Mercury. Caleb is a light lyric tenor and recently earned his Masters in Music from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and is busy with a wide range of musical projects around the Bay Area. He is looking forward to working with Livermore Valley Opera and Solo Opera in the fall. He is deeply interested in community engagement and bringing opera to as wide an audience as possible.



Daphne Touchais Venus

Of French and Greek origin, Daphne Touchais moved to Berkeley in 2020, by which time her career had already led her all over France and Europe, singing such roles as Celia in Mozart's *Lucio Silla* and Susanna in *Le nozze di Figaro*, Zdenka in Strauss' *Arabella*, Donizetti's *Rita*, Belinda in *Dido and Aeneas*, and Morgana in Handel's *Alcina*. In 2022 she participated in Pocket Opera's *No Love Allowed* and *The Grand Duchess of Gerolstein*, she sang with West Edge Opera in *Ariane and Bluebeard* and revived *Astianatte* with Ars Minerva. This will be the third production of Orpheus in her career!



Andrew Fellows Mars

Bay Area Baritone Andrew Fellows is thrilled to be making his debut with Pocket Opera! Andrew made his professional debut in 2019, singing the roles of Man One & Two while covering the role of Elder McLean in Festival Opera's production of *Susannah*. After the pandemic he returned to the operatic stage appearing in the world premiere of *A Jake Heggie Triptych* with Festival Opera. In 2022 he joined Opera San José in their production of *Carmen* shortly after making his principal artist debut in *Tosca* as Un Carceriere and will return in their upcoming 2023/24 season in *Roméo et Juliette* and *Rigoletto*.



Phoebe Chee Minerva

Hailed by Spot Pocket Opera Theatre as "one of Singapore's most promising young sopranos," Phoebe Chee continues to push vocal boundaries as she explores and masters early music through contemporary works. Upcoming projects this year include a return to Chautauqua, NY, where she will be singing Lauretta in *Gianni Schicchi* by Puccini; and a trip back to Singapore for Lisa in Bellini's *La Sonnambula*. Phoebe maintains an active presence on social media where you can join her on her journey as a modern-day opera singer. Join her on Instagram at @phoebsoprano.



Sam Rubin Bacchus

Samuel Ethan Rubin (tenor/baritone) has performed with Pocket Opera for five seasons, Lamplighters Musical Theater, Mountain Play as Woof in *HAIR*, Marin Shakespeare Company (*As You Like It*), SF Teen Opera Conservatory (Aenaeus in *Dido and Aenaeus*), Orlando in *Rivets* (Galatean Players), and solo in-concert (Mills College). During the pandemic, he acted in many zoom performances, ranging from Ferdinand (*The Tempest* - Instant Shakespeare Co. NYC), to Missing Tooth Man in Mollie Gordon's new play *Hartford*, *Or: A Hellish Haven...* (Bechdel Group). Sam graduated from Tom Todoroff Studio Acting Conservatory (NYC) and studies Bel Canto with Peter Maleitzke.



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