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**POCKET
OPERA**

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469 Bryant Street, San Francisco, CA 94107-1316

07/12-GP



Original Italian libretto
by Luigi Illica and Giuseppe Giacosa

English Version by
Donald Pippin

July 16, 2023 | 2:30 pm
Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts

July 23, 2023 | 2:00 pm
Hillside Club, Berkeley

July 30, 2023 | 2:00 pm
Legion of Honor Museum, San Francisco

This production is brought to you with the generous support of
The members of THE ELSEWHERE FOUNDATION

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

We would like to say a special Thank You to:

Ingrid Emming, Lawrence Russo, Lamplighters Music Theatre

Cinnabar Theater's underwriters:

*Anonymous | Gene and Elizabeth Wright
Elaine and Chris Stevick | Ray Hendess and Rory Keller*

The amazing parents, friends and family:

*Meredith & Adam Williams
Noelle Aimee Mullen & Dan Mullen
Willow Mullen
Claudette Chin & Michael Chin
Brooke Radloff & Tim Talbott*

As we find ourselves nearing the end of our highly touted 2023 season, we are also in the midst of 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!*

Thank you

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
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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

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

Individuals Giving \$10,000+

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GIACOMO PUCCINI

Tosca

Floria Tosca
Mario Cavaradossi
Baron Scarpia
Angelotti
Sacristan
Spoletta
Sciarrone
Jailer
Ensemble
Ensemble
Ensemble
Ensemble
Ensemble
Ensemble
Children's Chorus/ Shepherd
Children's Chorus/ Shepherd
Children's Chorus/ Urchin
Youth Chorus
Youth Chorus

Michelle Drever
Alex Boyer (2023 Hurst Artist)
Spencer Dodd
Jordan Eldredge
Gene Wright
Eric Levintow
Michael Kuo
Chris Pilcher
Sara Sims
Sadye Sobel
Alyssa Vieau
Brandy Noveh
Katie Haas
Drew Bolander
Tatum Mullen
Fallon Mullen
Kaira Talbot
Max Williams
Camryn Chin

Music Director Mary Chun
Stage Director Elly Lichenstein
Assistant Stage Director Arden Kwan
Set Designer Wayne Hovey
Costume Designer Donnie Frank
Costumes Coordinator Lance Müller
Chorus Master Paul Dab
Stage Manager Chase Kupperberg
Properties & Assistant Stage Manager Daniel Yelen

POCKET PHILHARMONIC

Violin I	Ilana Thomas
Violin II	Nicola Gruen
Viola	Nancy Ewing
Cello	Gwyneth Davis
Double Bass	Rod Verette
Flute	Diane Grubbe
Oboe	Ruth Stuart
Clarinet	James Pytko
Bassoon	Robert Todd (7/16, 7/23)
Bassoon	Joan Holmes (7/30)
Horn	Suzanne Chasalow
Percussion	John Weeks
Piano	Paul Dab

Orchestra Contractor Nicola Gruen

Act I: 45 minutes

20-minute Intermission

Act II: 40 minutes

A brief pause for scene change

Act III: 25 minutes



Michelle Drever *Floria Tosca*

Hailed by Opera Wire as an artist “imbued with fiery relish”, soprano Michelle Allie Drever is delighted to return to Pocket Opera, where she previously sang Violetta in *La Traviata*. Other credits: the Queen of the Night (*The Magic Flute*), Lucia (*Lucia di Lammermoor*), Donna Anna (*Don Giovanni*), Le Feu (*L'Enfant et les sortilèges*), and Rosalinde (*Die Fledermaus*) at companies including Utah Lyric Opera, West Bay Opera, LA Opera, and Miami Lyric Opera. She holds a master’s degree in vocal performance from the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music and is an alumna of the Renata Scotto Opera Academy under the direction of Renata Scotto.



Alex Boyer *Mario Cavaradossi*

Alex Boyer is steadily gaining recognition for his commanding voice and dramatic portrayals of the lyric and spinto tenor repertoire. Hailed by the SF Chronicle for Festival Opera’s *I Pagliacci*, Boyer “mustered a large, potent sound that brought a welcome measure of anguish and dark menace to the role of Canio; his delivery of the famous showpiece ‘Vesti la giubba’ lacked nothing in the way of grit and vocal power.” Recently, he has been seen as Cavaradossi in *Tosca* with Livermore Valley Opera, Tichon in Janáček’s *Káťa Kabanová* with West Edge Opera, and as Captain Ahab in *Moby Dick* with Chicago Opera Theater.



Spencer Dodd *Baron Scarpia*

Baritone Spencer Dodd’s Previous roles include Don Giovanni and Leporello in *Don Giovanni*, Figaro and the Count in *Le nozze di Figaro*, Dandini in *La Cenerentola*, Belcore in *L’elisir D’amore*, Friederich in Wagner’s *No Love Allowed* and Tonio in *I Pagliacci*. He has performed with the San Francisco Opera Chorus, West Edge Opera, Pocket Opera, Opera Together outreach with San Francisco Opera, Classical Romantic Concerts in Osaka Japan, and Ars Minerva. Recently he has also sung in recordings for Gordon Getty’s Operas. This fall he will be singing with the San Francisco Opera chorus in *Lohengrin* and *Il Trovatore*.



Jordan Eldredge *Angelotti*

Bay Area native Jordan Eldredge holds a Bachelor of Music from San Francisco State University. Having sung in his first Pocket Opera performance in 2002, Jordan is a Pocket Opera veteran. His Pocket credits include Falke in *Die Fledermaus* (2017), Papageno in *The Magic Flute* (2014), Masetto in *Don Giovanni* (2013) and Baron Douphol in *La Traviata* (2010). Jordan is thrilled to be returning to the stage after a multi-year hiatus.



Gene Wright *Sacristan*

After 35 years as a child psychiatrist, Gene retired to reinvent himself as a singer. Since 2014 he has performed Handel’s *Messiah* more than a dozen times throughout the Bay area. He performs regularly with Cinnabar Theater (*The Magic Flute*, *The Most Happy Fella*, *Man of La Mancha*, *La Traviata*); Pocket Opera (*Roberto Devereux*, *Semele*, *La Traviata*); Verismo Opera (*Tosca*, *Das Rheingold*, *Aida*, *Faust*); and Bay Shore Lyric Opera (*Aida*). Gene has also been a soloist in Beethoven’s Symphony No. 9 and *Missa Solemnis*, and the Fauré *Requiem* (with Cantiamo Sonoma). Gene is a long-time voice student of Jody and Peter Benecke.

ARTIST PROFILES

Nicolas A. Garcia *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, Festival Napa Valley, 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). Recent and upcoming engagements: Marco (*Gianni Schicchi* - Hawaii Opera Theatre), Senato (*This Shining* - Opera Parallèle), 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* and *Tosca* productions.

LEADERSHIP STAFF

POCKET OPERA
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Paul Dab *Chorus Master, Piano*

Paul Dab is a San Francisco based pianist, teacher, vocal coach, and music director. Presenters have featured his performances at Center for New Music, Old First Concert Series, and the Shenson Faculty Artist Series at SF Community Music Center. He collaborates regularly with Bay Area organizations including Pocket Opera, Lamplighters Music Theatre, West Bay Opera, and Cinnabar Theater, and has been part of the creative process for world premier operas and art songs by local composers. He engages students on a weekly basis through programs at SF Community Music Center, SF Opera Guild, and SF Conservatory of Music.

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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 *Die 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.

Lance Müller *Costumes Coordinator*

Lance Muller is from sunny Los Angeles, CA. Lance chose to finish his studies at San Francisco State University, where he designed the costumes for *Rent, the Musical*. Lance has also been an assistant for productions such as *Doubt: A Parable* and *The Who's Tommy*.

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.

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.

ARTIST PROFILES



Eric Levintow *Spoletta*

Tenor Eric Levintow joyfully returns to Pocket Opera, where he was last seen in 2022 as Gastone in *La Traviata*. Recent roles include Don Ottavio in *Don Giovanni* (West Bay Opera), Alfredo (cover) in *La Traviata* (West Bay Opera), Rodolfo in *La Bohème* (San Francisco Opera Guild), Tamino (cover) in *The Magic Flute* (San Francisco Opera Guild), Antonio in *No Love Allowed* (Pocket Opera), First Sailor in *Dido and Aeneas* (Opera San José), Jo the Loiterer in *The Mother of Us All* (Opera UCLA).



Michael Kuo *Sciarrone*

Michael Kuo received his Bachelor of Science in music at Pacific Union College, and his Master's degree in vocal performance at San Jose State University. Since then he has been working both domestically and abroad, performing roles such as Papageno (Lyric Opera Studio of Weimar), The Pirate King (Lyric Theatre of San Jose) and Sciarrone (Pocket Opera). His upcoming productions include Chorus with San Francisco Opera's production of *Lohengrin*, and Marullo in Opera San Jose's production of *Rigoletto*.



Chris Pilcher *Jailer*

The 2022 Pocket production of *No Love Allowed* was Chris' first opera ever. In the year since, he has covered principal roles with Berkeley Chamber Opera (Stenio in *Maddalena*), and SF Opera On Tap (Alfio in *Cavalleria Rusticana*). Chris won the 2021 SFBA NATS Auditions; credit and blame for encouraging him lie with Linda Noble-Brown of College of Marin. He currently studies with Heidi Moss-Erikson of SFCM. Chris is blind. He is best known for his work as an HIV physician and research scientist, and is Professor of Medicine at UCSF. He spends every spare minute adoring his lovely wife Barbara and son Joshua at home in Mill Valley.



Sarah Sims *Ensemble*

Sarah Sims sang in Philharmonia Baroque Chorale in their 2022/2023 productions of *Messiah*, *Theodora*, *Missa in labore requies*, and Apollo's Fire's *Diaspora*. Sarah performed in 2022 as a fairy in Lamplighters' *Iolanthe*, and in 2021 as Lady Billows in Chicago Summer Opera's *Albert Herring*. She obtained her Master's Degree at SFSU where she sang Amelia (*Amelia al Ballo*) and Arminda (*La Finta Giardiniera*). She performed the roles of Second Lady and Second Witch while also covering the lead role in Miami Music Festival's 2018 production of *Dido and Aeneas*. She received her Bachelor of Music at Oberlin Conservatory of Music.



Sadye Sobel *Ensemble*

Sadye Sobel is currently a master's student at SFCM studying with Susanne Mentzer. She previously completed her bachelor's degree at CMU studying with Marianne Cornetti. At CMU she performed the roles of L'Enfant in *L'Enfant et les sortilèges*, and Sesto in the newly discovered *Giulio Cesare* by Sartorio. At SFCM, she has performed Un Patre in *L'Enfant et les sortilèges* as well as completed scenes as the characters Idamante in *Idomeneo*, and Ursule in *Beatrice and Benedict*. She is excited to be able to perform with Pocket Opera and learn as much as possible from her first out-of-school performance.

ARTIST PROFILES

PRODUCTION STAFF


Alyssa Vieau *Ensemble*

Alyssa Vieau is a mezzo-soprano from Massachusetts. Her recent performance highlights at The San Francisco Conservatory of Music include La tasse and La libellule in Ravel's *L'Enfant et les sortilèges* (2023) and covering Marmee in *Little Wome* (2023). At Carnegie Mellon University she has been seen as Tolomeo in their production of Sartorio's *Giulio Cesare in Egitto* (2021), and as Goffredo in Handel's *Rinaldo* (2019). Alyssa was a student of Sari Gruber, Jocelyn Dueck and the late Valéry Ryvkin at Carnegie Mellon. She is now pursuing her Master of Music at SFCM studying with Susanne Mentzer and Alexander Katsman.


Brandy Noveh *Ensemble*

Brandy is happy to finally be returning to opera after regularly appearing on local stages in musicals. Recent/ favorite shows include The Lady in *Man With a Load of Mischief* (Spreckels Theater Company), *The World Goes Round* (Cinnabar), The Beggar Woman in *Sweeney Todd* (6th Street Playhouse), Betty Hanes in *White Christmas* (6th Street Playhouse), Reno Sweeney in *Anything Goes* (Raven Players), and Lily in *The Secret Garden* (Humboldt Light Opera Company). Outside of the theater, she can be found singing jazz, classical repertoire and performing in cabaret shows. When she isn't performing on stage, she is performing to a semi-captive audience of 2nd graders.


Katie Haas *Ensemble*

Since 1998 Katie has been in the ensembles of 23 operas and musical productions at Cinnabar Theater in Petaluma, California. *La Bohème* and *Cunning Little Vixen* were some of her favorites because her three children were in the shows with her. She also helps paint sets for many of the productions. She has a BFA in Fine Arts and is currently painting and showing her work in local galleries. If you are curious about her art you can check it out on her website at: katiehaasartstudio.com.


Drew Bolander *Ensemble*

Drew Bolander is a New York City based actor and director with a deep love for Shaw and Shakespeare. A recent transplant to the Bay Area, this is not only his first show with Pocket Opera, but the first opera he's performed in since childhood. He is still a member of New York's 'The Shaw Project' and 'Shakespeare with Benefits' (which raises money for charity through the laughs and intrigues of classical theatre) and currently sings with the Santa Rosa based a capella choir Cantiamo Sonoma.


Tatum Mullen *Children's Chorus/ Shepherd*

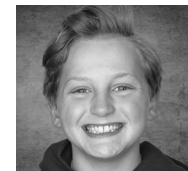
Tatum Mullen is thrilled to appear in her first professional production with her identical twin. Tatum is a happy-go-lucky, recently promoted 7th grader, attending Petaluma Accelerated Charter School. Tatum has performed as Lavender (*Matilda*), Zazu (*Lion King*), Medda (*Newsies*), Michael (*Mary Poppins*), Dragon (*Shrek*), and Loni in *Rock of Ages*.


Fallon Mullen *Children's Chorus/ Shepherd*

Fallon Mullen is a singer, writer, actor, dancer, and artist. She is ecstatic to be in her first professional show with her twin sister Tatum, and also to get her first named mentioned in a review. Fallon's favorite roles include *Matilda*, Davey in *Newsies*, and Jane Banks/ Valentine in *Mary Poppins*.


Kaira Talbot *Children's Chorus/ Urchin*

Kaira Talbot is a twelve-year-old actress who has an enthusiastic love for the stage. She has had the honor and enjoyment of playing the roles of Katherine in the stage production of *Newsies*, Jafar in *Aladdin Jr.*, and Jane in *Mary Poppins*. She has had a wonderful time with everyone involved with *Tosca*.


Max Williams *Youth Chorus*

Max Williams is twelve years old and loves theater. *Tosca* is his first opera and it has been an awesome experience! Some of the shows he has been in include *Mary Poppins*, *Newsies*, *Rock of Ages*, and more.


Camryn Chin *Youth Chorus*

Camryn is pleased to have worked with Cinnabar Theater Young Rep in productions of *Mary Poppins*, *Newsies*, *Beauty and the Beast*, and *Matilda*. Her training includes voice from Petaluma school of music under Rachel Steiner.


Elly Lichenstein *Stage Director*

Elly Lichenstein has been a fixture on the Bay Area opera scene for almost fifty years. Arriving here in 1975, she began her tenure as General Manager of Cinnabar Theater, assuming the mantle of Artistic/Executive Director upon founder Marvin Klebe's death in 1999, a post she held until 2020. Elly has appeared in and directed over a hundred operas, musicals and plays at various theaters throughout her career. Her prior co-productions with Pocket Opera was 2019's *The Barber of Seville* and last season's *La Traviata* with collaborator Mary Chun. Elly received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Bay Area Theatre Critics' Association.


Mary Chun *Music Director*

The composers' choice, conductor Mary Chun has conducted on 3 continents and been invited to collaborate on over 100 premieres, including new operas by composers John Adams and Libby Larsen. She won a BATCC best music direction award for Cinnabar Theater's *The Marriage of Figaro* and is the Conductor of Earplay. She is also the Music Director/Supervisor for China's leading company that produces Broadway hits in Mandarin translation. Upcoming Mary conducts the preview presentation of Nicolas Benavides' *Dolores* for West Edge Opera, music directs the premiere version in Mandarin of *Mozart, the Rock Opera* in Beijing, and in 2024 she conducts the world premiere of Carla Lucero's *Touch*, an opera about Helen Keller.


Arden Kwan *Assistant Stage Director*

Arden Kwan is thrilled to collaborate to bring this stirring, intense opera to life. While this is her directorial debut, she has performed locally as an ensemble member in over 25 operas and musicals (Cinnabar Theater, Pocket Opera, San Francisco City Opera, and Sonoma City Opera). She most recently appeared in 2022 in *Cyrano* (Cinnabar) and *La Traviata* (Cinnabar/Pocket Opera). She sings and plays ukulele for The Rivertown Skiffers, a jug band devoted to classic Americana music. Arden also delights in her new role as the grandmother of the most exquisite granddaughter in the world, Frances Markley Harrison.