

# POCKET 2024 Season OPERA



Nicolas A. Garcia  
General Director

Donald Pippin  
Founder

*Discover the Magic of  
Opera in English!*

# 2024 Season Schedule

## A Season of Magic and Moonlight...

### Subscribe today and enjoy these perks!

Best seats at the best price: Buy a 4-opera 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!

### La Cenerentola

GIOACHINO ROSSINI

February 25 - Mountain View  
March 3 - Legion of Honor  
March 10 - Hillside Club

### Cunning Little Vixen

LEOŠ JANÁČEK

April 14 - Hillside Club  
April 21 - Mountain View  
April 28 - Legion of Honor

### The Merry Wives of Windsor

OTTO NICOLAI

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

### La Bohème

GIACOMO PUCCINI

July 14 - Mountain View  
July 21 - Hillside Club  
July 28 - Legion of Honor



### To Our Beloved Audience—

As 2024 approaches, I cannot help but feel that Pocket Opera has crossed into a new era of performance. We honor the Pocket of decades past, but are now charging forward into a future bright with possibilities. At long last, our animated film, *A Pocket Magic Flute*, will be completed, and our audience will have the chance to see it—we'll have more about that later in the year. We kick off our mainstage season with Rossini's *La Cenerentola*, starring Kindra Scharich and Sidney Ragland. Another surprise that is sure to delight—Pocket's own Chung-Wai Soong is making his long-awaited debut as Alidoro!

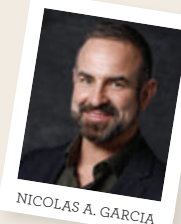
Last season's *Albert Herring* was the hit of the year, earning a nomination for **Best Opera** in the SFCV Audience Awards. This year we take another adventurous step with *Cunning Little Vixen*, the lush musical fable by Janáček. This rediscovered translation by Donald Pippin has never been performed on the Pocket stage, as Donald never felt that the company was ready. Now, with our expanded orchestra, added rehearsal time, and first-rate singers, Pocket Opera can do justice to this magical masterpiece, with Maestro Jonathan Khuner leading the Pocket Philharmonic.

Next, we present *The Merry Wives of Windsor*—a brilliant opera that you will likely only find at Pocket Opera. Our inaugural **Reznikoff Artist** Rena Harms, playing Mrs. Ford, has sung major roles internationally, most notably at English National Opera; she is joined by our **Hurst Artist**, Kenneth Kellogg, renowned bass seen at San Francisco Opera and LA Opera, among others. Musical Director Robby Stafford brings fresh talent to his first Pocket Opera production.

And what better way to end the year than with another Puccini hit presented with our co-producers at Cinnabar Theater? Join us for *La Bohème*, starring Pocket's 2024 **Greenberg Artist**, Nicholas Huff as Rodolfo, and Pocket newcomer Diana Skavronskaya as Mimi. Heartbreak never sounded this beautiful!

From all of us here at Pocket Opera—our artists, our Board, Chung-Wai, Diane, George, and me—we are so thrilled you value live theater, and are returning to Pocket Opera for what is sure to be our very best season yet!

Nicolas A. Garcia  
General Director



NICOLAS A. GARCIA

### Save the Date: 2024 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 will be throwing the party at The University Club in San Francisco—an exciting new venue for a thrilling new season!

**Sunday, February 18th** | 12:30–4:00 PM  
THE UNIVERSITY CLUB, SAN FRANCISCO

INVITATION  
COMING SOON!



# La Cenerentola

GIOACHINO ROSSINI

Throughout the land, word has spread like wildfire--Prince Ramiro is searching for a bride! Despite the plotting of her wicked sisters, Angelina's kindness and inner beauty win the day. There are no glass slippers in Rossini's masterful take on Cinderella, just true love at its finest, set to a dazzling score.



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

KINDRA SCHARICH as Angelina  
SIDNEY RAGLAND as Prince Ramiro  
WILLIAM O'NEILL as Don Magnifico  
CHUNG-WAI SOONG as Alidoro

Sunday, February 25 | 2:30 PM  
MOUNTAIN VIEW CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Sunday, March 3 | 2:00 PM  
LEGION OF HONOR in SAN FRANCISCO

Sunday, March 10 | 2:00 PM  
HILLSIDE CLUB in BERKELEY

# Cunning Little Vixen

LEOŠ JANÁČEK

Beautiful, loving, and wild of heart, Keen Ears the Vixen comes to life in a fantastical musical fable set to the lush music of Janáček. Recently rediscovered in our archives, this Donald Pippin translation has never been performed on the Pocket Opera stage!

Music Director: JONATHAN KHUNER  
Stage Director: NICOLAS A. GARCIA

AMY FOOTE as Keen Ears the Vixen  
SPENCER DODD as The Forester  
HOPE NELSON as The Fox



Sunday, April 14 | 2:00 PM  
HILLSIDE CLUB in BERKELEY

Sunday, April 21 | 2:30 PM  
MOUNTAIN VIEW CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Sunday, April 28 | 2:00 PM  
LEGION OF HONOR in SAN FRANCISCO



# The Merry Wives of Windsor

OTTO NICOLAI

Sir John Falstaff, that most obscene and lusty of knights, has set his eye on both Alice Ford and Meg Page—two married women of unimpeachable reputation. Fortunately, the ladies are experts at handling men, whether they be Falstaff, their husbands, or the three suitors asking for the hand of young Anne Page. Nicolai's playful score is among the best settings of Shakespeare to music.

Music Director: **ROBBY STAFFORD**

Stage Director: **PHIL LOWERY**

.....  
**RENA HARMS** as Alice Ford\*

**KENNETH KELLOGG** as Sir John Falstaff+

**MARCELLE DRONKERS** as Meg Page

\*2024 Reznikoff Artist

+2024 Hurst Artist

Sunday, June 16 | 2:00 PM  
HILLSIDE CLUB in BERKELEY

Sunday, June 23 | 2:30 PM  
MOUNTAIN VIEW CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

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



# La Bohème

GIACOMO PUCCINI

Four young bohemians – a poet, a painter, a musician, and a philosopher – are struggling to survive in Paris, when one freezing Christmas Eve a knock on their door changes their lives forever. The beauty and pain of young love is set to glorious music in Puccini's famous masterpiece.

Music Director: **MARY CHUN**

Stage Director: **ELLY LICHENSTEIN**

.....  
**DIANA SKAVRONSKAYA** as Mimi

**NICHOLAS HUFF** as Rodolfo\*

**MELISSA SONDHI** as Musetta

**DANIEL YODER** as Marcello

\*2024 Greenberg Artist



Sunday, July 14 | 2:30 PM  
MOUNTAIN VIEW CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Sunday, July 21 | 2:00 PM  
HILLSIDE CLUB in BERKELEY

Sunday, July 28 | 2:00 PM  
LEGION OF HONOR in SAN FRANCISCO

*A co-production with Cinnabar Theater*

# A Pocket Magic Flute

After nearly four years in the making, our groundbreaking project, *A Pocket Magic Flute*, has come to fruition! This animated/live-action hybrid film is Pocket Opera's new educational program, and we thank everyone who supported its creation. This film marks a unique collaboration amongst many organizations, including The Lorraine Hansberry Theater, San Francisco State University, The Oakland Symphony Youth Orchestra, The Sacramento Youth Symphony, and a team of artists from around the world. We are very fortunate to have the San Francisco Opera Guild as our newest partners in the project. SFOG will spearhead getting the film into schools and will help organize the teaching artists.

Set in Africa, this retelling of Mozart's masterpiece features an all-Black cast, and a diverse creative team.



We are incredibly grateful to the National Endowment for the Arts, Opera America, and lead sponsor Ruth Reznikoff for their support of this project. Look for more announcements about public screenings of the finished film in 2024!

Lead sponsor:  
Ruth Reznikoff

**OPERA  
AMERICA**



## Get your tickets today!

### Full Season Subscription

Attend all four operas for only \$260, and enjoy an 18% discount from the single ticket price.

### Mini Subscription

Devise your own three-opera subscription for only \$204.

### Subscription Perks

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.

Become an Elsewhere Member!

### Single Tickets

**General:** \$79

**Senior:** \$74

**Age 30 and under:** \$30

Single tickets to Hillside Club and Legion of Honor are currently available for purchase only by mail or phone. Online sales will be available early 2024. Single tickets to Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts will only be available directly from MVCPA's website and box office in 2024.

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



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

# POCKET OPERA

## 2024 SEASON ORDER FORM

MAIL TO: 469 Bryant Street, San Francisco, CA 94107

(415) 972-8934 | info@pocketopera.org

Hillside Club & Legion of Honor		Subscriptions		Single Tickets	
LA CENERENTOLA		4-Opera	3-Opera	Adult	Senior
March 3	Legion of Honor				30/under
March 10	Hillside Club				
CUNNING LITTLE VIXEN					
April 14	Hillside Club				
April 28	Legion of Honor				
THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR					
June 16	Hillside Club				
June 30	Legion of Honor				
LA BOHÈME					
July 21	Hillside Club				
July 28	Legion of Honor				

**STEP 1:**  
Enter the  
no. of seats  
you would  
like for each  
performance  
**OR** Select a  
subscription

Mountain View		Subscriptions only	
Single tickets for Mountain View available directly from MVCPA website/box office in January		4-Opera	3-Opera
LA CENERENTOLA	February 25		
CUNNING LITTLE VIXEN	April 21		
THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR	June 23		
LA BOHÈME	July 14		

**STEP 2:**  
Calculate  
the ticket  
prices

### Subscriptions

All Venues

No. of seats

4-opera subscriptions \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$260 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
3-opera subscriptions \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$204 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Single tickets: Adult \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$ 79 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Senior \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$ 74 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
30 & under \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$ 30 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

Handling fee: \$ 10

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

**STEP 3:**  
Make a contribution

**STEP 4:**  
Contact and Payment info

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

NOTES:

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

Card# \_\_\_\_\_  
Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Security code \_\_\_\_\_  
Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_

OFFICE USE ONLY			
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PD			
WC		PR	
ML		DT	
PAH		EM	NEW

### 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... and our gratitude!

# Become an Artist Sponsor

Our artist sponsorship program continues to grow, as we bring in next-level talent making their debuts at Pocket Opera in 2024. This year, we have three major artist sponsorship awards, the Greenberg Artist, the Hurst Artist, and our inaugural Reznikoff Artist, in honor of our late supporter, Ruth Reznikoff. If you'd like to sponsor any of the artists listed on the following pages, simply let us know which artist you'd like to support with your donation.

This year's Greenberg Artist, Nicholas Huff, makes his Pocket Opera debut in the role of Rodolfo in the Puccini masterpiece, *La Bohème*. Nicholas was a young artist in the prestigious Merola program, as well as at Florida Grand Opera and Des Moines Opera.



*"I am so excited to be making my role and company debuts as Rodolfo in La Bohème, and deeply honored to be named the 2024 Greenberg Artist! This kind of support for the arts is the reason we are able to come together and experience such incredible, classic works. I hope the entire audience will consider sponsoring a singer, if they are able!"*

- Nicholas Huff

Our 2024 Hurst Artist is superstar Bass Kenneth Kellogg, who has performed the title role in *Don Giovanni*, Mephistopheles in *Faust*, and Ramfis in *Aida*. He has appeared on world-class stages such as San Francisco Opera, LA Opera, and Washington National Opera. We are thrilled to have Ken singing the role of Falstaff in *The Merry Wives of Windsor* here at Pocket Opera.

*"We need art and the community that music provides more than ever in our current society. To be able to create with Pocket Opera, an organization driven by heart and passion, is special. We couldn't do it without the invaluable support of people with similar heart and commitment. It's an honor to be the Hurst Artist in this season of renewal."*

- Kenneth Kellogg



And our inaugural Reznikoff Artist is soprano Rena Harms, singing the role of Mrs. Ford in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. Rena is an internationally acclaimed artist, who has sung on major stages from English National Opera to Seattle Opera to Opera Theater St. Louis.

*"I am honored and so excited to be joining Pocket Opera as the inaugural Reznikoff Artist! I am grateful to all of the amazing sponsors who make it possible for artists to create beautiful music, exquisite theater and hopefully get a rousing round of laughter!"*

- Rena Harms

# 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 [gphillips@pocketopera.org](mailto:gphillips@pocketopera.org)

## THE POCKET OPERA TEAM

Nicolas A. Garcia, *General Director*

Chung-Wai Soong, *Communications Director*

George Phillips, *Office Manager*

Diane Grubbe, *Bookkeeper*

Nicola Gruen, *Orchestra Contractor*

Daniel Yelen, *Props Master / Assistant Stage Manager*

Chase Kupperberg, *Production Stage Manager*

Aléxa Anderson, *Community Engagement*



# La Cenerentola



Kindra Scharich  
*Angelina*



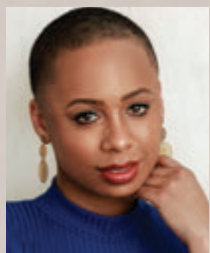
Sidney Ragland  
*Prince Ramiro*



William O'Neill  
*Don Magnifico*



Chung-Wai Soong  
*Alidoro*



Marlaina Owens  
*Clorinda*



Sonia Gariaeff  
*Tisbe*



Max Ary  
*Ensemble*



Justin Baptista  
*Ensemble*



Marcus Timpane  
*Ensemble*

# Cunning Little Vixen



Amy Foote  
*Keen Ears the Vixen*



Spencer Dodd  
*The Forester*



Hope Nelson  
*Gold Stripe the Fox*



Sara Couden  
*The Parson/Badger*



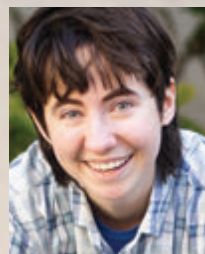
Robby Stafford  
*Harašta the Poacher*



Erich Buchholz  
*The Schoolmaster/  
Mosquito*



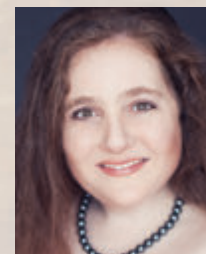
Leandra Ramm  
*The Dog*



Alicia "Ash" Hurtado  
*Rooster/Jay*



Mary Rauh  
*Forester's Wife/Owl*



Katherine Feller  
*Chocholka the Hen*



Carmello Tringali  
*Pasek the Inkeeper*

## Praise for Pocket Opera

*"Collectively they presented the story in a light and irreverent manner, a laugh-out-loud nonstop action throughout"*

– Parterre Box



Melody King  
*The Inkeeper's  
Wife*



Jordan McReady  
*Woodpecker*



Lilith Spivack  
*Ensemble*



Natalie Harris  
*Ensemble*



Phoebe Dinga  
*Ensemble*



# The Merry Wives of Windsor

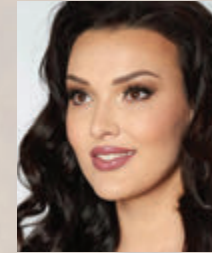


Rena Harms  
*Alice Ford*

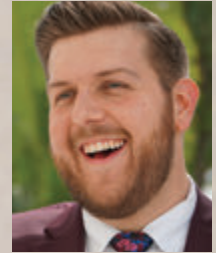


Kenneth Kellogg  
*Sir John Falstaff*

# La Bohème



Diana Skavronskaya  
*Mimi*



Nicholas Huff  
*Rodolfo*



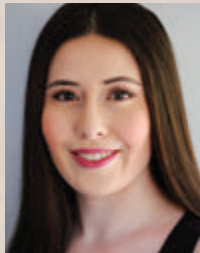
Marcelle Dronkers  
*Meg Page*



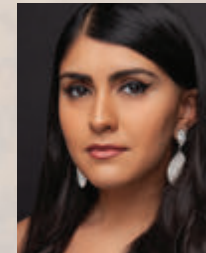
Jonathan Spencer  
*Mr. Ford*



Steve Kahn  
*Mr. Page*



Abigail Bush  
*Anne Page*



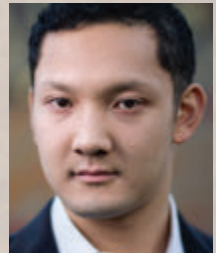
Melissa Sondhi  
*Musetta*



Daniel Yoder  
*Marcello*



Michael Kuo  
*Schaunard*



Robert Feng  
*Colline*



Michael Desnoyers  
*Fenton*



Max Ary  
*Slender*



Wayne Wong  
*Dr. Cajus*



Ian Harris  
*Ensemble, Fenton  
Cover*



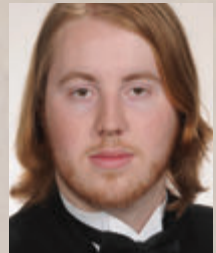
Michael Mendelsohn  
*Benoit*



Gene Wright  
*Alcindoro*



Caleb Alexander  
*Parpignol*



Marcus Timpane  
*Customs Sergeant*



Michael Villareal  
*Ensemble*



Jayne Diliberto  
*Ensemble, Anne  
Page Cover*



Leora Gilgur  
*Ensemble*



Melody King  
*Ensemble, Mimi/  
Musetta Cover*



Sara Sims  
*Ensemble*



Phoebe Dinga  
*Ensemble*



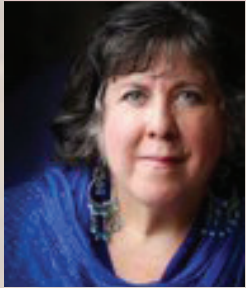
Jordan McReady  
*Ensemble*



Drew Bolander  
*Ensemble*



# 2024 Production Teams



Madeline Abel-Kerns  
Stage Director  
*La Cenerentola*



Paul Dab  
Music Director  
*La Cenerentola*



Nicolas A. Garcia  
Stage Director  
*Cunning Little Vixen*



Jonathan Khuner  
Music Director  
*Cunning Little Vixen*



Phil Lowery  
Stage Director  
*The Merry Wives of Windsor*



Robby Stafford  
Music Director  
*The Merry Wives of Windsor*



Elly Lichenstein  
Stage Director  
*La Bohème*



Mary Chun  
Music Director  
*La Bohème*

## 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 July 2022 and October 2023. They receive priority seating at all performances, advance season notice, invitations to VIP events and, of course, our gratitude.

### Corporate, Foundation & Government Support

The Bernard Osher Foundation • The Frank A. Campini Foundation  
AOL Giving Foundation • Blackbaud Giving Fund  
Amazon Smile • San Francisco Grants for the Arts  
CAOSB Venues Grant • Salesforce.com Foundation

### Individuals Giving \$10,000+

Mel and Yen Bachmeier • The Vance E. Carney Trust • Peggy Hill  
Paul and Sylvia Lorton • D. G. Mitchell • Lisa Moore • Hendrika Neys • Anonymous

### Individuals Giving \$5,000+

James Clavin • Carol Hurst • Laura and Stephen H. Olson  
Cheryl Sorokin • Dr. George and Bay Westlake

### Individuals Giving \$2,500+

Travis Hale • Jeffrey Jordan • Pamela Sebastian

### Individuals Giving \$1,000+

Henry and Willa B. Anderson • Kathleen Beckman • Lock Bingham  
Dave Yeske and Elissa Buie • David De Figueiredo • Lawrence Dillon • Dan Eisenstein  
Dustin Finkle • Margo Hall-Callender • Kurt Keadle • Todd Liles • Bernice Lindstrom  
Sharon and Peter Lingane • Eva McGhee • Jane Neilson • Robert Nussbaum  
Lissa & Eric Resnick • Paula Romanovsky • Samuel and Sachie Weeks • Marie Zderic

### Individuals Giving \$500+

Hedy Aliaga • Cheryl Blalock • Tracy Clevenger • John Downey • Karen Fox • Dr. Edmund Graziani  
Mary Harden • Victoria Hoover • Jeremy Knight • Patricia Knight • Justin Marsh  
Bob and Karen Martin • Mary Kate Metzger • Andrew Murphy • Baker Peebles & Ellen Kerrigan  
Catherine Pfeil • Michael Schnitzer • Nancy Starr • Steven and Mary Swig  
Jim Tellefson • Revan Tranter • Elizabeth and Gene Wright • Jerry Zientara

### Individuals Giving \$250+

Ian Aitchison • Peter Ballinger • Susan A. Barkan • Helen Berggruen • Kenneth Borelli • Joe Burgess  
Bernard Choden • Jeff Dunn • Lois and Roland Feller • Elizabeth Ferguson • David and Brandie Gallagher  
Jan Halbach • Ted and Jan Lassagne • Larry London • Diana Lum and David Gomberg  
Thomas Moran • Richard Morgan • Marilyn Nasatir • Robert and Donna Oliver  
Donald Reinberg • Meredith Riekse • Una Ryan • Robert and Linda Selinske  
Montgomery Slatkin • Peter Susskind • Susan Wheeler • Darla Wigginton

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](mailto:info@pocketopera.org)



# POCKET OPERA

469 Bryant Street  
San Francisco, CA 94107-1316

## 2024 Season

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



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Salesforce.com Foundation

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