

POCKET OPERA

2025 Season



Nicolas A. Garcia
General Director

Donald Pippin
Founder

Discover the Magic of
Opera in English!

2025 Season Schedule

Mozart, Mechem, Marriage, and Madness!

Subscribe today and enjoy these perks!

Best seats at the best price:

Free exchanges: Change of plans? No problem!

Ticket insurance: Lost tickets? No worries!

Spectacular savings:

Save on additional tickets at
your subscription price!

The Marriage of Figaro

WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART

February 21 – Mountain View

February 23 – Hillside Club

March 2 – Legion of Honor

A Pocket Magic Flute / Bastien and Bastienne

WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART

April 13 – Legion of Honor

Tartuffe

KIRKE MECHEM

June 15 – Hillside Club

June 22 – Legion of Honor

June 29 – Mountain View

La Vie Parisienne

JACQUES OFFENBACH

July 13 – Hillside Club

July 20 – Mountain View

July 27 – Legion of Honor



To Our Beloved Audience,

Because of you, our 2024 season was our most successful of all time. Sold-out performances, exceptional reviews, and to top it all off, Pocket Opera's *La Bohème* won the San Francisco Classical Voice Award for Best Opera Production. An extraordinary year, and our 2025 season will be even better, bolder, and brighter!

Our season starts with a veritable feast of Mozart, beginning with *The Marriage of Figaro*, starring our Greenberg Artist, Andrew Pardini as Figaro and the delightful Morgan Balfour as Susanna. Next, we move on to an event four years in the making, the audience premiere of our animated film, *A Pocket Magic Flute*, which we are pairing with a lovely production of *Bastien and Bastienne*, the charming opera that Mozart wrote at the age of nine.

Our third production of the year is perhaps our most exciting. *Tartuffe* is an American opera by acclaimed composer and San Francisco local, Kirke Mechem. Based on the famed Molière farce, *Tartuffe* is one of the most performed American operas in the world. Tuneful and funny, it is a perfect fit for Pocket Opera, and we are thrilled to bring you this brilliant and witty gem. Our Hurst Artist, Eugene Brancoveanu, will sing the title role, and renowned soprano Shawnette Sulker, our Sorokin Artist, joins him in making their Pocket Opera debuts.

And finally, we close out the season with a Pocket Opera specialty, Offenbach's *La Vie Parisienne*. Get ready for a hilarious and unforgettable performance, featuring our Reznikoff Artist, the internationally acclaimed drag superstar Lady Camden, in the role of Madame Dublin-Pleasanton. Fans of RuPaul's Drag Race won't want to miss this opportunity to see Lady Camden perform live with Pocket!

From everyone here at Pocket Opera—our Board of Directors, our artists, and staff—thank you for believing in the importance of Opera. We anxiously await the coming year, and the chance to perform for you again.

Nicolas A. Garcia



General Director



NICOLAS A. GARCIA

Save the Date: 2025 Gala and Silent Auction

Please join us once again for our most fun fundraiser of the year, our annual gala! It is always a delightful afternoon, featuring delicious food, wine, and music from our finest artists.

We are returning to the beautiful University Club, which was a hit at last year's gala.

This year we are honoring legendary composer Kirke Mechem, as he celebrates his centennial year.

Come to the celebration!

Sunday, January 26 | 12:30 – 4:00 pm
THE UNIVERSITY CLUB, SAN FRANCISCO

The Marriage of Figaro

WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART

Susanna and Figaro, servants to the lecherous Count Almaviva, are to be married. Will the Count's unwanted advances spoil the happy day, or will the wily and clever pair find a way to outwit their noble lord? Mozart's most beautiful music will stir the heart, from the famous overture to final strains that echo forgiveness and love.

Music Director: Marika Yasuda
Stage Director: Sergey Khalikulov

Morgan Balfour as Susanna
Andrew Pardini as Figaro*
Julia Mulholland as Countess Almaviva
Spencer Dodd as Count Almaviva
**2025 Greenberg Artist*



February 21 - 7:30pm
Mountain View Center for the
Performing Arts
February 23 - 2pm
Hillside Club
March 2 - 2pm
Legion of Honor

The Marriage of Figaro

WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART



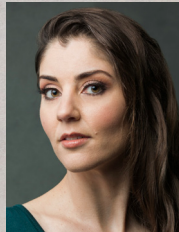
Morgan Balfour
Susanna



Andrew Pardini
Figaro



Spencer Dodd
Count Almaviva



Julia Mulholland
Countess Almaviva



Nina Jones
Cherubino



Deborah Rosengaus
Marcellina



Michael Grammer
Bartolo



Syona Ayyankeri
Barbarina



Joachim Luis
Basilio/Curzio



Chris Pilcher
Antonio



Ash Hurtado
1st Flower Girl



Alyssa Vieau
2nd Flower Girl

Praise for Pocket Opera

"It's a vivacious, charm-filled entertainment for all ages"

- San Francisco Chronicle

Bastien and Bastienne

WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART

Bastienne, the gentle shepherdess, is at a loss for words. Can it be true that her beloved Bastien has fallen into the arms of another woman? Only the wise and wonderful wizard, Colas, can help her find the answers she seeks. With an aria of magical spells and the incantation “Diggy Daggy,” he opens a path for the lovers to reunite.

An Exciting
Double Bill!

April 13

Music Director: Lynne Morrow

Stage Director: Chase Kupperberg

.....
Camryn Finn as Bastienne

Sidney Ragland as Bastien

Steve Kahn as Colas



A Pocket Magic Flute

WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART

Pocket Opera leaps into an animated world of magic and music with our presentation of *A Pocket Magic Flute*. Join us as Tamino and Pamina brave dangers and trials to find true love and enlightenment. A world-class cast of singers and actors unite in this groundbreaking take on Mozart's *The Magic Flute*.

One Show Only
2pm

Music Director: Alex Taite
Live action Director: Margo Hall

.....
Shawnette Sulker/Awele Makeba as The Queen of the Night
Orson Van Gay/Wesley Guimaraes as Tamino
Rabihah Davis Dunn/Ariel Timmons as Pamina
Phillip Harris/Rotimi Agbabiaka as Papageno
Kenneth Kellogg as Sarastro



Bastien and Bastienne

WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART



Camryn Finn
Bastienne



Sidney Ragland
Bastien



Steve Kahn
Colas

A Pocket Magic Flute

WOLFGANG AMADEUS MOZART



Shawnette Sulker
Queen of the Night
Singer



Awele Makeba
Queen of the Night
Actor



Kenneth Kellogg
Sarastro



Orson Van Gay
Tamino
Singer



Wesley Guimaraes
Tamino
Actor



Rabihah Dunn
Pamina
Singer



Ariel Timmons
Pamina
Actor



Phillip Harris
Papageno
Singer



Rotimi Agbabiaka
Papageno
Actor



Michele Kennedy
Papagena
Singer



Morgan Day
Third Lady/Papagena
Actor



Leslie Sandefur
First Lady
Singer



Anna Sharpe
First Lady
Actor



Yvette Couvson
Second Lady
Singer



Jasmine Williams
Second Lady
Actor



Megan McQuillin
Third Lady
Singer

Get your tickets today!

Flexibility and Savings with your Subscription

Attend all four operas for only \$280 and enjoy a 17% discount from the single ticket price.

Devise your own three-opera season for only \$216 and enjoy a 14% discount from the single ticket price.

Need more flexibility? Choose our Pick-a-Pair option and attend two operas for \$144 while still enjoying a 14% discount.

Subscription Perks

Best seats at the best price:

Buy 2, 3, or 4 Operas and save!

With a purchase of any of our opera subscription packages, 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

Change of plans? No problem!
Just give us a call.

Ticket insurance

Lost ticket? No worries!

Elsewhere Society

With a donation of \$300 or more, become a member of our Elsewhere Society. Members will have seating assigned first, followed by subscribers, then by single ticket orders in the order received.

Become an Elsewhere Member!

www.pocketopera.org

Single Tickets

General: \$84

Senior: \$79

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 late 2024. Single tickets to Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts will only be available directly from MVCPA's website and box office in 2025.

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

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

Hillside Club		
MARRIAGE OF FIGARO	SUNDAY	February 23
TARTUFFE	SUNDAY	June 15
LA VIE PARISIENNE	SUNDAY	July 13
Legion of Honor		
MARRIAGE OF FIGARO	SUNDAY	March 2
BASTIEN - POCKET MAGIC FLUTE	SUNDAY	April 13
TARTUFFE	SUNDAY	June 22
LA VIE PARISIENNE	SUNDAY	July 27

Mountain View SUBSCRIPTIONS ONLY

Single tickets for Mountain View are only available directly from the MVCPA website/box office in January

MARRIAGE OF FIGARO	FRIDAY 7:30	February 21
TARTUFFE	SUNDAY	June 29
LA VIE PARISIENNE	SUNDAY	July 20

2 Calculate your ticket prices.

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

POCKET 2025 SEASON OPERA ORDER FORM

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State/Zip _____

Email _____

Phone (H) _____ (Cell) _____

Ensure Pocket Opera's Future:

Join the Elsewhere Society



Help bridge the gap between our ticket price and the real cost of producing opera. For a contribution of \$300 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!

2

Calculate your ticket prices.

You can combine performances at different venues to create subscriptions. E.g. you can create a 4-opera subscription with 3 performances at Hillside Club (or Mountain View) + Bastien-Pocket Magic Flute at Legion of Honor.

SUBSCRIPTIONS (All venues)

	No. of seats			
	4-opera subscriptions	@	\$280	=
	3-opera subscriptions	@	\$216	=
	Pick-a-pair	@	\$144	=
	Handling fee: please calculate based on \$3/ticket (for Subscriptions)	@	\$3	=

SINGLE TICKETS (Hillside & Legion only)

Regular	@	\$84	=
Senior	@	\$79	=
30 & under	@	\$30	=
Handling fee: please calculate based on \$5/ticket (for non-Subscriptions)	@	\$5	=

SUBTOTAL

3 *Make a tax-deductible contribution.*

Thank you!

TOTAL

4 *Enter payment information.*

Enclosed is my check payable to POKKET OPERA

Please charge my credit card:

Card # _____

Exp. date _____ month/year _____ Security code _____

Name on card _____

Signature _____

DATE	OFFICE USE ONLY	
SP	NEW?	
PD		
WC	PR	
ML	DT	
PAH	EM	

ELSEWHERE SOCIETY DONORS

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 Society was born!

The Elsewhere Society members listed here have made gifts of \$250 or more to Pocket Opera between July 2023 and October 2024.

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

Corporate, Foundation & Government Support

Frank A. Campini Foundation ~ Grants for the Arts (GFTA) ~ PG&E ~ Wells Fargo
The Bernard Osher Foundation ~ Salesforce Foundation ~ CA OSB Venues Grant
AOL Giving Foundation, ~ JPMC Foundation ~ PayPal Giving Fund ~ Pippin Trust

Individuals Giving \$10,000+

James Clavin ~ Jerome & Thao Dodson ~ Paul and Sylvia Lorton ~ Hendrika Neys
Anonymous ~ Mel and Yen Bachmeier ~ Lisa Moore ~ Laura and Stephen H. Olson

Individuals Giving \$5,000+

Carol Hurst ~ Cheryl Sorokin

Individuals Giving \$2,500+

Karen Fox ~ Norma Fries ~ Margaret Hill ~ Sally & Philip Kipper
May Luke ~ Pamela Sabastian

Individuals Giving \$1,000+

Sigmund Anderman ~ John & Katie Balestreri ~ Kathleen Beckman ~ Steve Cary
John Downey ~ Elliot Franks ~ Deanne Gottfried ~ Jeffrey Jordan ~ Mari Kodama
Sharon & Peter Lingane ~ Eva McGhee ~ Eva & Mike Monroe ~ Jane Neilson
Robert Nussbaum ~ Neil Pering ~ Krehe Ritter ~ Paula Romanovsky ~ Bob Ryan
Madison Smith ~ Carolyn Spitz ~ Robert & Elizabeth Stafford ~ Moya Verzhbinsky
Dr. George & Bay Westlake ~ Ann L. Williamson

Individuals Giving \$500+

Ian Aitchison ~ Sandra Bessieres ~ Bernard Choden ~ George Crow ~ Rosemary Delia
Dan Eisenstein ~ Peter Farmer & Gregory Walte ~ Lois and Roland Feller ~ Susan Greenspan
Mary Harden ~ Norman Eric Jorgensen ~ Ryan Kauffman ~ Nelda Kilguss ~ C.W.T. & Patricia Knight
Jeremy Knight ~ Birgit Massion ~ Kathleen Miller ~ Robert and Donna Oliver
Baker Peeples and Ellen Kerrigan ~ Talia Pierluissi ~ Nancy Starr ~ Terri Stuart
Jacqueline Valentine Spjut ~ Gene Wright ~ Jerry Zientara

Individuals Giving \$250+

Kenneth Borelli ~ Thomas Brunner ~ Joe Burgess ~ Jahan Byrne ~ Jeff Dunn ~ Scott Edwards
Vallery Feldman ~ Martin Gorfinkel ~ Travis Hale ~ Kari Hanson ~ Victoria Hoover
Charlene Kiesselbach ~ Diana Lum ~ Richard Morgan ~ Catherine Pfeil
Justin Marsh and Jory Sandusky ~ Rober and Linda Selinske ~ Gail Simons
Montgomery Slatkin ~ Joanne Smith ~ Jonathan Spencer ~ Linda Thurston
Alicia Weeks ~ E. William & Mary Alice Yund

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

2025 Production Teams



Sergey Khalikulov
Stage Director
The Marriage of Figaro



Marika Yasuda
Music Director
The Marriage of Figaro



Chase Kupperberg
Stage Director
Bastien and Bastienne



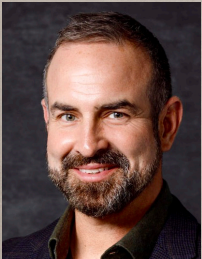
Lynne Morrow
Music Director
Bastien and Bastienne



Margo Hall
Live-Action Director
A Pocket Magic Flute



Alex Taite
Music Director
A Pocket Magic Flute



Nicolas A Garcia
Stage Director
Tartuffe



Kyle Naig
Music Director
Tartuffe



Phil Lowery
Stage Director
La Vie Parisienne



Paul Schrage
Music Director
La Vie Parisienne

Tartuffe

KIRKE MECHEM

A hypocrite! A fraud! The charlatan Tartuffe has wormed his way into the household of the wealthy but gullible Orgon. Shrouded in false piety, Tartuffe has laid plans to take everything from the man—his home, his wealth, and his wife! Pocket Opera presents Kirke Mechem's melodious masterpiece, featuring the famous tune, "Fair Robin."



Music Director: Kyle Naig
Stage Director: Nicolas A. Garcia

Eugene Brancoveanu as Tartuffe*
Courtney Miller as Elmire
Shawnette Sulker as Dorine+

*2025 Hurst Artist
+2025 Sorokin Artist

June 15 – 2pm
Hillside Club in Berkeley

June 22 – 2pm
Legion of Honor in San Francisco

June 29 – 2:30pm
Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts

Tartuffe

KIRKE MECHEM



Eugene Brancoveanu
Tartuffe



Courtney Miller
Elmire



Isaiah Musik-Ayala
Orgon



Shawnette Sulker
Dorine



Melissa Sondhi
Mariane



Julio Ferrari
Damis



Max Ary
Valere



Alex Jerinic
Mme. Pernelle

Praise for Pocket Opera:

“More than earning its cult following, San Francisco Bay’s Pocket Opera continues to enchant music-lovers of all ages and attention spans...Pocket Opera breathes new life into rare, under-appreciated, and flat out delightful operas.”

-Operawire

La Vie Parisienne

JACQUES OFFENBACH

In the hustle and bustle of a Paris train station, characters from around the world descend. A millionaire from Brazil, a Swedish Baron, and a sultry local actress all cross paths to start a madcap plot of trysts and tribulations. Offenbach's tribute to the City of Lights is ever a Pocket Opera specialty!

Music Director: Paul Schrage

Stage Director: Phil Lowery

.....
Phoebe Dinga as Metella

Andrew Metzger as Gardefeu

Nathanael Fleming as Bobinet



July 13 – 2pm

Hillside Club in Berkeley

July 20 – 2.30pm

Mountain View Center for the
Performing Arts

July 27 – 2pm

Legion of Honor in San Francisco

And featuring
Lady Camden as
Madame Dublin-Pleasanton*
**2025 Reznikoff Artist*



La Vie Parisienne

JACQUES OFFENBACH



Phoebe Dinga
Metella



Andrew Metzger
Gardefeu



Nathanael Fleming
Bobinet



Jonathan Spencer
Baron



Marcelle Dronkers
Baroness



Michael Mendelsohn
Brazilian/Frick



Leah Finn
Gabrielle



Abigail Bush
Pauline



Addy Green
Julie



Michael Kuo
Urbain/Gontran



Erich Buchholz
Prosper



Madison Hatten
Clara



Elizabeth Hall
Leonie



Akhila Narayanan
Louise



Lady Camden
Madame Dublin - Pleasanton

Become an Artist Sponsor

We continue to bring in superstar talent in 2025 as we add a fourth Artist Sponsorship to our season!

Internationally acclaimed drag superstar Lady Camden rose to prominence on RuPaul's Drag Race, and now joins Pocket Opera as our Reznikoff Artist.

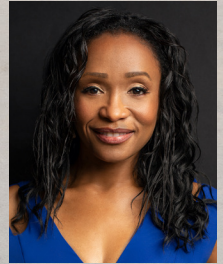


This crazy life of Drag often feels like a roller coaster and the highlights are always special moments created on stage with organizations just like Pocket Opera! Thanks to our sponsors for creating these opportunities. I feel so lucky to be the Reznikoff Artist, to be able to share the stage with these talented artists, and to create entertainment magic for our audiences! ~Lady Camden

Bay Area favorite Shawnette Sulker makes her Pocket Opera debut at last, as our 2025 Sorokin Artist.

I am honored to be named the Sorokin Artist in my Pocket Opera debut this season! Without generous sponsorship such as this, we could not as artist-creators build and deliver the beautiful and transportive power of music and theater that audiences love. If you are able to financially, I hope you will consider supporting Pocket Opera in a sponsorship role!

~ Shawnette Sulker



Winner of an honorary Tony Award for Baz Luhrmann's Broadway Bohème, singer Eugene Brancoveanu takes on the title role of Tartuffe as this year's Hurst Artist.



The immeasurable importance of personal sponsors is paramount to us artists. Having begun my career in Europe, where theaters are state funded, the American system is a completely new experience for me. I'm amazed and humbled by the generosity of local sponsors who keep this art form, that has become my life for 33 years, alive and thriving. As the 2025 Hurst Artist, I'm deeply grateful for our sponsors' commitment and trust in us and our work.

~Eugene Brancoveanu

Rising star Andrew Pardini, seen in several roles at San Francisco Opera, brings his talents to the role of Figaro as our 2025 Greenberg Artist.

A great society is uniquely reflected by its breadth of culture, and our artistic institutions rely heavily upon the public as both donors and advocates. The service that Pocket Opera provides - both in the mainstage season and the Bay Area community - is invaluable to musicians and creators such as myself. It is a true honor to make my company debut as Figaro in The Marriage of Figaro as the Greenberg Artist.

- Andrew Thomas Pardini



Artist Sponsorship Benefits & Suggested Donor Levels

.....

Artist Sponsors are vital in helping Pocket Opera bring exceptional talent to our stages year after year.

The resources that sponsorships provide go directly to pay artists, as well as underwriting their costuming, rehearsal time, and other expenses.

Sponsors are invited to attend a dress rehearsal, take a photo with their sponsored artist, and more.

We greatly appreciate your support of Pocket Opera's artists.

\$1,500

Program recognition

Invitation to meet and greet after the performance

\$2,500

Program recognition

Invitation to meet and greet after the performance

Attend a dress rehearsal

\$5,000

Program recognition

Invitation to meet and greet after the performance

Attend a dress rehearsal ~ Award named in your honor

If you are interested in sponsoring an artist, a single opera performance, a full production or season please contact gphillips@pocketopera.org

THE POCKET OPERA TEAM

Nicolas A. Garcia, *General Director*

George Phillips, *Office Manager*

Nicola Gruen, *Orchestra Contractor*

Daniel Yelen, *Props Master / Assistant Stage Manager*

Marc Hernandez, *Production Manager/Box Office*

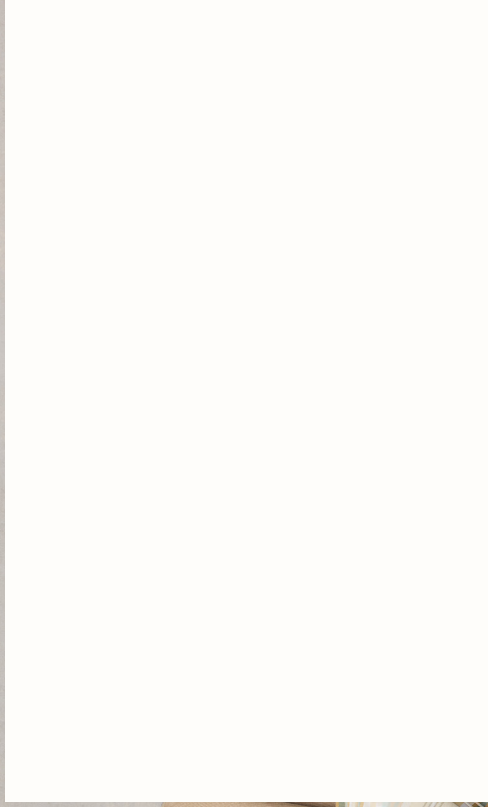
Chung-Wai Soong, *Service Specialist*

POCKET OPERA

469 Bryant Street
San Francisco, CA 94107-1316

2025 Season

Opera in English Live orchestral. Fabulous voices! Sparkling wit!



Find us online!
pocketopera.org
facebook.com/pocketoperasf

A Special Thank You To: The Bernard Osher Foundation
The Frank A. Campini Foundation | AOL Giving Foundation
Opera America Inc. | Blackbaud Giving Fund | Amazon Smile
San Francisco Grants for the Arts | CAOSB Venues Grant
Salesforce.com Foundation

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SAN FRANCISCO, CA
PERMIT NO. 11882