



Media Contact:

Kelsey Buller

Mari + Gold

kelsey@mariandgold.com

San Diego Opera Announces 2024-2025 Production Lineup for Landmark 60th Season, Including Productions of *La bohème*, *Salome* and *La traviata*

San Diego Opera will expand its mainstage production schedule to include three performances of each show with a Saturday performance date – an increase from two performances in the 2023-2024 season.

Subscriptions are on sale now; single tickets go on sale Sept. 3

SAN DIEGO (MAY 6, 2024) – Today, [San Diego Opera](#), one of San Diego’s preeminent cultural organizations, proudly announces the lineup for its milestone 60th Anniversary Season. Continuing its commitment to delivering exceptional opera and vocal performance to the community, the upcoming season features three of the most revered operas in the repertoire, accompanied by the San Diego Symphony Orchestra.

San Diego Opera’s 2024-2025 season will open on Friday, Nov. 1 with one of opera’s most widely known and beloved operas, Giacomo Puccini’s *La bohème*, paying homage to the company’s first-ever production on the Civic Theatre stage in 1965. Opera productions will continue in Spring 2025 with Richard Strauss’ *Salome* in March 2025 and Giuseppe Verdi’s *La traviata* in April 2025. Throughout its sixty seasons the San Diego Opera has sought opera’s most up-and-coming and established talent, and this season is no different.

This season will see the return of vocal artists such as Marcy Stonikas, a seasoned soprano last seen with San Diego Opera in 2020, having since performed with the Metropolitan Opera and Seattle Opera. She makes her return as the titular character of *Salome*. Renowned bass Kyle Albertson who has performed with the Metropolitan Opera and Dallas Opera also returns to San Diego appearing as Jochanaan in *Salome*. Keturah Stickann – a visionary director whose work has appeared with opera companies around the world – will reprise her role as director of *La bohème* after having directed San Diego Opera’s innovative drive-in production in 2020. In addition to the return of seasoned talent, the 2024-2025 season also features exciting debuts including Kathleen O’Mara as Mimì in *La bohème* who, since

graduating Juilliard in 2020, has performed with LA Opera and Opera Theatre of St. Louis. Lidiya Yankovskaya will also make her first appearance with San Diego Opera, conducting the San Diego Symphony Orchestra for *La bohème*. She has conducted more than 40 world premieres, including 17 operas. Tenor Zach Borichevsky will debut with San Diego Opera as Alfredo in *La traviata*, having also performed this role with the Seattle Opera and shared his talents with audiences at Opera Philadelphia, Boston Lyric Opera and other companies around the world.

“As we embark on our 60th season, we are thrilled to continue sharing the transformative art of opera with our audiences in new and exciting ways,” said David Bennett, General Director of San Diego Opera. “We’re proud to announce a season of works by three of opera’s most beloved composers - Puccini, Strauss and Verdi - reflecting our unwavering commitment to providing San Diego with more opportunities to experience the power of the human voice and the magic of opera.”

With a focus on strategic growth and innovation, San Diego Opera’s upcoming season will feature three performances of each mainstage opera production, bringing back the Saturday evening performance. This marks an expansion from the previous season’s two performances in 2023-2024.

Over the years, San Diego Opera has established itself as a leader in innovative opera productions – expertly combining tradition with technology to expand its reach and emphasize the lasting significance of the art form. While each opera production in the 2024-2025 season is classic and well-known, San Diego Opera’s productions will use state-of-the-art visual projections to bring the settings and scenes to life. These innovative projections, combined with traditional costumes reflecting the time period when the opera was first written, elevate and modernize the visual experience for seasoned aficionados and newcomers alike.

Through the integration of projections and the utilization of technology, San Diego Opera aims to redefine the opera experience for today’s audiences, while ensuring the timeless essence of every Opera. Each production will also showcase San Diego Symphony Orchestra, with *Salome and La traviata* under the direction of San Diego Opera Principal Conductor Yves Abel and Lidiya Yankovskaya making her San Diego Opera debut as conductor of *La bohème*.

“The San Diego Opera’s forward-thinking strategy for our upcoming productions is not only about entertaining audiences, it’s about making opera more accessible, engaging and captivating for everyone,” said Yves Abel, San Diego Opera Principal Conductor. “I am proud to continue our association with the San Diego Symphony Orchestra and our very own San Diego Opera Chorus. We are truly blessed to have such world-class artists collaborating with us, and this unparalleled talent helps elevate every performance.

The upcoming 60th season marks a significant milestone in San Diego Opera’s illustrious history. As one of America’s leading opera companies, the organization has provided San Diego with a key cultural resource, delivering exceptional performances and engaging the community through various programs and educational opportunities for the past six decades. Over its rich history, San Diego Opera has

continuously brought top talent to perform in San Diego such as Luciano Pavarotti, Plácido Domingo, Renée Fleming, Patricia Racette, Beverly Sills, Dame Joan Sutherland and many more. The company has produced several world premieres, allowing San Diegans to be the first to see productions like *The Conquistador* with Jerry Hadley and Vivica Genaux and Gabriela Lena Frank's *El Último Sueño de Frida y Diego*, as well as West Coast premieres of Jake Heggie's *Moby Dick* and the first Mariachi Opera *Cruzar la Cara de la luna*.

San Diego Opera's commitment to innovation and adaptability has also been showcased over its history, with the United States' very first drive-in opera production of *La bohème* in 2020 – the Opera's response to the pandemic in their steadfast dedication to safely uniting the community through the arts. In 2023, the Opera produced a highly unique contemporary production of *Don Giovanni* featuring modern costumes, visual themes and projections alongside the San Diego Symphony Orchestra on stage, telling the story of Don Juan in a rock opera style fitting to the story's themes.

Special events and activities are being planned in celebration of the 60th anniversary, and details will be announced later this year. For more information about San Diego Opera, please visit sdopera.org.

2024-2025 SAN DIEGO OPERA PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Subscription prices range from \$105 to \$885 and include all three productions
Single ticket prices range from \$25 to \$325 (single ticket prices subject to change)

NOVEMBER 1-3, 2024

***La bohème* – Giacomo Puccini**

San Diego Civic Theatre

Keturah Stickann – Director

Lidiya Yankovskaya – Conductor (SDO debut)

Kathleen O'Mara – Mimì (SDO debut)

Young love... nothing is more all-consuming, turbulent, passionate and heartbreaking. La bohème, the timeless opera composed by Puccini, follows the lives of a group of struggling artists, including the poet Rodolfo and the seamstress, Mimì, as they navigate love, friendship and hardship in 19th century Paris. Full of some of the greatest melodies and arias Puccini ever composed, La bohème remains an opera for those who are in love, and for those who remember. We open our 60th Season with La bohème, the same opera that opened the very first season of San Diego Opera. This new production is told through Rodolfo's memories of his love for Mimì, as was our innovative 2020 production - the very first drive-in opera of its kind in the United States.

MARCH 21-23, 2025

***Salome* – Richard Strauss**

San Diego Civic Theatre

Marcy Stonikas – Salome (SDO appearance – Gertrude in *Hansel and Gretel*, February 2020)
Kyle Albertson – Jochanaan (SDO appearance – Sparafucile in *Rigoletto*, February 2019)
Yves Abel – Principal Conductor, San Diego Opera

Richard Strauss's masterpiece Salome is a shocking opera based on Oscar Wilde's play of the same name, Salome tells the biblical story of Princess Salome, who becomes infatuated with John the Baptist, a prisoner in her step-father King Herod's court. When she is promised anything she wants by King Herod, Salome demands the head of John the Baptist, which Herod delivers to her – at a price. Strauss's ground-breaking score reflects the dark and unsettling themes of the story and every role makes extraordinary vocal and dramatic demands on the artists.

APRIL 25-27, 2025

***La traviata* – Giuseppe Verdi**

San Diego Civic Theatre

Andriana Chuchman – Violetta (SDO appearance- Micaëla in *Carmen*, March 2017)
Zach Borichevsky – Alfredo (SDO debut)
Yves Abel – Principal Conductor, San Diego Opera

Experience the passion and beauty of La traviata. Verdi's timeless masterpiece transports you to the dazzling world of 19th-century Paris where Violette Valéry, a courtesan, falls in love with the young nobleman Alfredo Germont. Despite their passionate affair, societal conventions and family interference threaten their happiness and Violetta is forced to make a heartbreaking choice. With its emotionally charged music, memorable arias and thrilling duets, La traviata remains one of the most beloved operas of all time.

ABOUT SAN DIEGO OPERA

Founded in 1965, San Diego Opera has delivered exceptional performances and exciting, accessible programs to diverse audiences in San Diego for nearly 60 seasons with a strong focus on community partnerships and the transformative and expressive power of the human voice. Through excellence in innovative programming and education – with a steadfast commitment to equity, diversity, sustainability and adaptability – San Diego Opera provides a lasting cultural service to San Diego's diverse and vibrant community. To learn more, please visit www.sdopera.org or follow @sandiegoopera on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).