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**San Diego Opera Announces Expanded Production Lineup for 2026–2027 Season:
Rigoletto, *Susannah* and *The Marriage of Figaro* follow the previously announced Southern California
premiere of *Fellow Travelers***

Subscriptions on sale Friday, March 27; single tickets go on sale Tuesday, September 8

SAN DIEGO (MARCH 23, 2026) – Building on the momentum of its acclaimed current season, [San Diego Opera](#) — one of San Diego’s leading cultural institutions — proudly announces its 2026–2027 season. Featuring a compelling mix of dramatic intensity, timeless comedy, and lyrical brilliance, the upcoming season continues San Diego Opera’s tradition of presenting world-class productions that celebrate the power of the human voice and demonstrate the remarkable storytelling capacity of opera. The season showcases four distinctive works spanning centuries and styles, offering material that ranges from a timely love story to shocking tragedy to effervescent comedy.

The San Diego Opera 2026–27 season begins with the previously announced Southern California premiere of *Fellow Travelers*, composed by Gregory Spears with a libretto by Greg Pierce, playing July 10–12 at the Balboa Theatre. From October 23–25, audiences will experience Giuseppe Verdi’s intense tragedy *Rigoletto*. To celebrate American composer Carlisle Floyd’s centenary in 2026, the company will feature his powerful opera *Susannah* from February 12–14. The season concludes April 2–4 with Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart’s comic masterpiece, *The Marriage of Figaro*.

“Coming up with a season is like solving a really fun puzzle,” says **David Bennett, Joann Clark General Director and CEO**, “and once you find the winning combination, it just feels right. This year what excites me is the range of programming, from the Southern California premiere of *Fellow Travelers* this July, to Carlisle Floyd’s modern classic *Susannah*, to tragic and comic masterpieces from Verdi and Mozart. I’m thrilled about the returning and brand-new artists we’ll be sharing with San Diego, as we continue to partner with the world-class San Diego Symphony Orchestra. There couldn’t be a better year to subscribe to San Diego Opera.”

San Diego Opera's steadfast dedication to bringing opera's most talented established and emerging artists will once again be reflected in the 2026–2027 season. Leading Verdi's *Rigoletto* will be baritone **Michael Chioldi**, deemed by *Broadway World* as "quite simply perfect" in the title role. Chioldi returns to SDO for the first time since 2000 when he appeared as Masetto in the company's production of *Don Giovanni*. Making their debuts with the company are soprano **Madison Leonard**, who will lend her "silvery, ethereal-sounding" (*Opera Magazine*) voice to the role of Gilda, and Argentinian-American tenor **Jose Simerilla Romero** who performs the role of the caddish Duke. Bass **Peixin Chen** – last seen in San Diego Opera's drive-in *Barber of Seville* in 2021 – returns to play Sparafucile while San Diego's own **Guadalupe Paz** follows her appearance in the title role of 2026's *Carmen* to perform the role of Maddalena.

In the title role of Carlisle Floyd's *Susannah* are sopranos **Hailey Clark** – whose "bright, silky tone" (*Parterre Box*) was recently heard in her 2025 company debut as Nedda in *Pagliacci*; and recent Metropolitan Opera Laffont Competition Grand Finals winner **Teresa Perrotta**, making her San Diego Opera debut. World-renowned and San Diego favorite, bass-baritone **Greer Grimsley** will perform the role of Olin Blitch, and tenors **Joseph Dennis** and **Christian Sanders** will make their company debuts in the roles of Sam Polk and Little Bat. Baritone **Richard Paul Fink** and mezzo-soprano **Loretta Bybee** return to San Diego to play the roles of Elder and Mrs. McLean, having last performed together in the company's 1985 production of *The Merry Widow*. The production will be led by the renowned soprano, stage director, and Artistic Director of Opera Theatre of St Louis, **Patricia Racette**.

Nicholas Newton will bring his "seductive bass-baritone" (*San Francisco Classical Voice*) to the title role in Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro*. **Cadie J. Bryan** makes her company debut as the bride Susanna, a signature role for the "lustrous" soprano, known for bringing "impressive physicality" (*Cultural Voice North Carolina*) to her performances. The "vocally glorious" (*San Diego Story*) soprano **Sarah Tucker**, who has been seen in San Diego as Micaëla (*Carmen*), Fiordiligi (*Così fan tutte*), and Mimì (*La bohème*) performs as Contessa, and baritone **Dean Murphy** returns to play the Conte after his acclaimed turn in the title role of the company's 2026 production of *The Barber of Seville*. Currently in San Diego to perform the title role in SDO's *Carmen*, **Lisa Marie Rogali**, a mezzo-soprano cited for her "vivacious coloratura and ready-for-anything character actor instincts" (*Star Tribune*) will take on the role of amorous teen Cherubino, while Metropolitan Opera stalwart mezzo **Elizabeth Bishop** is Marcellina.

In *Fellow Travelers*, tenor **Andy Acosta** – now a San Diego resident – will reprise the role of Timothy Laughlin, a role he has performed in three different productions. Baritone **Joseph Lattanzi** – praised by *The New York Times* as "splendid...luxuriant and robust" for his performance in *Fellow Travelers'* world premiere – stars as Hawkins Fuller. Soprano **Vanessa Becerra** will bring to life the role of Miss Lightfoot and soprano **Amber R. Monroe** will perform as Mary Johnson.

In the pit for each production will be the renowned **San Diego Symphony Orchestra**, continuing a longstanding collaborative partnership between the two organizations. San Diego Opera's Principal Conductor **Yves Abel** will lead the productions of *Rigoletto* and *Susannah* and Resident Conductor and Chorus Master **Bruce Stasyna** will conduct *Fellow Travelers*.

Audiences can anticipate three remarkable production designs during the 2026–2027 season. Robert Dahlstrom’s set for *Rigoletto* was originally showcased in San Diego Opera’s 2019 staging. *Susannah* features scenic design by Andrew Boyce, costumes by Kaye Voyce, and projections from Greg Emetaz. For *The Marriage of Figaro*, which San Diego Opera last performed in 2018, Leslie Travers provides both scenic and costume designs.

All operas will be performed in their original languages, with English and Spanish supertitles projected above the stage.

This season builds on San Diego Opera’s recent momentum, featuring three mainstage productions, the chamber opera production of *Fellow Travelers*, and the continuation of its expanded Friday–Sunday performance schedule. Following its milestone 60th anniversary, the company is focused on intentional, sustainable growth while enhancing and expanding future offerings for audiences.

Subscriptions are available to either renew or purchase beginning Friday, March 27. To purchase subscriptions or learn more about San Diego Opera’s 2026–2027 season, please visit sdopera.org.

2026–27 SAN DIEGO OPERA PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE

Subscription prices for three-opera packages range from \$159 to \$939

Subscription Prices for four-opera packages range from \$204–\$1,188

Single ticket prices range from \$51 - \$363 (single ticket prices subject to change).

Fellow Travelers – Gregory Spears

July 10, 7:30 p.m.

July 11, 7:30 p.m.

July 12, 2:00 p.m.

Balboa Theatre

Stage Director – Kevin Newbury

Conductor – Bruce Stasyna

Timothy Laughlin – Andy Acosta

Hawkins Fuller – Joseph Lattanzi

Mary Johnson – Amber R. Monroe

Miss Lightfoot – Vanessa Becerra

Based on Thomas Mallon’s novel, which recently became an acclaimed Showtime miniseries.

Timothy Laughlin is an idealistic college grad when he arrives in Washington, D.C. to join the fight against communism. But a chance encounter with a handsome State Department official leads to a secret love affair and heart-wrenching dilemmas. The year is 1953, and Senator McCarthy isn’t just looking for communists anymore. Hearing the score *Opera Magazine* calls “seductively beautiful,” you’ll be on the edge of your seat for the work the *Chicago Tribune* calls “one of the most accomplished new American operas.”

Sung in English with projected supertitles in English and Spanish.

Rigoletto – Giuseppe Verdi

October 23, 7:30 p.m.

October 24, 7:30 p.m.

October 25, 2:00 p.m.

San Diego Civic Theatre

Rigoletto – Michael Chioldi

Gilda – Madison Leonard

Duca – Jose Simerilla Romero

Sparafucile – Peixin Chen

Maddalena – Guadalupe Paz

Making jokes is what Rigoletto does for a living, serving as court jester to the predatory Duke of Mantua. But the joke may be on him when one of his jests enrages Count Monterone, the father of the Duke's latest victim, unleashing a curse with dangerous consequences for Rigoletto and his beautiful daughter Gilda. Packed with spectacular arias like "La donna è mobile," "Caro nome," and the stunning quartet "Bella figlia dell'amore," Verdi's sublime tale of betrayal, sacrifice, and revenge will hold you spellbound from start to finish.

Sung in Italian with projected translations in English and Spanish.

Susannah – Carlisle Floyd

February 12, 7:30 p.m.

February 13, 7:30 p.m.

February 14, 2:00 p.m.

San Diego Civic Theatre

Susannah Polk – Hailey Clark and Teresa Perotta

Olin Blitch – Greer Grimsley

Sam Polk – Joseph Dennis

Little Bat – Christian Sanders

Mrs. McLean – Loretta Bybee

Elder McLean – Richard Paul Fink

Eighteen-year-old Susannah Polk lives with her brother Sam in the woods outside a Tennessee mountain town. When local churchmen spot her bathing in an isolated creek, she becomes the target of gossip, accusations, and worse. Carlisle Floyd transplants the biblical "Susannah and the Elders" to the Appalachian backwoods in this modern classic: a riveting tale of sex, corruption, and hypocrisy with a folk-inspired score and the beloved aria "Ain't it a pretty night?". Floyd's centenary is the perfect time to experience the opera *Gramophone* calls "an important work within modern American opera" and *Opera Today* dubs the "operatic equivalent of Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*."

Sung in English with projected supertitles in English and Spanish.

The Marriage of Figaro – Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

April 2, 7:30 p.m.

April 3, 7:30 p.m.

April 4, 2:00 p.m.

San Diego Civic Theatre

Figaro – Nicholas Newton

Susanna – Cadie J. Bryan

Contessa – Sarah Tucker

Conte – Dean Murphy

Cherubino – Lisa Marie Rogali

Remember The Barber of Seville? Figaro is back — and he’s getting married! But there are complications. His bride-to-be doesn’t want their room too close to their lecherous boss, Count Almaviva, who wants to revive the ancient practice of collecting “noble privileges” on a wedding night. But Figaro has some tricks up his sleeve to teach the Count a lesson. Visit the Almaviva estate for one madcap day filled with disguises, desire, deception – even forgiveness – as Mozart’s masterpiece unfolds with musical delights that have enchanted audiences for centuries.

Sung in Italian with projected translations in English and Spanish.

ABOUT SAN DIEGO OPERA

Founded in 1965, San Diego Opera has delivered exceptional performances and inspiring educational programs to a wide audience in San Diego for 60 seasons, with a strong focus on community partnerships and the transformative and expressive power of the human voice. With a commitment to innovative storytelling, lifelong learning and engagement, and an awareness of great music’s power to bring audiences together, San Diego Opera provides a lasting cultural service to its community. To learn more, please visit www.sdopera.org or follow @sandiegoopera on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).