



Shawnette Sulker,
Coloratura Soprano



Raeeeka Shehabi-Yaghmai,
Lyric Soprano



Deborah Martinez Rosengaus,
Mezzo-Soprano



Richard Alexandre Rittelmann,
Baritone



Vicente Álvarez Maire,
Lyric Tenor



Alex Katsman,
Music Director & Pianist



Laura van Galen,
Hamilton Arts Foundation



Anthony Grimani,
Grimani Systems



Glenn Woodruff,
The J-B Piano Company

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OPERA IN THE AMPHITHEATER

4PM-6PM | SEPTEMBER 12, 2026



The Hamilton Arts Foundation is dedicated to enriching the community through the preservation of historic buildings expressed by way of music and art. We strive to provide a platform for artists. We aspire to foster creativity among residents. Our initiatives include live performing arts and community events. We aim to bring people together through shared artistic live experiences. We believe in the power of music and art and its ability to transform lives and strengthen community bonds.



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Sopranos

Shawnette Sulker, soprano, has been described as a singer "...displaying a bright, superbly controlled soprano with perfectly placed coloratura." A consummate performer, she is sought after both in the US and abroad.

Deborah Martinez Rosengaus, mezzo soprano, is known for creating unforgettable characters and delivering high-energy, emotionally resonant performances. She has graced renowned stages across the globe.

Raeeka Shehabi-Yaghmai, Persian soprano, possesses a unique fusion of versatility, strength and sensitivity in her singing and stage presence. Making her foray into the lyric soprano repertoire, her roles have included Cio-Cio San (Madama Butterfly), Donna Elvira (Don Giovanni), Nedda (Pagliacci), Norina (Don Pasquale), Violetta (La Traviata), as well as over 20 roles she has sung as a mezzo-soprano.

Baritone and Tenor

Richard Alexandre Rittelmann, baritone, belongs to the new promising generation of opera singers, laureate of many international competitions, from Paris, France. He has been a prizewinner at various international competitions such as the Voix d'Or, Toulouse, Marmande, Eurobottega and Voix Nouvelles in Paris. He is a charming and exuberant performer, and leaves audiences addicted to his flare.

Vicente Álvarez Maire, lyric tenor, has been described as possessing a warm, graceful, and bright voice with a medium-weight, agile timbre capable of sustaining long, melodic lines. He is magical and brings a romantic, passionate tone, utilizing a clear top register with significant "ping" to project over an orchestra. As Vicente is from Chile, he is making his mark in American opera.

Instrumentalist and Sound Technician

Alex Katsman, accomplished pianist and music director, from St. Petersburg, Russia, serves on conducting faculties of Bay Area Summer Opera Theater Institute and Opera Academy of California. His experience and accomplishments are vast. He offers inspiring instruction in his role on the coaching staff at the San Francisco Conservatory.

Anthony Grmani, owner of Grmani Systems, San Francisco Bay Area leading sound provider, has created one of the world's most immersive audio systems. In 2025, he was the recipient of the CEDIA (Custom Electronic Design and Installation Association) *Lifetime Achievement Award*.

A Special Thanks to All The Volunteers & Donors That Made This Event Possible.

In the first set, we will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of Giacomo Puccini's *Turandot* (1926, posthumously completed by Franco Alfano), followed by the second set, a celebration of 270 years of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (b. 1756).

FIRST SET- 35 MINUTES

PART 1

Opera: Giacomo Puccini's *Turandot*

Aria: Signore, ascolta! (Sir, Listen!) Shawnette Sulker, as Liù

Aria: Non piangere, Liu (Do not cry, Liù) Vicente Álvarez Maire as Calaf

Aria: In questa reggia (In this Palace) Raeeka Shehabi-Yaghmai as Princess Turandot

Aria: Nessun dorma (Nobody shall sleep) Vicente Álvarez Maire as Calaf

Aria: Tu che di gel sei cinta (You who are be girdled by ice.) Shawnette Sulker as Liù

Aria: O, che solinga notte (Oh, what a lonely night) Vicente Álvarez Maire as Calaf

Ensemble: Popoli di Pekino! (People of Peking!) Richard Alexandre Rittelmann as the Mandarin, the crowd/chorus (representing the people of Peking), and Vicente Álvarez Maire as Calaf, the Unknown Prince

INTERMISSION - 20 MINUTES

SECOND SET- 30 MINUTES

PART 2

Opera: *Così fan tutte* - Act I

Aria: Smanie implacabili Deborah Rosengaus as Dorabella.

Trio: Soave sia il vento (May the wind be gentle) ... A sublime and heartfelt trio expressing a wish for a gentle journey. - Shawnette Sulker as Fiordiligi, Deborah Rosengaus as Dorabella, Richard Rittelmann as Don Alfonso

Opera: *Die Zauberflöte* (The Magic Flute)

Aria: Dies Bildnis ist bezaubernd schön ... Vicente Álvarez Maire as Prince Tamino

Duet: Pa-Pa-Pa-Pa-Papagena! ... Richard Rittelmann as Papageno and Shawnette Sulker as his newly found love.

Aria: Der Hölle Rache kocht in meinem Herzen (Queen of the Night) ... Shawnette Sulker as the Queen of the Night, antagonist

Opera: *Le nozze di Figaro* (The Marriage of Figaro)

Duet: Sull'aria ... Shawnette Sulker as the Countess and Raeeka Shehabi-Yaghmai as the Countess' maid, Susanna

Duet: Via resti servita, madama brillante ... Raeeka Shehabi-Yaghmai as Susanna & Deborah Rosengaus as Marcellina

Opera: *Don Giovanni*

Duet: Là ci darem la mano ... Richard Rittelmann as Don Giovanni and Deborah Rosengaus as Zerlina.

Quartet: Non ti fidar, o misera (the Act I Quartet) - Deborah Rosengaus as Donna Elvira, Raeeka Shehabi-Yaghmai as Donna Anna, Vicente Álvarez Maire as Don Ottavio and Richard Rittelmann as Don Giovanni.

ENCORE & CLOSING COMMENTS