



FREE *OPERA IN THE PARK* CONCERT
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, ROBIN WILLIAMS MEADOW, GOLDEN GATE PARK



Opera in the Park (photos: Kristen Loken)

**Opening Weekend of San Francisco Opera's 2026–27 Season culminates
with outdoor concert presented by *San Francisco Chronicle*
with Music Director Eun Sun Kim leading the San Francisco Opera Orchestra
and opera stars from the fall season**

Picnic Contest for most impressive picnic spread returns

sfopera.com/operainthepark

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (August 24, 2026; updated September 1) — The opening weekend of San Francisco Opera's 104th season concludes on Sunday, September 13 with the Company's presentation of *Opera in the Park*. This popular and free event presented by the *San Francisco Chronicle* features Caroline H. Hume Music Director Eun Sun Kim conducting the San Francisco Opera Orchestra and stars of the Company's fall season at Robin Williams Meadow in Golden Gate Park.

This year marks Diane B. Wilsey's 20th as the Opera's Opening Weekend Grand Sponsor, making possible the season-opening performance of Verdi's *Simon Boccanegra* on September 12 along with *Opera in the Park* on September 13.

Classical California is the radio sponsor for the 51st *Opera in the Park*, and on-air hosts Dianne Nicolini, Maggie Clennon Reberg and Jennifer Miller Hammel will welcome the audience. San Francisco Opera's Tad and Dianne Taube General Director **Matthew Shilvock** will emcee the event. From the casts of the first two operas of the 2026–27 Season—Giuseppe Verdi's *Simon Boccanegra* and Thea Musgrave's *Mary, Queen of Scots*—*Opera in the Park* soloists scheduled to appear include sopranos Eleonora Buratto, Sofia Gotch, Mary Hoskins, Toni Marie Palmertree and Heidi Stober; tenors Joshua Guerrero and Christopher Sokolowski; baritones Amartuvshin Enkhbat, Thomas Mole and Gabriel Natal-Báez; and bass-baritone Christian Van Horn. The program of arias and ensembles highlights works by Leoncavallo, Donizetti, Puccini, Richard Strauss, Verdi, Glinka and Weber, among others.

PICNIC CONTEST



Picnic spreads at *Opera in the Park* (photos: Kristen Loken)

Back by popular demand after the inaugural picnic contest last year, the competition for best picnic spread returns at *Opera in the Park*. Arrive early to claim your patch of grass and decorate it with the most impressive picnic you can imagine. During the first half of the afternoon concert, judges will be scouting the grounds for the ultimate picnic to win the grand prize!

OPERA BEAR'S CLUB HOUSE



Opera Bear's Club House for children and families at *Opera in the Park* (photos: Kristen Loken)

Bearitone the Opera Bear welcomes opera's littlest fans to *Opera in the Park* for coloring, crafts and lawn games, such as giant Jenga, cornhole, ring toss and Connect 4. Located near the

concessions area, the Opera Bear's Club House offers a fun space for children and families to play, create and connect during the concert.

ABOUT OPERA IN THE PARK

Established by former San Francisco Opera General Director Kurt Herbert Adler in 1971, *Opera in the Park* celebrates the opening of the Company's season with a free outdoor concert. The annual event now typically draws more than 10,000 to San Francisco's idyllic Golden Gate Park for an afternoon of arias, duets and popular song. Many operatic luminaries have performed at *Opera in the Park*, including Montserrat Caballé, Marilyn Horne and Renata Scottò. Luciano Pavarotti appeared at *Opera in the Park* on three occasions, beginning in 1973 with soprano Licia Albanese for the series' second event, a concert to honor the memory of Company founder Gaetano Merola. When the Music Concourse and bandshell sustained damage after the 1998 earthquake, the concerts were moved to Sharon Meadow, later renamed Robin Williams Meadow in 2018.

ABOUT SAN FRANCISCO OPERA

San Francisco Opera's 104th season opens September 12 with Verdi's [*Simon Boccanegra*](#) led by Music Director Eun Sun Kim. Highlights of the season include a new co-production with English National Opera of Thea Musgrave's [*Mary, Queen of Scots*](#), Wagner's [*Das Rheingold*](#), and works by Massenet ([*Manon*](#)), Mozart ([*The Marriage of Figaro*](#)) and Puccini ([*Tosca*](#)), along with a variety of concerts. For more information about San Francisco Opera and the 2026–27 Season, including the Company's acclaimed young artist development programs, education and community initiatives, livestreams and digital content, archives, free events and introductory ticket programs, visit sfopera.com.

San Francisco Chronicle Presents OPERA IN THE PARK

FREE CONCERT celebrating the opening of San Francisco Opera's 104th season

Sunday, September 13 at 1:30 p.m.

Robin Williams Meadow in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park

Eun Sun Kim, conductor

San Francisco Opera Orchestra (Kay Stern, concertmaster)

Soloists (subject to change):

Sopranos: Eleonora Buratto, Sofia Gotch, Mary Hoskins, Toni Marie Palmertree, Heidi Stober

Tenors: Joshua Guerrero, Christopher Sokolowski

Baritones: Amartuvshin Enkhbat, Thomas Mole, Gabriel Natal-Báez

Bass-Baritone: Christian Van Horn

General Director Matthew Shilvock, emcee

San Francisco Opera celebrates 51 years of *Opera in the Park*, the free, annual concert in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park, marking the new opera season. Presented by the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Opera in the Park* draws more than 10,000 to Robin Williams Meadow each season to hear the San Francisco Opera Orchestra and stars of the new season in an al fresco program of arias and songs.

Back by popular demand, a contest will be held to crown the most outstanding picnic spread with judges roaming the grounds during the first half of the concert, looking for the most over-the-top display to be awarded the grand prize. Food and beverages will also be available for purchase at the park. Attendees are encouraged to bring refillable water bottles and make use of the water stations positioned around Robin Williams Meadow.

This event is FREE; no tickets are required. Senior/accessible seating and ADA parking is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Public parking is extremely limited and alternative transportation, such as Muni (5, 7, 21, 33, N) and ridesharing apps are strongly recommended. Complimentary bicycle valet parking area is provided by Bike East Bay on the east side of the meadow.

For more information, call (415) 864-3330 or visit sfopera.com/operainthepark.

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Yamaha is the official piano of San Francisco Opera.

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PRESS PHOTOS: High-resolution, downloadable images for *Opera in the Park* are available at sfopera.com/press.

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