Merola Opera Program

Schwabacher Summer Concert 2017

WHEN:
SUNDAY,
JULY 9, 2017
2:30 PM

VENUE
BING
CONCERT HALL

Photo: Kristen Loken
Program

(Each excerpt’s cast listed by order of appearance)

Giacomo Puccini: Le Villi (1884)
“La tregenda”
Orchestra

Douglas Moore: The Ballad of Baby Doe (1956)
Act 1, Scenes 2 and 3
“What a lovely evening…Willow where we met together…
Warm as the autumn light…Now where do you suppose that
he can be?...I send these lacy nothings.”

Baby Doe—Kendra Berentsen
Horace Tabor—Dimitri Katotakis
Augusta Tabor—Alice Chung
Kate—Mathilda Edge
Meg—Felicia Moore
Samantha—Alexandra Razskazoff
Townspeople—Mathilda Edge, Felicia Moore, Alexandra Razskazoff, Andres Acosta, Thomas Glass

Gaetano Donizetti: Lucrezia Borgia (1833)
from Act 1
“Tranquillo ei posa…Com’è bello…Ciel! Che vegg’io?...Di
pescatore ignobile.”

Lucrezia—Alexandra Razskazoff
Gubetta—Thomas Glass
Duke—Dimitri Katotakis
Rustighello—Xingwa Hao
Gennaro—Andres Acosta

Pietro Mascagni: Cavalleria rusticana (1890)
“Tu qui, Santuzza…Fior di giaggiolo…
Ah, lo vedi, che hai tu detto.”

Turiddu—Xingwa Hao
Santuzza—Alice Chung
Lola—Alexandra Razskazoff

Kurt Weill: Street Scene (1947)
Act 1, Scene 7 (“Ice Cream Sextet”)
“First time I come to da America…”

Lippo—Andres Acosta
Mrs. Jones—Alexandra Razskazoff
Mrs. Fiorentino—Kendra Berentsen
Mrs. Olsen—Alice Chung
Henry—Xingwa Hao
Mr. Jones—Thomas Glass
Mr. Olsen—Dimitri Katotakis

Carl Maria von Weber: Der Freischütz (1821)
from Act 2
“Wie nahte mir der Schlummer…Leise, leise, fromme Weise…
Wie? Was? Entsetzen!”

Agathe—Felicia Moore
Max—Xingwa Hao
Ännchen—Kendra Berentsen

Jules Massenet: Thaïs (1894)
from Act 2
“Ah, je suis seule…Dis-moi que je suis belle…Étranger, te
voilà.”

Thaïs—Mathilda Edge
Athanaël—Thomas Glass
Nicias—Andres Acosta

Anne Manson, conductor
David Lefkowich, director

IN TERM ISSIO N

PROGRAM SUBJECT TO CHANGE. Please be considerate of others and turn off all phones, pagers, and watch alarms.
Photography and recording of any kind are not permitted. Thank you.
Act 1, Scenes 2 and 3

In 1880s Leadville, Colorado, Horace and Augusta Tabor return home from the opening of the new opera house. Horace, a silver baron and lieutenant governor, has paid for the opera house, but Augusta complains that he won't give up the rough ways he had as a miner. A beautiful, young woman passes by and asks for directions to the nearby hotel.

While Augusta retires for the evening, Horace seizes the chance to go outside and smoke a cigar. He overhears two ladies talking about the young woman who asked for directions and learns her name is Baby Doe and that she has a husband in Central City. As the ladies move off, Baby Doe begins singing "The Willow Song" from the hotel, catching Horace's attention. He breaks into applause when the song finishes, startling Baby Doe. Horace replies to her with "Warm as the Autumn Light," but when Augusta calls from the house, he hurries inside. Tidying up Horace's study, he notices a package addressed to Baby Doe. When Horace returns home, his heartbroken wife confronts him over the affair. Her grief gives way to rage. At the end of the quarrel, Horace says he never meant to hurt her.

The Ballad of Baby Doe—Act 1, Scenes 2 and 3

warmed them to beware of Lucrezia and her entire family. Unimpressed by the story, Gennaro wanders over to a nearby bench and falls asleep. After the others go back inside the Palazzo, a masked woman arrives on a gondola. She looks down at the sleeping Gennaro, reaches for his hand, and gently kisses it. Gennaro wakes, struck by love for the beautiful woman bending over him. He tells her he is an orphan, raised by a group of fishermen, but dearly loves the mother he never met. Gennaro's friends return to the terrace and recognize the woman as Lucrezia Borgia. Before the horrified Gennaro, they recount the members of their families she has killed.

Der Freischütz—from Act 2

In a village in Bohemia at the end of the Thirty Years War, Agathe, the daughter of the head forester, and her young cousin, Ännchen, wait at home for news of the shooting contest in which Agathe's beloved, Max, is taking part. Agathe's father has promised her hand to Max if he can win the contest. Max is a brilliant marksman but lately has had a string of bad luck. Agathe is troubled by her recent visit to a hermit, who warned her of danger and gave her a gift of white roses. Her worry increases when a painting of one of her ancestors falls from the wall and injures her. Another bad omen? Despite her fears, Agathe sings of her love for Max. Max arrives and confesses he was not the victor that day, but he is excited he has shot an eagle that was circling out of range. He has also killed a deer, which he needs to fetch from Wolf's Glen. The girls warn them to beware of Lucrezia and her entire family. Unimpressed by the story, Gennaro wanders over to a nearby bench and falls asleep. After the others go back inside the Palazzo, a masked woman arrives on a gondola. She looks down at the sleeping Gennaro, reaches for his hand, and gently kisses it. Gennaro wakes, struck by love for the beautiful woman bending over him. He tells her he is an orphan, raised by a group of fishermen, but dearly loves the mother he never met. Gennaro's friends return to the terrace and recognize the woman as Lucrezia Borgia. Before the horrified Gennaro, they recount the members of their families she has killed.

Lucrezia Borgia—from Act 1 (Prologue)

In 16th-century Venice, a group of young noblemen celebrate on the terrace of the Palazzo Grimani overlooking the Giudecca Canal. The next day they plan to visit Don Alfonso, Duke of Ferrara, and his wife, the notorious Lucrezia Borgia. Orsini recounts how he and Gennaro met a mysterious old man in the forest who

Thaïs—from Act 2

On Easter Sunday in a village in southern Italy at the turn of the 20th century, Santuzza begs her former lover Turiddu to return to her. Turiddu tries to shake her off. Santuzza accuses him of having an affair with Lola, the girl to whom he was once engaged. Lola married another man while Turiddu was away with the army, but Santuzza says she has seen Turiddu near Lola's house. Turiddu accuses Santuzza of spying on him. Lola enters, on her way to church, and asks Santuzza if she is going to mass. Santuzza says church is for those who have not sinned. Turiddu starts to follow Lola into the church. Santuzza begs him to stay, and Lola, mockingly, does the same. When Lola goes into the church, Santuzza again pleads with Turiddu not to abandon her. Turiddu rejects her and follows Lola. Santuzza curses him.

Cavalleria rusticana

On a hot summer night in the 1930s, immigrants gather in front of a tenement on New York's Lower East Side. Lippo Fiorentino comes home from work with ice cream cones for everyone, and the group sings an ode to this delicious escape from the heat.

Street Scene—Act 1, Scene 7

On a hot summer night in the 1930s, immigrants gather in front of a tenement on New York's Lower East Side. Lippo Fiorentino comes home from work with ice cream cones for everyone, and the group sings an ode to this delicious escape from the heat.
Artists

ANDRES ACOSTA
TENOR

KENDRA BERENTSEN
SOPRANO

ALICE CHUNG
MEZZO-SOPRANO

MATHILDA EDGE
SOPRANO

THOMAS GLASS
BARITONE

XINGWA HAO
TENOR

DIMITRI KATOTAKIS
BARITONE

FELICIA MOORE
SOPRANO

ALEXANDRA RAZSKAZOFF
SOPRANO

ANNE MANSON
CONDUCTOR

DAVID LEFKOWICHH
DIRECTOR

Photo by Kristen Loken
ANDRES ACOSTA  
**TENOR**

**Hometown:** Miami, Florida  
**Merola Roles:** Schwabacher Summer Concert—Gennaro (Lucrezia Borgia), Nicias (Thaís), Lippo (Street Scene)  
**Schools and Young Artist Programs:** Florida State University, Brevard Music Center, Indiana University  
**Teachers:** David Okerlund, Carol Vaness  
**Major Roles:** Arcadio (Florencia en el Amazonas), Alfred (Die Fledermaus), Ferrando (Cosi fan tutte), Don Ottavio (Don Giovanni), Sam Kaplan (Street Scene)

---

ALICE CHUNG  
**MEZZO-SOPRANO**

**Hometown:** Loma Linda, California  
**Merola Roles:** Schwabacher Summer Concert—Augusta Tabor (The Ballad of Baby Doe), Santuzza (Cavalleria rusticana), Mrs. Olsen (Street Scene)  
**Schools and Young Artist Programs:** Lyric Opera of Kansas City Apprentice Program; University of Missouri-Kansas City; University of California, Santa Barbara; Central City Opera; Chautauqua Opera; OperaWorks  
**Teachers:** Vinson Cole, Linda di Fiore  
**Major Roles:** La Zia Principessa (Suor Angelica), Zita (Gianni Schicchi), Mama McCourt (The Ballad of Baby Doe), Mrs. Grose (The Turn of the Screw), Third Lady (Die Zauberflöte), Cecilia March (Little Women), Mariana (Luisa Fernanda)

---

KENDRA BERENTSEN  
**SOPRANO**

**Hometown:** Portland, Oregon  
**Merola Roles:** Schwabacher Summer Concert—Baby Doe (The Ballad of Baby Doe), Ännchen (Der Freischütz), Mrs. Fiorentino (Street Scene)  
**Schools and Young Artist Programs:** Eastman School of Music, International Vocal Arts Institute Blackburg, International Vocal Arts Institute Montreal  
**Teachers:** Diana Soviero, Deborah Birnbaum, Valery Ryvkin, Yelena Kurdina, Chuck Hudson, Rita Shane  
**Major Roles:** Juliette (Roméo et Juliette), Pamina (Die Zauberflöte), Adele (Die Fledermaus), Zerlina (Don Giovanni), Carolina (Il matrimonio segreto), Mme. Herz and Mlle. Silberklang (Der Schauspieldirektor), Frasquita (Carmen), Flora (The Turn of the Screw)

---

MATHILDA EDGE  
**SOPRANO**

**Hometown:** Chandlerville, Illinois  
**Merola Role:** Schwabacher Summer Concert—Thais (Thaís)  
**Schools and Young Artist Programs:** Indiana University, Illinois College  
**Teachers:** Brian Horne, Abbie Furmansky, Costanza Cuccaro, Addie Gramelspacher, Sandra Bouman  
**Major Roles:** Cio-Cio-San (Madama Butterfly), Fiordiligi (Cosi fan tutte), First Lady (Die Zauberflöte), Sandman (Hansel and Gretel), Romilda (Xerxes), The Milliner (Der Rosenkavalier)

---

THOMAS GLASS  
**BARITONE**

**Hometown:** Edina, Minnesota  
**Merola Roles:** Schwabacher Summer Concert—Gubetta (Lucrezia Borgia), Athanaël (Thaís), Mr. Jones (Street Scene)  
**Schools and Young Artist Programs:** Minnesota Opera Resident Artist Program, Wolf Trap Opera Studio Artist Program, Rice University, University of St. Thomas  
**Teachers:** Stephen King, Alan Bryan  
**Major Roles:** Figaro (Il barbiere di Siviglia), Schaunard (La bohème), Capulet (Roméo et Juliette), Peter (Hansel and Gretel), Bill (A Hand of Bridge)

---

XINGWA HAO  
**TENOR**

**Hometown:** Zhan Jiang City, Guang Dong, China  
**Merola Roles:** Schwabacher Summer Concert—Rustighello (Lucrezia Borgia), Max (Der Freischütz), Turiddu (Cavalleria rusticana), Henry (Street Scene)  
**Schools and Young Artist Programs:** The Central Conservatory of Music, Beijing, China; Royal Academy of Music, London, England  
**Teachers:** Hao Jun, Zhong Zhen Fa, Glenville Hargreves, Wang XianLin, Peng Kangliang  
**Major Roles:** Alfredo (La traviata), Tito (La clemenza di Tito), Rinuccio (Gianni Schicchi), Pane (La Calisto), Rodolfo (La bohème), Pong (Turandot), Canio (Pagliacci)
DIMITRI KATOTAKIS
BARITONE

Hometown: Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Merola Roles: Schwabacher Summer Concert—Horace Tabor (The Ballad of Baby Doe), Duke (Lucrezia Borgia), Mr. Olsen (Street Scene)
Schools and Young Artist Programs: University of Toronto, McGill University, The Juilliard School
Teachers: Sanford Sylvan, Steven Blier, Don Tarnawski, Darryl Edwards
Major Roles: Guglielmo (Così fan tutte), Il Conte (Le nozze di Figaro), Steward (Flight), Kaiser Overall (Der Kaiser von Atlantis), Gianni Schicchi (Gianni Schicchi), Ramiro (L’heure espagnole), Escamillo (Carmen), Demetrius (A Midsummer Night’s Dream), Belcore (L’elisir d’amore), Harlekin (Ariadne auf Naxos)

FELICIA MOORE
SOPRANO

Hometown: Princeton, New Jersey
Merola Role: Schwabacher Summer Concert—Agathe (Der Freischütz)
Schools and Young Artist Programs: The Juilliard School; Mannes College, The New School for Music; Westminster Choir College; Portland Opera Resident Artist Program; Des Moines Metro Opera Apprentice Artist Program; Opera Theatre of Saint Louis Gerline Young Artist Program; Ravinia Festival’s Steans Music Institute
Teachers: Edith Wiens, Stephen Wadsworth, Mary Birnbaum, Ruth Falcon, Joseph Colaneri
Major Roles: Kát’a Kabanová (Kát’a Kabanová), First Lady (Die Zauberflöte), Harriet Mosher (Emmeline), Suor Angelica (Suor Angelica), Nella (Gianni Schicchi), Madama Cortese (Il viaggio a Reims), Female Chorus (The Rape of Lucretia)

ALEXANDRA RAZSKAZOFF
SOPRANO

Hometown: New Brighton, Minnesota
Merola Roles: Schwabacher Summer Concert—Lucrezia (Lucrezia Borgia), Lola (Cavalleria rusticana), Mrs. Jones (Street Scene)
Schools and Young Artist Programs: The Juilliard School, Peabody Conservatory, Minnesota Opera Resident Artist Program, Santa Fe Opera Apprentice Program, Music Academy of the West
Teachers: Stanley Cornett, Robert C. White Jr.
Major Roles: Britomarte (L’arbore di Diana), Wellgunde (Das Rheingold), First Lady (Die Zauberflöte), Contessa Almaviva (Le nozze di Figaro), Suor Angelica (Suor Angelica), Blanche de la Force (Dialogues des Carmélites), Donna Elvira (Don Giovanni), Abigail Williams (The Crucible), L’écureuil (L’enfant et les sortilèges)
Conductor Anne Manson has served as music director of the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra since 2008 and recently renewed her contract through 2020. Manson’s strong commitment to contemporary music has led to numerous commissions and recordings with the MCO. Among them are Philip Glass’ Symphony No. 3 and Piano Concerto and Troubadour and the Nightingale—nominated for the Juno and Western Canada Music Award—with soprano Isabel Bayrakdarian. As a guest conductor, she has performed with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Houston and Indianapolis Symphonies, Residentie Orchestra of the Hague, St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, London Philharmonic, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Bournemouth Sinfonia, Swedish Chamber Orchestra, Orquesta de Extremadura, and BBC Proms, and she has guest conducted regularly with many orchestras in Spain.

David Lefkowich is an accomplished stage director and choreographer and has enjoyed success with different companies, including the Metropolitan Opera, Teatro alla Scala, New York City Opera, San Francisco Opera, Florida Grand Opera, Minnesota Opera, and Glimmerglass Opera. Directing credits are numerous and include Don Giovanni, Idomeneo, Le nozze di Figaro, and L’histoire du soldat (Ravinia Music Festival with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra); Salome (Minnesota Opera); Le portrait de Manon (Glimmerglass Opera); and Il trovatore (New Orleans Opera, Fort Worth Opera). Lefkowich is currently the artistic director of the Mill City Summer Opera in Minneapolis, where he directed the company’s inaugural production of Pagliacci and followed with The Barber of Seville, Tosca, The Daughter of the Regiment, and Sweeney Todd.
2017 Summer Festival

La serva padrona, Sāvītrī, and The Bear
Thursday, July 20, 7:30 pm
Saturday, July 22, 2:00 pm
San Francisco Conservatory of Music
Tickets: $70/$50/$15 with student ID

La Cenerentola
Thursday, August 3, 7:30 pm
Saturday, August 5, 2:00 pm
San Francisco Conservatory of Music
Tickets: $70/$50/$15 with student ID

Merola Grand Finale & Post-Reception*
Saturday, August 19, 7:30 pm
War Memorial Opera House
Tickets: $50 Grand Tier and Orchestra
Premium/ $40 Orchestra/$25 Dress Circle/$15 with student ID

*Post-Reception tickets are an additional $75 each.

For tickets and more information:

Contact San Francisco Opera Box Office at (415) 864-3330, purchase in person Monday: 10 am – 5 pm; Tuesday through Friday: 10 am – 6 pm, or online at sfopera.com.

Merola.org