

THE SANTA FE OPERA

Monday, July 30th through Saturday, August 4th



Charles McKay
General Director



Santa Fe Opera House

"Each summer, the superbly inventive Santa Fe Opera, playing in a brilliant new theater by James Stewart Polshek on a hilltop north of town, draws visitors from all around the globe. The annual Chamber Music Festival and extensive dance and theater programs also help to make Santa Fe feel a bit like Salzburg with margaritas. There is sorcery in the air here."
NY Times

"American baritone Ryan McKinny was equally impressive as Amfortas, eloquently expressing pain and sorrow while nearly naked on stage, exposing his ripped body."

Classical Voice, review of Bayreuth's new 'Parsifal'

Brenda Rae as Lucia: *"She offered melodious lyricism... and made tenderness and fragility her own in a Mad Scene in which she was fully invested."* Vienna Zeitung

Daniela Mack: *"She has a voice like polished onyx: strong, dark, deep and gleaming."* Opera News

Ana Maria Martinez: *"A beautiful performance: modest and delicate, yet rising to glimpses of the epic in her final aria of self-sacrifice... It was Ms. Martinez's evening."*

NY Times, review of 'Butterfly' at the MET

Rod Gilfry sings every phrase with crisp diction and dramatic point... He is becoming the singer of choice for new American operas." NY Times

Amanda Echalaz: *"The young lady everyone is talking about... It's rare to find a voice of such true spinto colour, dark and plangent with a stonking top... exceptional talent."*
The Independent



Ryan McKinny



Daniela Mack



Rod Gilfry



Amanda Echalaz

experience that no opera enthusiast should miss. Now aesthetically covered and protected from occasional evening showers, the Crosby Theatre is dramatically situated with a spectacular view of the Southwest valley.

We are including all five operas because there is none that we would want to miss during General Director **Charles Mackay's** tenth and final season. Mr. Mackay's outstanding record will be widely celebrated, for his artistic and musical leadership as well as an enviable fiscal responsibility. Three of the works will be mounted in new productions.

The English titles for all five works are displayed on a screen in front of your seat, similar to the optimum solution initiated by the MET.

We will also include a concert by the revered **Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival** in the **St. Francis Auditorium**, a tradition which has enriched our Tours for many years. The enticing program will feature the Baroque keyboard music of Bach and his contemporaries.

In chronological order of composition, the operas will begin with Rossini's **L'Italiana in Algeri** (1813), an enduring comedy of the 'bel canto' repertory. Next will be Puccini's lyric tragedy, **Madama Butterfly** (1903), which remains among a handful of the most beloved Italian operas. From a few years later, **Ariadne auf Naxos** (1916) will continue the company's commitment to the major works of **Richard Strauss**. Fourth will be Leonard Bernstein's **Candide** (originally on Broadway in 1956) in an important staging to mark the Centennial of the composer's birth. Finally, John Adams' contemporary melodrama, **Doctor Atomic** (2005), offers "a perfect fusion of subject and venue... with the lights of Los Alamos just a few miles away" (*Santa Fe Opera*). 'Candide' and 'Doctor Atomic' will both be company premieres.

Santa Fe Opera's 2018 season will be the company's 62nd, with a characteristic variety of proven and unfamiliar works. We will include **all five major opera productions**, with a performance – or a concert – every evening. The open-air opera house offers an

Orchestra tickets for three operas will be balanced by locations in the Loge for two performances. In recent years, our tour members have consistently enjoyed the views and acoustics of the Loge seats. Many of today's most accomplished artists choose the Santa Fe Opera as an ideal opportunity for assuming new and adventurous roles. This year's casting will include a number of today's sought-after singers: **Daniela Mack** in the coloratura mezzo-soprano title role of 'L'Italiana'; **Ana Maria Martinez** reprising her poignant portrayal of 'Butterfly' from the MET and Chicago; **Amanda Echalaz**, **Bruce Sledge**, **Erin Morley**, **Amanda Majeski** and **Rod Gilfry** comprising a superb Richard Strauss ensemble; **Erik Shrader & Brenda Rae** (last summer's dazzling Lucia) as Bernstein's *Candide* and Cunegunde; and **Ryan McKinny**, **Julia Bullock**, **Meredith Arwady & Daniel Okulitch** as the principals for 'Doctor Atomic'.

This summer, our carefully selected sightseeing excursions will include a private visit to the home and studio of artist **Judy Tuwaletstiwa** in nearby Galisteo; and an all-day visit to **Los Alamos** to reinforce the timely staging of 'Doctor Atomic'. After viewing the exhibitions in Los Alamos' museums, we will continue to the **San Ildefonso Pueblo**, "one of the best-known of the New Mexico living pueblos" (*Rojo Creative Ventures*).

There will be ample free time to explore Santa Fe's colorful Plaza and to visit the city's major museums.



La Posada de Santa Fe lobby

Our accommodations for **six nights** will again be at **La Posada de Santa Fe**. This luxurious resort is now recognized as Santa Fe's premiere 'old style' property, in the quiet atmosphere of a lush garden setting with spacious comfortable rooms and a relaxed outdoor breakfast patio. The location is a few short blocks removed from the city's bustling Plaza, and a shuttle bus is available for those who prefer not to walk. Adjacent to the outdoor swimming pool is a convenient bar for poolside drinks, salads and sandwiches; and the fully equipped Spa offers massages, wraps and other treatments. Most importantly, this most desirable property preserves the authentic charm of old Santa Fe and an outdoor landscape.

Independent arrivals should be on Monday, July 30th. Because there is a performance on the first evening, we are pleased to offer a *limited number of rooms* for the early *optional* night of Sunday, July 29th, for those who wish to arrive a day before the Tour begins. *You should notify us NOW if you want the early night's accommodation.*

Early Monday evening, July 30th, our Tour will begin with a **Buffet Reception** in a private entertainment area of the hotel. This will be an opportunity for you to meet other members of the Tour.

At 8:00 pm on Monday, our first performance in the dramatic setting of the Santa Fe Opera House will be Giacomo Puccini's **Madama Butterfly**. In addition to the famous aria 'Un bel di vedremo', the multi-faceted title role requires vocal stamina combined with sympathetic lyricism and dramatic credibility. "Butterfly is the apotheosis of the frail, suffering heroine so often encountered

in Puccini's gallery." (*New Grove Dictionary of Opera*). Featured in the cast will be soprano **Ana Maria Martinez** as Cio-Cio-San, a role she has made her own in recent years at both the MET and Chicago's Lyric Opera. Opposite her will be Tenor **Joshua Guerrero** as the callous Pinkerton, mezzo-soprano **Megan Marino** as Suzuki, baritone **Nicholas Pelleesen** as the American Consul Sharpless. The 2010 revival will be directed by **Lee Blakely**, who is also credited with the spare, intimate set designs. The conductor will be **John Fiore**. *Sung in Italian with English titles.*



Ana Maria Martinez Joshua Guerrero

Early afternoon on Tuesday, July 31st, we will depart for the village of **Galisteo**, about 45 minutes from downtown Santa Fe, for a visit to the **private home and studio of Native American artist Judy Tuwaletstiwa**. This renowned mixed media painter will address us with her personal life-story and her philosophy of using many materials to allow the world a chance to live in peace and harmony. In addition to many solo and group exhibitions during the past few decades, she has also taught poetry workshops throughout the U.S. A mid-afternoon **High Tea** will be included this afternoon.



Judy Tuwaletstiwa

At 8:00 pm on Tuesday evening, our performance in honor of Leonard Bernstein's 100th birthday will be the Santa Fe Opera's *premiere new production* of his landmark American musical, **Candide**. Considered by many enthusiasts to be Bernstein's finest work for the theatre, 'Candide' is based on Voltaire's 18th century French novel of the same title. The brilliant score opens with the celebrated Overture which is often performed on concert programs and is followed by a wealth of melodic arias, duets and ensembles. Cunegonde's coloratura spoof 'Glitter and Be Gay', Candide's 'This Must be So', and the tender final duet/ensemble 'Make my Garden Grow' are the best-known numbers of this highly inventive work. "Not only delightful as music, and for the most part blessed with exceptional lyrics, 'Candide' serves the needs of Voltaire's narrative in the way it both sends up the operatic framework and finds genuine humanity and power in it." (*New Grove Dictionary of Opera*). The conductor will be **Harry Bicket**, and the large cast is headed by tenor **Alek Shrader** in the title role, soprano **Brenda Rae** as Cunegonde, mezzo-soprano **Helene Schneidermann** as the Old Lady, and baritone **Kevin Burdette** doing quadruple duty as the world-weary philosopher Dr. Pangloss, Voltaire, Martin and Cacambo. The director is **Laurent Pelly** with scenic designs by **Chantal Thomas**. *Sung in English with English surtitles.*



Brenda Rae



Alek Shrader



Harry Bicket

Wednesday, August 1st, is free during the day for independent activities. There are countless galleries and



Amanda Majeski



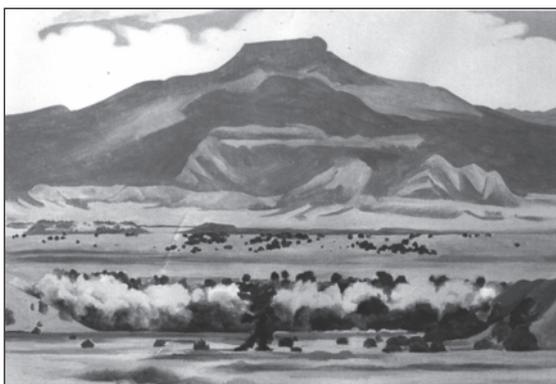
Erin Morly

shops to explore, as well as exhibitions at the **New Mexico Museum of Art** and other major southwest institutions—such as the extraordinary **Girard Collection** of miniature villages and toys in the **Museum of International Folk Art**. The **Georgia O’Keeffe Museum** opened in 1997 to great fanfare and is within easy walking distance of our hotel. **IMPORTANT: A four-day Museum Pass** is included with our package, which allows entry into the city’s museums at your own leisure. *(Because of our many repeat travelers, we prefer to devote our excursions to out-of-the-way locations instead of the nearby museums which can be visited on your own.)*

Wednesday evening, our 8:00 performance will be a *new production* of Richard Strauss’s **Ariadne auf Naxos**, continuing a long line of the composer’s masterworks in this theatre. ‘Ariadne’ is characterized by a witty libretto (by

Strauss’s favorite partner, Hugo von Hofmannsthal) which combine elements of ‘commedia del’arte’ (in the Prologue and interwoven scenes of Zerbinetta and her entourage) with the extended serious arias and closing mock love duet of Ariadne and Bacchus in the opera itself. In this highly original work, Strauss poured out his challenging lyricism for the leading roles. Santa Fe’s exciting cast is headed by soprano **Amanda Echalaz** as Ariadne (following her recent starring role in the MET’s acclaimed ‘The Exterminating Angel’), Strauss specialist **Amanda Majeski** as the ‘trouser’ Composer, the MET’s coloratura soprano **Erin Morly** in the vocal fireworks of Zerbinetta, baritone **Rod Gilfry** as the Music-Master, and heldentenor **Bruce Sledge** as the inebriated Bacchus. The conductor will be **James Gaffigan**, and the staging is by director **Tim Albery** and set designer **Tobias Hoheisel**. *Sung in German with English titles.*

On Thursday morning, August 2nd, a full-day excursion will take us to **Los Alamos** about an hour and a quarter from Santa Fe. We will visit the Bradbury Science Museum’s exhibit focusing on the World War II Manhattan Project and view the full-size models of



Georgia O’Keeffe mountain

Little Boy and Fat Man atomic bombs. We also plan to visit the Los Alamos History Museum and the Hans Bethe House (where two of the Manhattan Project scientists lived) before **lunch** is served at the nearby **Blue Window Restaurant**. En route



Julia Bullock



Daniel Okulitch

back to Santa Fe, we will stop at the **San Ildefonso Pueblo** which encompasses a central plaza, ceremonial kivas, adobe buildings, and a replica of the mission-period church.

At 8:00 pm on Thursday evening, we look forward to the Santa Fe Opera’s *premiere new production* of John Adams’ **Doctor Atomic**, set to a text by Peter Sellars depicting the evolution of the Manhattan Project we will have studied that morning. Mr. Sellars will be the director of this timely staging, with scenery designed by

David Gropman. The conductor is **Matthew Aucoin**, and the cast will feature **Ryan McKinny** as Robert Oppenheimer (Mr. McKinny’s portrayal of Amfortas has been a cornerstone of Bayreuth’s new ‘Parsifal’), **Julia Bullock** as his wife Kitty, **Meredith Arwady** as Pasqualita, **Ben Bliss** as Robert Wilson, **Daniel Okulitch** as General Groves, and **Tim Mix** as Jack Hubbard. “‘Doctor Atomic’ stands as a major addition to the operatic repertory of this new century, the first to be inaugurated with the specter of instant death very much around us.” *(San Francisco Chronicle)*. *Sung in English with English titles.*

Friday, August 3rd, is a free day for independent shopping and sightseeing.

Early Friday evening, we will enjoy a pre-theatre **buffet dinner** on the grounds of the Opera House. These gatherings of opera enthusiasts offer a generous variety of Southwest cuisine in an attractive outdoor setting adjacent to the auditorium. During the dessert, we will benefit from an informative pre-opera talk on tonight’s production of Rossini’s **L’Italiana in Algeri**.

At 8:00 pm on Friday evening, our final opera will be Gioachino Rossini’s sparkling ‘bel canto’ comedy, **L’Italiana in Algeri**. Premiered in Venice in 1813 and largely set in an Algerian harem, ‘L’Italiana’ is a work of great richness and sophistication... and a reminder of how fiercely the flame of Rossini’s own comic invention burns.” *(New Grove Dictionary of Opera)*. The title role is written for a contralto coloratura, a rarity among today’s voice categories, and it will be sung by the Argentine mezzo-soprano **Daniela Mack**. The demanding tenor role of Lindoro will showcase the American tenor **Jack Swanson**, while the American bass **Scott Conner** will lend his Rossini expertise to his portrayal of Haly, the buffo Captain of the Algerian Corsairs. The conductor will be **Corrado Rovaris**, and the team of director **Shawna Lucey** and designer **Robert Innes Hopkins** are responsible for the revival of the 2002 production. *Sung in Italian with English and Spanish titles.*

On Saturday, August 4th, a late **lunch** has been arranged at **Il Piatto**, an intimate bistro on West Marcy Street in the heart of Santa Fe. The management frequently opens only for us at our designated hour.

Saturday at 5:00 pm, our final event will be a concert by the **Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival**. We are always gratified by our early confirmation for these sold-out programs. This afternoon’s performance will be in the **St. Francis Auditorium** just off the Plaza and will be devoted to the keyboard music of the Baroque era, including Bach’s *Italian Concerto*.

Independent departures should be on Sunday morning, August 5th.

Please note: The Santa Fe area is served by the Albuquerque Airport. The most reliable transportation from the airport to Santa Fe is offered by Sandia Shuttle Express – 1-888-775-5696 or 505-474-5696. Reservations and further information can be made by telephone. A few flights also fly directly into the small Santa Fe Airport.

Santa Fe

Price per person, based on double occupancy \$ 4,180

Single room supplement \$ 885

Airfare NOT included.