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http://www.opera-academy.com/news.html

**The Opera Academy of California Launches Its Emerging Artist Program**

**With a Brilliant Summer Season of Opera**

In its inaugural season, The Opera Academy of California is taking charge of the San Francisco music scene by presenting an electrifying season of operatic performances.

OAC starts its exceptional training and performance program for Emerging Artists with its series of vocal master classes, led by world-renowned opera singers, directors, and coaches. These exciting events – open to the public – are designed to help the program’s Emerging Artists hone their craft, as well as give audience members insight into the persistence and dedication that goes into developing an opera singer.

The season continues with its Opera Scenes and Aria Recital programs. Emerging Artists will dazzle audiences as they perform some of the most beloved arias in opera, as well as some incredible lesser known gems in Aria Recitals at the Old First Church of San Francisco. Audiences can also take in the Academy’s Opera Scenes programs, which will feature these talented opera singers in a variety of dramatic and comedic moments from the vast operatic repertoire. Some of the program highlights will include scenes from Mozart’s *Don Giovanni*, Bizet’s *Carmen*, Puccini’s *La Bohème*, and Strauss’ *Der Rosenkavalier*.

The season comes to a climax in the OAC’s presentation of three fully-staged opera productions at the San Francisco landmark, Fort Mason Center. Artfully selected from the standard classical repertoire, the first full opera performance is Mozart’s *Idomeneo*, a dramatic love story that takes place in the midst of the Trojan War. Next the OAC will present a new work: Mark Adamo’s twentieth century operatic rendition of Louisa May Alcott’s classic novel, *Little Women*. This opera follows the lives of the four March sisters, set to the beautifully poignant music of Adamo. The Opera Academy of California finishes its season with the seldom-seen French Belle Époque gem - Chabrier’s *L’étoile*, an opéra bouffe about two star-crossed lovers, a superstitious king, and an astrologer’s prediction that drives the plot into farcical comedy.

Join the Opera Academy of California for its full season of enlightening master classes and stunning performances of its Aria Recitals, Opera Scenes Programs, and three fully staged operatic productions: *Idomeneo*, *Little Women*, and *L’étoile*. This inaugural season is not to be missed!

For tickets to all Opera Academy of California events, please visit the [Opera Academy of California Calendar](http://www.opera-academy.com/calendar.html). Click on the event you wish attend, and then click on the link provided to purchase tickets online.

**Opera Academy of California 2011 Summer Calendar**

**Master Class Series – $22 General Admission, $17 Seniors & Students (Old First Church)**

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| **Tuesday, June 21:** | **San Francisco Opera Center’s Sheri Greenawald, 7:00 PM–10:00 PM** |
| **Thursday, June 23:** | **Santa Fe and Metropolitan Opera Coach Erie Mills, 7:00 PM–10:00 PM** |
| **Saturday, June 25:** | **Renowned Author and Diction Coach Marcie Stapp, 7:00 PM–10:00 PM\*** |
|  | **\*$25 General Admission, $15 Seniors, Students, & Handicapped (Fort Mason Southside Theater)** |
| **Monday, June 27:** | **San Francisco Opera Director Lotfi Mansouri, 7:00 PM–10:00 PM** |
| **Wednesday, June 29:** | **Metropolitan Opera Mezzo Soprano Catherine Cook, 7:00 PM–10:00 PM** |
| **Wednesday, July 6:** | **World renowned Verdi Mezzo Dolora Zajick, 7:00 PM–10:00 PM** |
| **Saturday, July 16:** | **Metropolitan Opera Guest Director Yefim Maizel, 2:00 PM-5:00 PM** |
| **Thursday, July 21:** | **Celebrated Soprano and Teacher Jane Randolph, 2:00 PM–5:00 PM** |
|  | **\*$25 General Admission, $15 Seniors, Students, & Handicapped (Fort Mason Southside Theater)** |

**Aria Concert Series – $17 General Admission, $14 Seniors & Students (Old First Church)**

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| **Sunday, June 26:** | **Aria Recital, 4:00 PM– 6:00 PM** |
| **Sunday, July 10:** | **Aria Recital, 4:00 PM– 6:00 PM** |
| **Monday, July 25:** | **Aria Recital, 7:30 PM– 10:30 PM** |

**Opera Scenes Program – $25 General Admission, $15 Seniors, Students, & Handicapped (Fort Mason)**

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| **Friday, July 1:** | **Opera Scenes Program, 7:30 PM** |
| **Saturday, July 2:** | **Opera Scenes Program, 7:30 PM** |
| **Friday, July 8:** | **Opera Scenes Program, 7:30 PM** |
| **Saturday, July 9:** | **Opera Scenes Program, 7:30 PM** |
| **Thursday, July 28:** | **Opera Scenes Program, 7:30 PM** |

**Opera Performances – $25 General Admission, $15 Seniors, Students, & Handicapped (Fort Mason)**

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| **Thursday, July 14:** | ***Idomeneo*, 7:30 PM** |
| **Friday, July 15:** | ***Idomeneo*, 7:30 PM** |
| **Saturday, July 16:** | ***Idomeneo*, 7:30 PM** |
| **Sunday, July17:** | ***Idomeneo*, 7:30 PM** |
| **Wednesday, July20:** | ***Little Women*, 7:30 PM** |
| **Friday, July 22:** | ***Little Women*, 7:30 PM** |
| **Saturday, July 23:** | ***Little Women*, 2:30 PM** |
| **Thursday, July 21:** | ***L’étoile*, 7:30 PM** |
| **Saturday, July 23:** | ***L’étoile*, 7:30 PM** |
| **Sunday, July 24:** | ***L’étoile*, 2:30 PM** |
| **Friday, July 29:** | ***L’étoile*, 7:30 PM** |
| **Saturday, July 30:** | ***L’étoile*, 7:30 PM** |
| **Sunday, July 31:** | ***L’étoile*, 2:30 PM** |

**A Mission of Opera Education**

The Opera Academy of California (OAC) is a non-profit charitable and educational organization whose mission is to develop and educate new audiences for greater appreciation of opera and musical theater, develop and educate singers in the art of opera and musical theater performance, and bring new audiences and quality performers together in the context of opera and musical theater performance. The OAC expends one third of its effort in the task of cultivating appreciation for opera and musical theater.  We do this by offering classes in opera appreciation, by offering programs of operatic scenes based on a particular theme to allow for serious contemplation of various aspects of operatic performance, and by bringing the audience and the performers together as learners in master classes for singers that are open to the public.

For additional information and high definition images visit:

[www.opera-academy.com](http://www.opera-academy.com)

<http://www.oldfirstconcerts.org/performances>

[www.fortmason.org/boxoffice](http://www.fortmason.org/boxoffice)