

NEWS

Media Contact:

Brenda Fox
Director of Marketing and Patron Services
(707) 546-7097 x 218
bfox@srsymphony.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 2, 2023

One-Night Special Event

Opera in Concert: Mozart's *The Magic Flute*

A unique collaboration with ArtQuest of Santa Rosa High School

April 15, 2023, at Weill Hall, Green Music Center

(Santa Rosa, Calif.) — Santa Rosa Symphony (SRS) presents Opera in Concert: Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, on April 15, 2023 at 7:30 pm, Weill Hall, Green Music Center, in conjunction with ArtQuest at Santa Rosa High School. Professional Bay Area Opera singers and San Francisco Conservatory of Music student singers will share the stage with the SRS orchestra and the ArtQuest chorus, dancers, and narrators for a concert version of Mozart's most popular opera. ArtQuest is a public-school magnet program for the Visual and Performing Arts at SRHS. The SRS last performed a production of this type 20 years ago when they presented Tippett's, *Child of Our Time*.

The colorful and engaging music of *The Magic Flute* encompasses all the elements of a good fairytale with rich characters, beautifully drawn by Mozart's music. Life-size sculptures of the *Magic Flute* characters, designed and created by ArtQuest students, will be on full display in the Green Music Center's courtyard, and instrumental music students will be performing in the lobby before the concert. All eight ArtQuest specialties are participating, from performing and creating visual works to documenting this unique collaboration through Photography, Video and Digital Arts.

*"It has been one of the highlights of my season working with the students from ArtQuest. From budding filmmakers to sculptures to dancers, they have each brought their own unique insight into one of the most consequential works of Western art, Mozart's *The Magic Flute*. I look forward to sharing the stage with many of them for our concert performance, showcasing some of the Bay Area's most exciting opera singers."* **Francesco Lecce-Chong**, conductor

*"Collaborating with the Santa Rosa Symphony on Mozart's "*The Magic Flute*" has been an incredible opportunity for our students to gain real-world industry experience. Our students have been able to learn from and work with Music Director Francesco Lecce-Chong throughout the year, culminating in the in-concert production at SSU's Green Music Center in April!"* **Katie Loomis**, ArtQuest Program Coordinator

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE: Opera in Concert, Mozart's *The Magic Flute*

Francesco Lecce-Chong, conductor

Kirk Eichelberger*, Sarastro

Shawnette Sulker*, Queen of the Night

Efraín Solís*, Papageno

Victor Cardamone*, Tamino

Ellen Leslie*, Pamina

Erica Thelen**, First Lady/Child-Spirit
Taylor See**, Second Lady/Child-Spirit
Hope Nelson**, Third Lady/Child-Spirit
Jackson Allen**, Monostatos/First Armored Man
Joe Hack**, Temple Speaker/Second Armored Man
Hyesoo Kim**, Papagena

*Professional Bay Area Opera Singers

**San Francisco Conservatory of Music Students

Katie Loomis, ArtQuest Program Coordinator
Marla Tusa, ArtQuest Vocal Music Instructor
Lea Brown, ArtQuest Dance Instructor
Jereme Anglin, ArtQuest Theatre Arts Instructor
John Sappington, Photography Instructor
Jason Pedri, Video Arts Instructor
Lauren Frost, Digital Arts Instructor
Brooke Delello, Visual Fine Arts Instructor
Janet Fisher, Visual Fine Arts Instructor
Tim Decker, Instrumental Music Instructor

Interview opportunities and high-resolution photos available: **Francesco Lecce-Chong, Katie Loomis**

SPONSORS: We gratefully acknowledge the generous contributions from the following:

Lead sponsor: **Victor and Karen Trione**

Conductor Francesco Lecce-Chong sponsored by **David and Corinne Byrd**

ArtQuest Santa Rosa High School sponsored by **Willow Creek Wealth Management**

Ellen Leslie sponsored by **Pauline Fisher**

Efraín Solís sponsored by **Jack Dupre and Marsha Vas Dupre**

Shawnette Sulker sponsored by **Irene Sohm**

WHERE: Weill Hall, Green Music Center, Sonoma State University

TICKET PRICES: \$32-\$125

TICKETS: rsymphony.org or (707) 546-8742 (Weekdays 9:00 am – 5:00 pm, opening at 10:30 am Wednesday closed Saturday & Sunday)

ABOUT SANTA ROSA SYMPHONY

Santa Rosa Symphony, the Resident Orchestra of the Green Music Center, is the third-oldest professional orchestra in California, and the largest regional symphony north of Los Angeles. Francesco Lecce-Chong, the Symphony's fifth music director in its 95 years, began his tenure in 2018. Alan Silow, President & CEO, began his tenure in 2002. The Symphony is committed to the core values of artistic excellence, innovative programming, comprehensive music education and community service.

The Symphony's performance schedule includes 21 Classical Series concerts (seven sets), seven Discovery Dress Rehearsal concerts, a three-concert Family Series and a four-concert Pops Series, as well as special concerts.

Awards include an American Symphony Orchestra League MetLife Award for Community Engagement and a first-place award for adventurous programming in the 2012-2013 season from the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers.

The Symphony is recognized as having one of California's most comprehensive music education programs, serving nearly 20,000 youths annually. Collaborations with schools and organizations across Sonoma County have gained the Santa Rosa Symphony national attention and support.

###