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THIS WEEK



Pat Kirk

CLASSICAL

Opera San José is streaming Mozart's 'Idomeneo'

Best bets from Datebook's arts and entertainment critics and contributors

Opera San José was poised to conclude its season with a new production of Mozart's "Magic Flute" before the coronavirus pandemic disrupted everyone's plans. During the enforced hiatus, the company is streaming one of its finest Mozartean offerings of recent years, the 2011 production of the Trojan War dra-

ma "Idomeneo."

Instead of updating the action to modern times or relocating it to a misty mythical landscape, this staging — with sets by Steven C. Kemp, costumes by Johann Stegmeir and lighting by Christopher Ostrom — doubles down emphatically on the opera's setting in ancient Crete.

It features an excellent cast led by sopranos Rebecca Davis and Christina Major and tenors Christopher Bengochea and Aaron Blake. Best of all, it boasts the conducting of the late George Cleve, whose mastery of Mozart's style was one of the Bay Area's great cultural treasures for decades.

— Joshua Kosman

"Idomeneo":
Opera San José stream, available for free through May 18. www.operasj.org