

OPERA SAN JOSÉ UNVEILS LINEUP FOR 2026–27 SEASON

September 2026 – May 2027

SAN JOSÉ, CA (17 March 2025) — **Opera San José** General Director & CEO **Shawna Lucey** has announced the company’s 43rd season, an exciting line up that offers audiences classic operatic favorites, a groundbreaking American musical, and the company’s first-ever John Adams opera. The 2026-27 season will feature four productions, presented September 13, 2026 through May 2, 2027, at the majestic California Theatre in downtown San José. For more information or to purchase subscriptions (\$155–\$650) the public can visit operasj.org or call **408-437-4450** (open Monday through Friday, 9:00am–5:00pm).

“This season, Music Director and Opera San José Principal Conductor Joseph Marcheso and I are thrilled to present repertoire that will delight longtime opera lovers while welcoming new audiences into the magic of brilliant singing, transformative music, and stunning productions,” said General Director & CEO **Shawna Lucey**. “Each production reflects Opera San José’s dedication to nurturing both emerging and established artists, supporting exciting role debuts, and delivering performances of the highest caliber. As the South Bay’s leading performing arts organization, we remain committed to developing opera’s next generation of talent and cultivating audiences for years to come. This season is an invitation to experience the transformative power and beauty of live music performances.”

Opera San José’s 43rd season opens with Mozart’s vivid retelling of the Don Juan legend, ***Don Giovanni*** (September 13-27, 2026). The “dramma giocosa” (a blend of comedy and drama) follows the comeuppance of an arrogant and reckless serial philanderer. Leading American bass **Wm. Clay Thompson** makes his OSJ debut in the title role. He is joined by soprano **Maria Brea** as the fiery Donna Elvira, following her acclaimed appearance with OSJ as Ana Maria Soza in *Zorro*. Tenor **Jonghyun Park** also joins the cast as the naïve and well-intentioned Don Ottavio, after previously appearing with OSJ as Ferrando in *Così Fan Tutte*. Following his acclaimed turn directing last season’s *Così Fan Tutte*, internationally renowned tenor **Alek Shrader** is set to direct, with OSJ Music Director and Principal Conductor **Joseph Marcheso** leading the orchestra in one of Mozart’s richest and most lyrical scores.

Later in the fall, Opera San José will present the musical that revolutionized American theatre, ***Fiddler on the Roof*** (November 15-29, 2026). Winner of nine Tony Awards, *Fiddler on the Roof* became the longest-running Broadway musical of its time, holding the record for a decade. Featuring a brilliant, enduring score, the show offers a powerful exploration of the tension between honoring tradition and embracing change. It also introduced many American audiences to Jewish culture and the profound, heartbreaking realities of diaspora. Starring as the beleaguered dairyman Tevye struggling to raise five daughters is OSJ favorite, baritone **Eugene Brancoveanu**. Other announced casting includes 2025–26 OSJ Artist-in-Residence soprano **Nicole Koh** as the eldest daughter, Tzeitel, who persuades her father to set aside the tradition of

an arranged marriage so she can follow her heart. Former OSJ inaugural Wadhvani Artist-in-Residence soprano **Melissa Sondhi** also joins the cast as Hodel, another daughter who challenges tradition when she falls in love with a revolutionary student. Emmy Award-nominated, international Director **Crystal Manich**, alongside Conductor **George Manahan**, will bring this classic musical to life.

In 2027, Opera San José starts the new year with the company's first-ever John Adams opera, **Doctor Atomic** (February 14-28, 2027), in a new production that will honor the renowned Berkeley-based composer's 80th birthday. This brilliant work, with libretto by Peter Sellars, focuses on the intense psychological, moral, and technical pressures surrounding the creation of the first atomic bomb. Directed by **Shawna Lucey** and conducted by **Joseph Marcheso**, the production will star Grammy Award-winning Canadian baritone **Elliot Madore** making his OSJ debut as J. Robert Oppenheimer, with mezzo-soprano **Chrystal E. Williams** also debuting at OSJ as his wife, Kitty Oppenheimer.

The season concludes with Bizet's passionate and dramatic opera, **Carmen** (April 18-May 2, 2027). This tragic work, which follows a soldier who abandons everything to pursue the fiery, free-spirited title character, will star Peruvian American mezzo-soprano **Kelly Guerra** in her OSJ debut as Carmen. She will be joined by tenor **Alex Boyer**, fresh from his Metropolitan Opera debut and previously seen at OSJ in *Tosca* and *Romeo & Juliet* as Don José. *Carmen* will be directed by acclaimed American mezzo-soprano **Denyce Graves**.

2026–2027 SEASON

DON GIOVANNI

Music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart | Libretto by Lorenzo Da Ponte

September 13-27, 2026

Sung in Italian with English and Spanish supertitles

Mozart's **Don Giovanni** tells the story of a notorious serial womanizer whose reckless pursuit of women and utter disregard for consequences set him on a path toward inevitable doom. Blending dark comedy and tragedy, the opera follows his exploits as he deceives, manipulates, and outrages those around him—until a chilling encounter with supernatural justice forces him to face the consequences of his actions. This production examines immorality, accountability, and the inescapable final reckoning that awaits the unrepentant. Bass **Wm. Clay Thompson** makes his OSJ debut in the title role, joined by soprano **Maria Brea**, who captured critical acclaim at OSJ as Ana Maria Soza in *Zorro*, as the fiery Donna Elvira, and tenor **Jonghyun Park** also joins the cast as the naïve and well-intentioned Don Ottavio, after previously appearing with OSJ as Ferrando in *Così Fan Tutte*. Internationally renowned tenor **Alek Shrader**, fresh off directing last season's *Così Fan Tutte*, directs this production, with OSJ Music Director and Principal Conductor **Joseph Marcheso** leading the orchestra through one of Mozart's most lyrical and celebrated scores.

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF

Music by Jerry Bock | Lyrics by Sheldon Harnick | Libretto by Joseph Stein

November 15-29, 2026
Sung in English with English and Spanish supertitles

Fiddler on the Roof, the groundbreaking musical, won nine Tony Awards, including Best Musical, and received three Academy Award nominations for its film adaptation, solidifying its place as one of the most celebrated and enduring musicals in history. Set in a small Jewish village in early 20th-century Russia, the story follows Tevye, a humble milkman, as he navigates the challenges of preserving his family's traditions amid societal change. With unforgettable songs like "Tradition," "If I Were a Rich Man," and "Sunrise, Sunset," the musical explores themes of love, faith, and resilience, offering audiences a moving glimpse into Jewish culture and the trials of diaspora. OSJ favorite baritone **Eugene Brancoveanu**, seen at OSJ in many roles, most recently as Sharpless in *Madama Butterfly*, stars as the beleaguered Tevye, joined by 2025–26 OSJ Artist-in-Residence soprano **Nicole Koh** as Tzeitel and former OSJ inaugural Wadhvani Artist-in-Residence soprano **Melissa Sondhi** as Hodel. Emmy Award–nominated international Director **Crystal Manich**, alongside Conductor **George Manahan**, brings a fresh, vibrant vision to this timeless classic. *Fiddler on the Roof* is licensed by and presented through a special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI) and is a co-production of Cincinnati Opera, Austin Opera, and Opera San José.

DOCTOR ATOMIC

Music by John Adams | Libretto by Peter Sellars
February 14-28, 2027
Sung in English with English and Spanish supertitles

Opera San José will present the South Bay premiere of John Adams' ***Doctor Atomic*** in a new production celebrating the composer's 80th birthday. Directed by OSJ General Director & CEO **Shawna Lucey** and conducted by OSJ Music Director and Principal Conductor **Joseph Marcheso**, the soaring opera explores the moral burden, as well as the immense pressures facing J. Robert Oppenheimer and the scientists involved in the Manhattan Project. Adams' contemporary score and Sellars' libretto, based on original documents, government records, and poetry (including John Donne, whose sonnet inspired the test site name "Trinity") focuses on the frenzied final hours leading to the first test of the world-altering atomic bomb. Grammy Award-winning Canadian baritone **Elliot Madore** makes his OSJ debut as Oppenheimer, with mezzo-soprano **Chrystal E. Williams** also making her company debut as his wife, Kitty Oppenheimer. *Dr. Atomic* is presented by arrangement with B&H Music Publishing, Inc.

CARMEN

Music by Georges Bizet | Libretto by Henri Meilhac and Ludovic Halévy
April 18-May 2, 2027
Sung in French with English and Spanish supertitles

Set amid the sun-drenched streets and lively taverns of Seville, Bizet's ***Carmen*** pulses with passion, desire, and the fierce consequences of defiance. Directed by acclaimed American mezzo-soprano **Denyce Graves** the story follows the free-spirited and seductive Carmen, whose passionate nature captivates soldier Don José, leading him to abandon duty and honor—and

ultimately face heartbreak and tragedy. Featuring some of opera's most iconic music, including the sultry "Habanera" and the thrilling "Toreador Song," *Carmen* continues to enthrall audiences with its intensity and timeless themes. Peruvian American mezzo-soprano **Kelly Guerra** makes her OSJ debut in the title role, joined by tenor **Alex Boyer**, fresh from his Metropolitan Opera debut and previously seen at OSJ in *Tosca* and *Romeo & Juliet* as Don José.

Opera San José (OSJ) is a flagship arts organization of Silicon Valley. Maintaining a resident company of artists, OSJ presents four mainstage productions annually in San José's beautifully restored, magnificent California Theatre. It also regularly broadcasts digital productions from its state-of-the-art Heiman Digital Media Studio. OSJ specializes in role debuts, serving as an artistic incubator for established and emerging artists and administrators, producing world-class operatic performances for diverse audiences throughout the Bay Area and around the globe. More information is available at operasi.org.

Opera San José performs at the **California Theatre**, one of the most magnificent, best-preserved examples of 1920s-era lavish motion picture palaces. Lovingly restored at the turn of the 21st century, its opulently ornamented interiors were completely refurbished, including the elaborately stenciled entry foyer ceiling and magnificent gallery. With only 20 rows of seats in the orchestra section, five rows in the grand tier, and six in the mezzanine, every seat has an excellent view of the stage. With just over 1,100 seats, the California Theatre is comparable to England's Glyndebourne and Venice's historic Teatro La Fenice in the select ranks of the world's most intimate opera houses.

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

PERFORMANCES: September 2026 – May 2027

September 13-27, 2026: *Don Giovanni*
November 15-29, 2026: *Fiddler on the Roof*
February 14-28, 2027: *Doctor Atomic*
April 18-May 2, 2027: *Carmen*

WHERE: **California Theatre**, 345 South First St., San José, CA

TICKETS: Subscriptions (\$155–\$650) are on sale now.
June 3 – Single tickets available for 2026 subscribers only.
July 14 – All single tickets go on sale.

INFO: For more information or to purchase subscriptions, the public can visit operasi.org or call **408-437-4450** (open Monday through Friday, 9:00am–5:00pm).

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MEDIA: Paige D'Encarnacao, CBCO Public Relations & Marketing
paige@cb-pr.com | 415-570-2623

PHOTOS:

Downloadable high-res photos are available here:
<http://www.cbpr.co/press/operasanjose26-27>