



# MEROLA OPERA PROGRAM PRESENTS **ARIADNE AUF NAXOS**

7:00pm, July 30 & 2:00pm, August 1, 2026

**WHAT:** San Francisco's acclaimed **Merola Opera Program**, one of the world's most prestigious opera training programs, continues its 2026 season with its penultimate production, the serio-comic *Ariadne auf Naxos*. Composed by Richard Strauss and conducted by **Ann-Katrin Stöcker** with stage direction by **Omer Ben Seadia** (Merola '14), this piece blends mythological tragedy with comic opera. Framed as a show within a show, the opera takes a delightfully serious look at happiness, despair, and love, showcasing the talented Merola emerging artists. Celebrated for its inventive structure, virtuosic vocal writing, and seamless fusion of contrasting styles, the work holds an important place in the operatic canon as a sophisticated meditation on the relationship between art, emotion, and theatrical form. The opera will be performed in German with English supertitles.

**WHEN:** 7:00pm, July 30, 2026  
2:00pm, August 1, 2026

**WHERE:** **San Francisco Conservatory of Music**, 50 Oak St., San Francisco

**TICKETS:** **\$75; \$25 (25 and under)**  
Tickets are currently available to Merola members, with remaining tickets available to the public beginning Friday, May 1.

For more information on how to become a member, visit [merola.org/membership](https://merola.org/membership). Tickets and more information are available at [merola.org](https://merola.org) or by calling the San Francisco Opera Box Office at 415-864-3330.

*Patrons can also save on tickets by purchasing the full four-production Merola Summer Festival package. Receive 20% off when buying between Tuesday, April 14 and Thursday, April 30, or 10% off when purchasing between Friday, May 1 and Wednesday, June 24.*

**INFO:** For more information or to order tickets, please visit [merola.org](https://merola.org) or call the San Francisco Box Office at **415-864-3330**. The box office and Group Sales are open Monday, 10:00am-5:00pm, and Tuesday through Friday, 10:00am-6:00pm.

**MEDIA:** Contact Paige D'Encarnacao, CBCO Public Relations & Marketing  
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**PHOTOS:** Downloadable high-res photos are available here:  
<https://cbpr.co/press/merola2026/>