

For Immediate Release

THE  
SANTA FE  
OPERA



Free Opera-tunities! The Santa Fe Opera presents **Opening Nights Radio Broadcasts** of the **2026 Season** throughout **August**, “**Opera at the Railyard**” on **July 23** and “**Opera in the Park**” on **September 19**

June 24, 2026

Emily Doyle Moore | [media@santafeopera.org](mailto:media@santafeopera.org) | 505-986-5908

**Santa Fe, NM** — The Santa Fe Opera is pleased to announce three free community offerings to complement the 2026 Season: **SFO Opening Nights on KHFM Radio Broadcasts** airing on **Mondays** throughout August; an “**Opera at the Railyard**” concert featuring the Apprentice Singers on **July 23**; and the return of its “**Opera in the Park**” events with a screening of *The Magic Flute* on **September 19**.

### **Santa Fe Opera Opening Nights on KHFM**

The Santa Fe Opera and 95.5 KHFM Classical Public Radio present free, live-recorded radio broadcasts of the opera’s 2026 Season opening nights. Listeners in communities throughout New Mexico, nationally and internationally can enjoy music from the Santa Fe Opera from the comfort of their homes, vehicles and streaming devices. Following each air date, broadcasts are available for free, on-demand streaming on the [santafeopera.org](http://santafeopera.org) and [khfm.org](http://khfm.org) websites for **30 days**.

To listen, tune in to 95.5 KHFM Classical Public Radio or stream online at [khfm.org](http://khfm.org) at **6:00 pm MDT** on **August 3, 10, 17, 24** and **31**. Each broadcast features opening night performances recorded live from **The Crosby Theatre**: Puccini’s *Madama Butterfly*, Mozart’s *The Magic Flute*, Tchaikovsky’s *Eugene Onegin*, Handel’s *Rodelinda* and Tobias Picker’s *Lili Elbe*. Soprano, educator and KHFM host **Kathlene Ritch** serves as host and provides insight into each opera’s history, story and artists.

### **Broadcast Schedule**

August 3 at 6:00 pm MDT, *Madama Butterfly*

August 10 at 6:00 pm MDT, *The Magic Flute*

August 17 at 6:00 pm MDT, *Eugene Onegin*

August 24 at 6:00 pm MDT, *Rodelinda*

August 31 at 6:00 pm MDT, *Lili Elbe*

### **How to Listen**

#### **Radio**

Albuquerque, Santa Fe and nearby communities: **95.5 KHFM**

Roswell: **103.1 FM**

Taos: **106.3 FM**  
Ruidoso: **95.9 FM**

### **Online**

Stream the broadcasts via a computer or mobile device at [khfm.org](http://khfm.org), and enjoy **free, on-demand streaming for 30 days following each air date** at [santafeopera.org](http://santafeopera.org) and [khfm.org](http://khfm.org).

The **Santa Fe Opera Opening Nights on KHFM** radio broadcasts are co-produced by KHFM on-air host **Brent Stevens** and Santa Fe Opera Director of Media & Public Relations **Emily Doyle Moore**, with live recordings engineered and mixed by **Kabby Sound Studios**. These broadcasts are made possible by the **James R. Seitz, Jr. Fund for Broadcasting**.

### **The Santa Fe Opera Opening Night Ticket Giveaway**

**In partnership with KHFM, the Santa Fe Opera is giving away a pair of tickets to each of the Opening Nights in the 2026 Season!** Winners will tailgate and attend the performance with one of the KHFM on-air hosts.

### **Opening Nights Tailgate and Ticket Giveaway Schedule**

Friday, July 3: ***Madama Butterfly*** with **Alexis Corbin**  
Saturday, July 4: ***The Magic Flute*** with **Tanya Cole**  
Saturday, July 18: ***Eugene Onegin*** with **Kathlene Ritch**  
Saturday, July 25: ***Rodelinda*** with **Brent Stevens**  
Saturday, August 1: ***Lili Elbe*** with **David Sinkus**

To enter for a free chance to win, visit the Santa Fe Opera website at [santafeopera.org](http://santafeopera.org) or 95.5 KHFM Classical Public Radio at [khfm.org](http://khfm.org). Void where prohibited; see the entry form for full terms and conditions.

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### **Opera at the Railyard**

**The Santa Fe Opera joins the free summer concert series at the Railyard in Santa Fe.** Join us on **July 23** at **7:00 pm** for a free live concert featuring members of the Santa Fe Opera Apprentice Program for Singers performing arias and scenes from popular operas. Presenting sponsor **Hutton Broadcasting** will be on-site with a tent providing free Coca-Cola products. After the concert, head over to As Above, So Below distillery & bar for an afterparty, featuring a “Queen of the Night” cocktail!

### **For Calendar Keepers**

What: **“Opera at the Railyard”** concert featuring members of the Santa Fe Opera Apprentice Program for Singers

When: **Thursday, July 23, 7 pm**

Where: **The Santa Fe Railyard under the water tower**, Alcaldesa St., Santa Fe, NM

How: **FREE** to attend with no reservation required

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## Opera in the Park

In celebration of the Santa Fe Opera's 69th Festival Season, the opera invites opera fans and newcomers alike to gather together and enjoy a screening of *The Magic Flute* at the **Railyard Park** in Santa Fe on **September 19 at 6 pm**. The Santa Fe Opera presents Opera in the Park with support from the **Kirkpatrick Foundation**, Presenting Sponsor, and the **Hankins Foundation**, Principal Education Sponsor.

**Brian Weed** directs the video recording with support from assistant director **Nathan Troup** and post-production by **Cut Print Video Production**; **Kabby Sound Studios** provides the audio engineering. Artist appearances are made possible through the **American Guild of Musical Artists, AFL-CIO and the American Federation of Musicians, Local 618**.

## For Calendar Keepers

What: **Opera in the Park: a free screening of *The Magic Flute* presented by the Santa Fe Opera**

When: **Saturday, September 19**

Where: **Railyard Park, 740 Cerrillos Rd, Santa Fe, NM 87505**

Lawn Opens: **5:00 pm**; Performance Begins: **6 pm**

Run Time: **Approximately 2 hours and 35 minutes with no intermission**

Contact: **Koppany Pusztai, Manager of Programs and Partnerships | [kpusztai@santafeopera.org](mailto:kpusztai@santafeopera.org)**

## About *The Magic Flute*

*Imagine a magic flute that can tame the wildest of beasts. Can Prince Tamino and Papageno use it to save the princess? They embark on a fantastical quest through the elements, and along the way, they encounter enchanting characters and face daring trials.*

The Santa Fe Opera's enchanting new production of Mozart's *The Magic Flute* is a co-production with **Garsington Opera** and directed by **Christopher Luscombe** in his company debut and conducted by Santa Fe Opera Music Director **Harry Bicket**.

Inspired by Edwardian pantomime, this new production merges spectacle with storytelling to create an immersive experience for audiences of all ages. Scenic designer **Simon Higlett** crafts a world of *trompe-l'œil* scenery, evoking Victorian music halls, while lighting by **Philip Rosenberg** and illusions by **Chris Fisher** heighten the magic with stunning stage effects. Costume Designer **Robert Perdziola** blends early 19th-century silhouettes with theatrical flourishes, reflecting the opera's blend of fantasy and adventure. **David Zimmerman** and **Andrew Kenneth Moss** return for the season as Wig and Makeup Designer and Fight and Intimacy Director, respectively. **Susanne Sheston** serves as Chorus Director.

Making company debuts are **Josh Lovell** as Tamino, **Joëlle Harvey** as Pamina, **Jeni Houser** as the Queen of the Night and **Alexander Köpeczi** as Sarastro. Several former Apprentice Singers return, including **Will Liverman** as Papageno, with Apprentice Singer **Jazmine Saunders** as Papagena, **Spencer Hamlin** as Monostatos and **Le Bu** as the Speaker. Apprentices also returning include **Jasmin Ward** as First Lady, **Deanna Ray Eberhart** as Second Lady, **Lauren Randolph** as Third Lady, **Will Ryan** as Second Priest, and **Matthew Goodheart** as First Armored Man. Making Santa Fe Opera debuts are **Dominic Salvati** in the role of First Priest, **Dani Jingdan Zhang** as First Boy, **Sabrina Langlois** as Second Boy, **Natalie Corrigan** as Third Boy and **Sunghoon Han** as Second Armored Man. A new English translation by **Jeremy Sams** brings immediacy and humor to the performances.

# ***The Magic Flute***

Music by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Libretto by Emanuel Schikaneder

Premiered September 30, 1791, Freihaus-Theater auf der Wieden, Vienna, Austria

Co-production with Garsington Opera

English Translation by Jeremy Sams used by arrangement with Josef Weinberger Limited

8 performances — July 4, 10, 15; August 4, 13, 22, 25 & 28, 2026  
Singing and dialogue in English with opera titles in English and Spanish  
Approximately 3 hours; includes a 25-minute intermission

Production support generously provided by

The Avenir Production Fund

The Tobin Endowment

The Robert & Ellen Vladem Perpetual Fund for Opera Production

Additional artistic support provided by

Gene & Jean Stark

The engagement of Christopher Luscombe is supported by

Gina Browning & Joe Illick

The engagement of Simon Higlett is supported by

The Carl & Marilyn Thoma Foundation

The performances of Joëlle Harvey are supported by

The Marcella Fund

The performances of Jeni Houser are supported by  
The Joseph and Robert Cornell Memorial Foundation

The performances of Will Liverman are supported by

Marianne S. Kah

## **Creative Team**

**Conductor** Harry Bicket

**Director** Christopher Luscombe\*

**Scenic Design** Simon Higlett\*

**Costume Design** Robert Perdziola

**Lighting Design** Philip Rosenberg\*

**Wig and Makeup Design** David Zimmerman

**Illusions** Chris Fisher\*

**Chorus Director** Susanne Sheston  
**Fight & Intimacy Direction** Andrew Kenneth Moss

**Cast**

**Tamino** Josh Lovell\*  
**Pamina** Joëlle Harvey\*  
**The Queen of the Night** Jeni Houser\*  
**Sarastro** Alexander Köpeczi\*  
**Papageno** Will Liverman+  
**Monostatos** Spencer Hamlin+  
**Speaker** Le Bu+  
**First Lady** Jasmin Ward^  
**Second Lady** Deanna Ray Eberhart^  
**Third Lady** Lauren Randolph^  
**Papagena** Jazmine Saunders^  
**First Priest** Dominic Salvati^\*  
**Second Priest** Will Ryan^  
**First Boy** Dani Jingdan Zhang^\*  
**Second Boy** Sabrina Langlois^\*  
**Third Boy** Natalie Corrigan^\*  
**First Armored Man** Matthew Goodheart^  
**Second Armored Man** Sunghoon Han^\*

**The Santa Fe Opera Orchestra & Chorus**

*\*Santa Fe Opera Debut, ^Current Santa Fe Opera Apprentice, +Former Santa Fe Opera Apprentice,  
~American Debut*

**About the 2026 Season**

In 2026, the Santa Fe Opera presents a lineup of classic, rarely performed and new works. The 69th Festival Season features **38 performances** of two new productions, two celebrated revivals and an American premiere. An homage to the company's first-ever performance in 1957, Opening Weekend takes flight on **July 3** with **Lee Blakeley's** acclaimed production of Puccini's ***Madama Butterfly***, revived by **Melanie Bacaling**. Next, on **July 4**, is a new international co-production with **Garsington Opera** of Mozart's ***The Magic Flute*** directed by **Christopher Luscombe**. Centering the season from **July 18** is a revival of **Alessandro Talevi's** production of Tchaikovsky's ***Eugene Onegin***, originally presented during the opera's 2021 Season. On **July 25**, Handel's ***Rodelinda*** is offered for the first time at the Santa Fe Opera, led by Santa Fe Opera Music Director and early music specialist **Harry Bicket** with direction by **R.B. Schlather**. Finally, on **August 1**, the Santa Fe Opera presents the American premiere of ***Lili Elbe***, an opera in two acts by Grammy-winning composer **Tobias Picker** and librettist **Aryeh Lev Stollman**, featuring former Apprentice singer **Lucia Lucas** in the title role.

Says General Director **Robert K. Meya**, "As we celebrate the Santa Fe Opera's 69th Season, we honor a legacy built on bold creativity, artistic excellence and a spirit of discovery that has defined our company. 2026 offers audiences a confection of beloved classics, rarely heard masterpieces and thrilling new

works, culminating in our 46th American premiere: **Tobias Picker** and **Aryeh Lev Stollman's *Lili Elbe***. This significant premiere reaffirms our enduring commitment to presenting works that speak to our time and illuminate the future of our art form."

First-time visitors and long-time patrons can also look forward to offerings evocative of the singular Santa Fe Opera experience, including tailgating, **Preview Dinners**, **Tours**, free **Prelude Talks** and much more. Individual tickets and subscriptions are on sale now at [santafeopera.org](https://santafeopera.org).

### **About The Santa Fe Opera**

Recognized in 2022 as "Festival of the Year" at the **International Opera Awards**, the Santa Fe Opera annually draws 70,000 people from New Mexico and around the globe. Nestled atop a mountain vista in northern New Mexico, the company's iconic **Crosby Theatre** is open on three sides, allowing visitors to enjoy performances complemented by the elements. Since 1957 the company has presented over 2,000 performances of 180 operas by 92 composers spanning five centuries of opera, creating a legacy of 45 American premieres and 19 world premieres.

### **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility at the Santa Fe Opera**

Opera has the power to speak truth, broaden perspectives and invite empathy. The Santa Fe Opera is committed to the continuous work of becoming an antiracist and anti-oppressive organization and incorporating the principles of equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility. Our goal is to create a joyful and engaging environment in which a diverse community of artists, staff, volunteers and audiences alike belong.

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*The mission of the Santa Fe Opera is to advance the operatic art form by presenting ensemble performances of the highest quality in a unique setting with a varied repertory of new, rarely performed and standard works; to ensure the excellence of opera's future through apprentice programs for singers, technicians and arts administrators; and to foster an understanding and appreciation of opera among a diverse public.*

Discover More: [SantaFeOpera.org](https://santafeopera.org)

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