

## Summer Opera

### A course for OLLI, Summer 2017

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Meets at the Freight & Salvage on Wednesday 10am to 12 noon, June 7 through 28.

**Course description:** This course presents the three operas on the calendar for the Summer Season 2017 of the San Francisco Opera company: Verdi's *Rigoletto*, Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, and Puccini's *La bohème*, contextualizing the composition and creation of the works, discussing the issues patently or latently presented, and analyzing how the combination of music and text delivers the content, both the explicit as well as the implicit. All three of these operas offer some kind of social commentary, and that will be examined as well. Though the three operas open in the order listed above, they will be discussed in chronological order (the classical, the romantic, and finally the modernist).

**Course objectives:** The objective of the course is to prepare people to attend the performance of these three works in order to maximize the enjoyment as well as the understating, and to train audience members to question and explore the "underbelly" so to speak, of the works.

**Course schedule:**

Date	Opera to be presented	Issues to be discussed
7 June	Mozart's <i>Don Giovanni</i>	Classical opera, Mozart and Prague, Da Ponte, moral tales and moralizing works, the "Don Juan" tradition from Tirso de Molina to Goldoni, violence and gender roles.
14 June	Verdi's <i>Rigoletto</i>	Verdi, politics, Risorgimento. Disability and social stigma. Romanticism in opera, human drama, censorship.
21 June	Puccini's <i>La bohème</i>	Modernism, realism and <i>verismo</i> in Italy. Bohemian life and artists. Illness. Performing challenges. Societal pressure on women, abnegation and sacrifice
28 June	Mark Streshinsky of Westedge Opera will preview their summer offerings	

The libretti and translations will be posted on the course site, as well as supplemental reading materials.