

2024 Merola Membership Benefits

BASIC \$75–\$249	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subscription to Merola’s e-newsletter • Four seats at the Bring-a-Friend Master Class • Invitation to Merola Season Preview event
FOUNDER \$250–\$499	All Basic benefits plus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two seats at one additional Master Class • Two seats at the Merola Auditions for the General Director • Voting membership and invitation to attend the Annual Meeting[†]
BRONZE CIRCLE \$500–\$999	All Founder benefits plus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invitation for two to Day at Merola • Two seats at one additional Master Class
SILVER CIRCLE \$1,000–\$2,499	All Bronze Circle benefits plus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two seats at one additional Master Class • Invitation to the Schwabacher Recital auditions • Donor listing in San Francisco Opera programs
GOLD CIRCLE \$2,500–\$4,999	All Silver Circle benefits plus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invitation to San Francisco Opera’s Meet the Adlers event • Invitation to one select summer working rehearsal • Two complimentary box seats at the Merola Grand Finale**. • Invitation to a virtual Alumni Chat
PLATINUM CIRCLE \$5,000–\$11,999	All Gold Circle benefits plus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invitation to one additional select summer working rehearsal • Two box seats at the Merola Auditions for the General Director
DIAMOND CIRCLE \$12,000–\$19,999	All Platinum Circle benefits plus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal concierge service • Two premium level tickets to all Merola summer events** • Upgraded premium box seating for two at the Merola Grand Finale
PRESIDENT’S CIRCLE \$20,000–\$29,999	All Diamond Circle benefits plus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private lunch or dinner with Merola Leadership and a Merola artist** • Two spaces at a Signature Event**
CHAIRMAN’S CIRCLE \$30,000+	All President’s Circle benefits plus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance in your home*** with a Merola artist or invitation to an additional Signature Event** • Reserved Seating at Master Classes (by request)

** According to IRS regulations, acceptance of items of value, including complimentary tickets, may reduce the tax-deductible value of your donation.

Those benefits available to the general public and purchased separately by the donor have no benefit value. Please consult with your tax advisor for further information about accepting items of value.

*** Requires a piano. Please contact staff for assistance.

Frequently Asked Questions about Merola Membership

I contribute every year to the San Francisco Opera; doesn't that support Merola too?

Unfortunately no. While Merola operates in close collaboration with San Francisco Opera, it is an independent nonprofit organization. Governed by a separate board of directors, Merola is responsible for its own long-term financial stability and fundraising and is grateful to the hundreds of loyal individual and institutional donors who support the program. We encourage you to support both organizations, but your gift to San Francisco Opera does not make you eligible for Merola Member Benefits.

I just gave a gift a few months ago. Why am I being asked again?

Our Merola membership year runs from January 1–December 31. Toward the end of the year, we ask our members to make a gift to renew their membership. We also stay in touch throughout the year to let everyone know of other opportunities to support Merola.

When do I find out about Merola events for next summer?

Merola will reach out to all members with information in the spring. Merola occasionally presents events during our off-season. To ensure you receive the latest information and schedules, please sign up for our e-newsletter by emailing info@merola.org or visiting merola.org/enewsletter.

Am I eligible for benefits before my pledge is paid in full?

As soon as Merola receives a signed pledge, you are eligible for benefits at your level. Merola asks that you fulfill your membership pledge by September 30 (the end of Merola's fiscal year).

How can I get friends involved in Merola?

You can bring them with you to a class or function (including our Bring-a-Friend event), you can provide us with their contact information and we will be happy to send them membership details, or you can buy them a gift membership.

What is a Signature Event?

Signature Events are special evenings of music or conversation in private homes with Merola alumni or other opera luminaries.

What is the tax deductibility of my gift?

Merola is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization and contributions are tax deductible as allowed by law. The following chart shows the value of goods and services received at different levels. If you choose not to receive benefits, the full amount of your donation may remain tax deductible. If you choose to make your contribution from a Donor Advised Fund, special rules apply. Benefits available to the general public and purchased separately by the donor have no benefit value. Please consult your tax advisor for more information. Your gift acknowledgment letter will give you more details.

If you have further questions or concerns, please call the Merola office at (415) 936-2311 or email info@merola.org, and we will be happy to assist you.

Support the future of opera!

Widely regarded as the foremost opera training program for aspiring singers, coaches, and stage directors, the Merola Opera Program has served for over 65 years as a proving ground for hundreds of artists. Many Merola alumni are now among the most recognized names in the opera world. This summer program offers young artists the rare opportunity of studying, coaching, and participating in masterclasses with established professionals for twelve weeks. Participants also perform in opera productions, recitals, and concerts. The Merola Opera Program is a financially independent organization and is a separate 501(c)3 organization which operates in close collaboration with the San Francisco Opera Center and San Francisco Opera.

NOTES

- Benefits are subject to change at any time.
- ALL Merola events require preregistration and are filled on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Due to the popularity of some events, Merola apologizes in advance if we are unable to fulfill your request.
- Complete instructions for reserving and/or ordering seats or event passes will be sent to all members in Spring 2024.
- Production tickets go on sale in Spring 2024.

