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## A Look Back at the Summer 2022 Festival



**"Superb performance given by the Merola Opera Program"**  
**"A highlight of the summer's musical calendar"**  
—San Francisco Chronicle

We're thrilled to have returned to a full Summer Festival in 2022, with two concerts, a recital, and an acclaimed production of *Die Zauberflöte* (*The Magic Flute*)! Special thanks to our Health & Safety Manager Bella King for getting us through the summer safely.

See more photos from A Celebration of American Song, The Schwabacher Summer Concert, *Die Zauberflöte*, and the Merola Grand Finale in our 2022 Festival Highlights photo album!

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## 2022 Festival in the News

**"At Merola, a Mozart opera bursts with comic vitality"**  
[San Francisco Chronicle on \*Die Zauberflöte\*](#)

**"Merola Opera Program winds up summer with thrilling array of future stars"**  
[San Francisco Chronicle on the Merola Grand Finale](#)

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## Thank You to Our 2022 Summer Festival Sponsors



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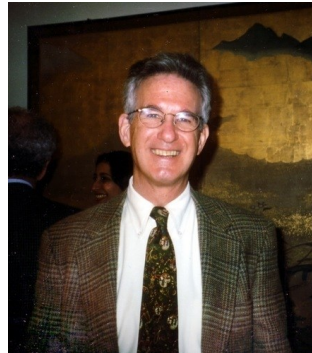
Frances K. and Charles D. Field Foundation

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And to all the Merola members who helped make this summer possible!

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## In Memoriam



### Paul Bissinger

Longtime Merola supporter and former board member Paul A. Bissinger passed away on September 1, 2022. A third generation San Franciscan, Paul was born on April 3, 1934, to Paul Bissinger and Marjorie Walter Bissinger. Paul leaves behind his wife of 63 years, Kathy, and their two children Stephen (Taara Hoffman) and Matthew (Steve Fagundes), who served on the Merola staff in the early 2000s. Paul's son David predeceased him. Paul also leaves behind his sister Peggy and brother Tom, and his grandchildren Tessa and Hannah. Merola sends our deepest sympathies to all of his family.



### Tom Foote

Devoted Merola supporter Thomas Withycombe (Tom) Foote passed away on August 9, 2022. Tom, born October 30, 1927, was 94 years old. Tom and his wife Mary were Merola members for over twenty-five years. They were active members of the Amici di Merola and sponsored numerous Merolini. Merola sends our deepest sympathies to Mary and all their family.

## From Our Friends



### Ars Minerva Presents *Astianatte* - A Modern World Premiere

October 21-23, 2022  
ODC Theater, San Francisco

A dark tale of post-Iliad trauma, vengeance, sexual havoc, and threatened infanticide, composed by one of the early 18th century's most brilliant and under-recognized operatic masters, Leonardo Vinci. This is by far the most disturbing work Ars Minerva has revived, set in a topsy-turvy world of grim beauty where mother love counts for little, erotic attraction excuses any cruelty, and conventional gender roles are reversed: Heroic males are at the mercy of their emotions, while women are the cold voice of duty and honor. Even death itself may not be what it seems in this lusty tale. Can a happy resolution be found?

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Summer Festival Photographs: Scott Lee and Ashley Marie Robillard in *Die Zauberflöte*, Tutti 2022 Merolini, SeungYun Kim and Veena Akama-Makia in A Celebration of American Song, Celeste Morales in A Celebration of American Song, Nikola Adele Printz, Arianna Rodriguez, Andres Cascante, and Moisés Salazar in The Schwabacher Summer Concert, Erin Wagner, Olivia Prendergast, and Maggie Renée in the Merola Grand Finale, Veena Akama-Makia, Adia Evans, Sahel Salam, and Erin Wagner in *Die Zauberflöte*. Photography: Kristen Loken.

Paul Bissinger photograph courtesy the University of California Berkeley Library.

Tom Foote photograph by Kristen Loken. Tom and his wife Mary with Merolini Isaac Frishman (Merola '16) at the 2016 Meet the Merolini Event.

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