



## MEROLA OPERA PROGRAM CONTINUES ITS 64<sup>TH</sup> SEASON WITH **BACK HOME: THROUGH THE STAGE DOOR**

**August 13 – Available via online streaming for Merola members**

**August 27 – Available via online streaming for the public**

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (21 June 2021) – The acclaimed **Merola Opera Program** continues its summer season with ***Back Home: Through the Stage Door***, a thrilling new digital production. Conceived and directed for film by award-winning director David Paul, this innovative work will celebrate the joys of making music together — a sensation sadly missed during the pandemic. Through classic and lesser-known gems of the vocal repertoire, ***Back Home: Through the Stage Door*** will share the many moments, small and large, that comprise singers’ lives as they return to creating music together for the stage. The film will feature all 2021 Merola participants as they celebrate a return “home” to the theater and experience the artistic fulfillment that comes with performing once again. Filmed at San Francisco’s magnificent Herbst Theatre, ***Back Home: Through the Stage Door*** will feature music by Dominick Argento, Vincenzo Bellini, Carlisle Floyd, Francis Poulenc, and Anton Webern, as well as Handel, Mozart, and others. The streaming on-demand production will become available for Merola members on August 13, and to the public on August 27. For more information, visit [www.merola.org](http://www.merola.org).

**David Paul**, born in Germany and based in Brooklyn, is an award-winning director for opera, theater, and film. His work has been praised by *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post* for its energy, humor, and emotional depth, and has been seen across four continents in five languages. His film *Dichterliebe: POETLOVE* won several awards at film festivals around the world, and streams on the PBS “ALL ARTS” platform. Recent highlights include projects with LA Opera, Shakespeare Theatre Company (Washington, DC), the Metropolitan Opera/Juilliard, Washington National Opera, Arizona Opera, Pittsburgh Opera, North Carolina Opera, and Wolf Trap Opera. Paul serves on the faculty of the Juilliard School, the San Francisco Opera Adler Fellowship Program, and the Metropolitan Opera Lindemann Young Artist Program.

The **Merola Opera Program** is widely regarded as the foremost opera training program for aspiring singers, pianist/coaches, and stage directors. Merola nurtures the opera stars of tomorrow with master classes and private coaching with opera’s most accomplished singers, coaches, conductors, and directors. Participants also receive training in operatic repertoire, languages, diction, acting, stage movement, and professional development. Offered free of charge for all participants, the Merola Opera Program is unique in the industry in many ways. It is the only young artist program to provide financial support to developing artists for five years following their participation, offering aid for essential career development expenses including coaching, language classes, and audition travel. In summer 2020, the company initiated the

Merola Artists Emergency Fund to offer much-needed financial assistance to those artists who lost wages and incurred unreimbursed expenses as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:**

**WHAT:** The acclaimed **Merola Opera Program** continues its summer season with ***Back Home: Through the Stage Door***, a thrilling new digital production. Conceived and directed for film by award-winning director David Paul, this innovative work will celebrate the joys of making music together — a sensation sadly missed during the pandemic. Through classic and lesser-known gems of the vocal repertoire, ***Back Home: Through the Stage Door*** will share the many moments, small and large, that comprise singers’ lives as they return to creating music together for the stage. The film will feature all 2021 Merola participants as they celebrate a return “home” to the theater and experience the artistic fulfillment that comes with performing once again. Filmed at San Francisco’s magnificent Herbst Theatre, ***Back Home: Through the Stage Door*** will feature music by Dominick Argento, Vincenzo Bellini, Carlisle Floyd, Francis Poulenc, and Anton Webern, as well as Handel, Mozart, and others.

**SHOWS:** **Friday, August 13** – Video performance available to Merola members  
**Friday, August 27** – Public release of video performance

**TICKETS:** Streamed on-demand access will be available to Merola members beginning August 13.

Streamed on-demand access will be FREE to the public beginning August 27.

**INFO:** For information or to become a Merola member, visit <http://merola.org>.

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**PHOTOS:** Downloadable high-res photos are available here:  
<http://www.cbpr.co/press/MerolaOperaProgram>