

Thomas Shoebotham

American conductor **Thomas Shoebotham** has impressed both audiences and critics with his performances of a wide range of repertory, displaying strong musicality, versatility, and “masterful command of pacing, dynamics, and color.” Equally at home on the concert stage and in the opera and ballet pit, he conducts frequently with professional, community, and youth ensembles, collaborating with notable singers, dancers, and instrumentalists to bring “rousing, colorful” presentations to a variety of audiences.

Shoebotham is currently Principal Conductor for The New Ballet in San Jose, where he conducts the annual production of the San Jose Nutcracker, as well as other works. Previously, from 2006-2018, he was Music Director of Palo Alto Philharmonic, where he gained recognition for creating compelling concerts that featured both traditional masterpieces and newer works by various current composers, including Chris Theofanidis, Roberto Sierra, Stephen Paulus, Lee Actor, and Jennifer Higdon. In addition, he has conducted numerous other orchestras in both the San Francisco Bay Area and elsewhere, including Peninsula Symphony, the San Francisco Concerto Orchestra, Albuquerque Philharmonic, Contra Costa Chamber Orchestra, and the Rio Grande Chamber Symphony.

As an opera conductor Shoebotham has conducted performances with Opera San José (Les Pêcheurs de Perles), Lyric Theatre of San Jose (Iolanthe), West Bay Opera (The Last Tycoon), Emerald City Opera in Steamboat Springs (Le Nozze di Figaro), Berkeley Opera (Otello, Béatrice et Bénédict, Le Nozze di Figaro, Carmen, Così fan Tutte, and L'italiana in Algeri), Opera on Tap San Francisco (Le Nozze di Figaro), and Verismo Opera (Otello).

Prior to his position with Palo Alto Philharmonic Mr. Shoebotham was Assistant Conductor of Peninsula Symphony in San Mateo, California. During this time he conducted numerous works on the orchestra's classical and pops concerts, presented all of the orchestra's family concerts, and filled in for the ailing principal conductor with no rehearsal at a subscription concert to great critical acclaim.

<https://thomas-shoebotham.com>

Shawnette Sulker

Guyanese-American soprano **Shawnette Sulker** has been acclaimed for her “heart-breaking poignancy” and “beautifully tuned soprano” by the San Francisco Chronicle and for her “enchanted vocal splendor” by the Leipziger Volkszeitung. Also described as a singer “...displaying a bright, superbly controlled soprano with perfectly placed coloratura” (The San Francisco Chronicle), she is sought after both in the US and abroad. A consummate performer, she has been a featured artist at San Francisco Opera in their production of **Porgy and Bess**. Her recently sung roles include Poppea (**L'incoronazione di Poppea**) with both Intermountain Opera Bozeman and West Edge Opera, Die Königin der Nacht (**Die Zauberflöte**) with Santa Rosa Symphony, and Cleopatra (**Giulio Cesare**) with West Edge Opera.

Ms. Sulker is as equally at home performing standard repertoire as she is in newer works. She had the distinction of creating the leading role of Mary Jane Bowser in Houston Grand Opera's workshop of Jake Heggie's latest opera **Intelligence**. Additional new music performance highlights in 2023 included creating the role of Ariel in Allen Shearer's **Prospero's Island**, performing Princess Dora in Lori Laitman's **The Three Feathers**, and singing Sparrow in Okoye's **Tales from the Briar Patch**. Further new music credits include creating the role of Corina in the world-premiere of David Conte's opera **Firebird Motel**. The original cast recording can be found on the Arsis label. She has also sung in the American premieres of the following operas: Adam Gorb's **Anya17** in the role of Mila, Tarik O'Regan's **Heart of Darkness** in the role of River Woman, Fabrizio Carlone's **Bonjour M. Gauguin** as La Voix Intérieure, and Zenobia Powell Perry's **Tawawa House** as Fanny.

A further sampling of Ms. Sulker's dynamic range of roles includes Sister Rose (**Dead Man Walking**); Floralba (**Messalina** by Pallavicino); Pip (Heggie's **Moby Dick**); Zerbinetta (**Ariadne auf Naxos**); Cunegonde (**Candide**); The Visitor (Sankaram's **Formidable**); Carolina (**Il matrimonio segreto**); Musetta (**La Bohème**); Susanna (**Le nozze di Figaro**); Lauretta (**Gianni Schicchi**); Olympia/Giulietta/Antonia (**Les Contes d'Hoffmann**); Oscar (**Un ballo in maschera**); Constanze (**Abduction from the Seraglio**); Clara (**Porgy and Bess**); Belinda (**Dido and Aeneas**); Treemonisha (**Treemonisha**); Madame Silberklang (**Der Schauspieldirektor**).

shawnettesulker.com