

## 2020 Merola Membership Benefits

<p><b>BASIC</b> \$25–\$99</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Subscription to Merola's newsletter and e-news bulletins</li> <li>· Advance notice and registration period for all Merola events</li> <li>· Two seats at the Bring-a-Friend Master Class</li> <li>· Discount on production tickets during the member pre-order period</li> </ul>
<p><b>FOUNDER</b> \$100–\$299</p>	<p><b>All of the above plus</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Invitation to Post-Master Class Reception*</li> <li>· Two seats at one additional Master Class</li> <li>· Two seats at the Merola Auditions for the General Director</li> </ul> <p><b>UNDER 40 FOUNDER : Join at the Founder level and get benefits at the Bronze Circle level!</b></p>
<p><b>BENEFACTOR</b> \$300–\$599</p>	<p><b>All of the above plus</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Invitation for two to Day at Merola</li> <li>· Invitation for two to Meet and Mingle with the Merolini*</li> <li>· Two seats at one additional Master Class</li> </ul>
<p><b>BRONZE CIRCLE</b> \$600–\$999</p>	<p><b>All of the above plus</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Two seats at one additional Master Class</li> <li>· Invitation to the Schwabacher Debut Recital auditions</li> </ul>
<p><b>SILVER CIRCLE</b> \$1,000–\$2,499</p>	<p><b>All of the above plus</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Donor listing in all Merola and San Francisco Opera programs</li> <li>· Two seats at one additional Master Class</li> </ul>
<p><b>GOLD CIRCLE</b> \$2,500–\$4,999</p>	<p><b>All of the above plus</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Invitation to San Francisco Opera's event, Meet the Adler Fellows</li> <li>· Invitation to one select summer working rehearsal</li> <li>· Two complimentary box seats at the Merola Grand Finale**</li> <li>· Two box seats at the Merola Auditions for the General Director</li> </ul>
<p><b>PLATINUM CIRCLE</b> \$5,000–\$9,999</p>	<p><b>All of the above plus</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Invitation to one additional select summer working rehearsal</li> </ul>
<p><b>DIAMOND CIRCLE</b> \$10,000–\$14,999</p>	<p><b>All of the above plus</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Personal concierge service</li> <li>· Two premium level tickets to all Merola events**</li> <li>· Front-row box seating at the Merola Grand Finale</li> </ul>
<p><b>PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE</b> \$15,000–\$24,999</p>	<p><b>All of the above plus</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Private lunch or dinner with Merola's Executive Director and a Merola artist**</li> <li>· Invitation to a Signature Event</li> </ul>
<p><b>CHAIRMAN'S CIRCLE</b> \$25,000+</p>	<p><b>All of the above plus</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Performance in your home*** with a Merola artist or invitation to an additional Signature Event</li> <li>· Reserved Seating at Master Classes (by request)</li> </ul>

\* Subject to additional fee or ticket purchase price.

\*\* According to IRS regulations, acceptance of items of value, including complimentary tickets, may reduce the tax-deductible value of your donation. You may opt out of accepting benefits of value if you wish, or purchase them separately. Please consult with your tax advisor for further information about accepting items of value.

\*\*\* Requires a piano.

# Frequently Asked Questions about Merola Membership

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

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 members, donors, and foundations 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 them know of other opportunities to support Merola.

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

In the spring, Merola will mail all members a Merola Benefits Booklet that will list all master classes and events for which members qualify. Please read the booklet carefully to find out how to register for summer events. Merola occasionally presents events during our off-season. To ensure you have access to the latest information and schedules, please sign up for our e-newsletter by emailing [info@merola.org](mailto:info@merola.org) or visiting [merola.org](http://merola.org).

## 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 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. Please consult your tax advisor for more information. Your gift acknowledgment letter will give you more details.

Gifts \$1–\$2,499	Full donation is tax deductible as allowed by law.
Gifts \$2,500–\$9,999	Donation less \$100 is tax deductible as allowed by law.
Gifts \$10,000–\$14,999	Donation less \$790 is tax deductible as allowed by law.
Gifts \$15,000–\$24,999	Donation less \$1,190 is tax deductible as allowed by law.
Gifts \$25,000+	Donation less \$1,590 is tax deductible as allowed by law.

## 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 as a proving ground for hundreds of artists. For over 60 years, many Merola alumni are now among the most recognized names in the opera world. Every summer the program offers 29 young artists the rare opportunity of studying, coaching and participating in master classes with established professionals for twelve weeks. Participants also perform in two complete opera production with orchestra and two summer concerts. The Merola Opera Program is a financially independent organization with a separate 501(c)3 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 included in the 2020 Merola Benefits Booklet to be mailed to all members in early May 2020.
- Production tickets go on sale in April 2020.

If you have further questions or concerns, please call the Merola office at (415) 936-2324 or email [info@merola.org](mailto:info@merola.org), and someone will be happy to assist you.