



SAN FRANCISCO
OPERA

May 2, 2019

The Trustees of the War Memorial Performing Arts Center

Dear Trustees,

I am writing to seek your kind consideration of a bas relief of Pamela Rosenberg in the lobby of the Opera House.

Pamela served as the 5th General Director of San Francisco Opera from 2000-2005. She produced some of the most notable productions in the company's recent history, productions like Messiaen's *Saint François d'Assise*, John Adams' *Dr. Atomic* and Ligeti's *Le Grande Macabre*. She brought a wonderful sense of artistic curiosity and exploration to the Opera, developing programming themes like *Women in Society* and *The Faust Project* that inspired audiences and ensured San Francisco's prominence on the global stage. She saw the company through particularly difficult financial years following the dot-com-collapse, and the September 11, 2001 tragedy.

Pamela has been the only female in a position of staff leadership within the War Memorial tenant companies' histories and is only one of five women to have been general director of an American opera company. We would be very proud to recognize her contributions through a bas relief in the lobby of the Opera House and hope that the Trustees would as well.

Pamela was educated at UC Berkeley and then went on to receive practical training under Richard Wagner's grandson, Wieland Wagner, at Bayreuth. She worked in many European companies prior to coming to San Francisco including Hamburg, Amsterdam and Stuttgart. Following her time in San Francisco, she became the first woman and first American Administrative Director of the Berlin Philharmonic, a premier leadership position in the symphony world. She currently serves as the Dean of Fellows and Programs at the American Academy in Berlin.

As has been tradition for all the other General Directors of San Francisco Opera, we would like to commission a bas relief for Pamela, recognizing the impact that she has had on the institution and on the arts more broadly in San Francisco.

We have identified a very fine sculptor, Bertrand Freiseleben, who is based in Berlin and who has sculpted a number of very prominent musicians and dignitaries including Claudio Abbado, Kurt Masur and Richard Wagner. A sample of his sculptures are pictured below. Mr. Freiseleben has met Pamela

and the two found a great artistic connection and she would be very eager to have him sculpt her bas relief. Given that Pamela lives in Berlin, this would allow for sittings to happen without the cost of flights. Mr. Freiseleben has given us a firm quote for what a bronze bas relief would cost, of the size and scope of the other bas reliefs in the lobby, such as that of Lotfi Mansouri. The bas reliefs that we have currently are 23.5 inches wide and range in height from 29.5 to 31 inches. We believe that the project could be accomplished for a maximum of \$80k, and we have already identified \$50k of this from two donors. Remaining funding would be secured from the Opera's donor community and we are not asking for funding from the War Memorial.

We would propose positioning Pamela's bas relief on the adjacent column to Lotfi's, so that it would be visible as you descend the north-east staircase from the mezzanine into the main lobby.



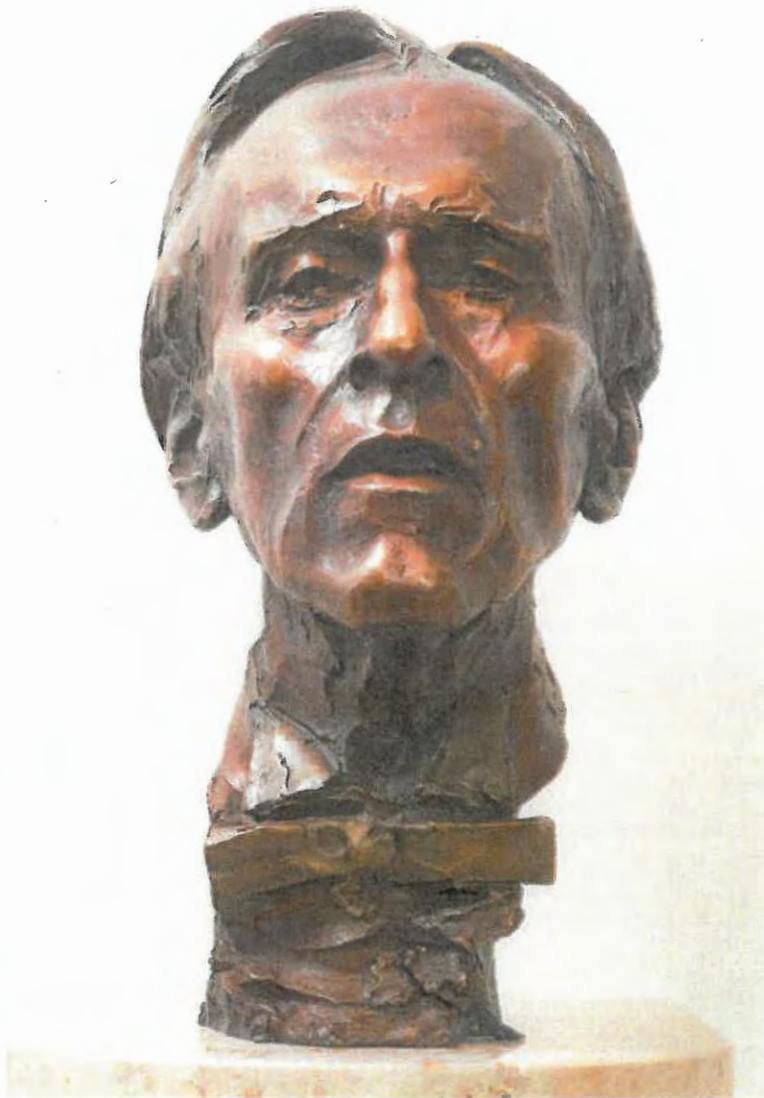
The specific timetable will be dependent on finding a window that works for the sculptor, with an installation window to be agreed upon with the War Memorial at a time when the sculptor and Pamela can be present, but we would hope that the creation and installation could happen within the next 12 months. We would work with the War Memorial staff and Trustees to ensure that preliminary plans are available for review so that the final bas relief is of a design with which we are all comfortable.

We are excited to recognize Pamela's contributions as General Director of San Francisco Opera, and that she follow in the tradition of the Company's other General Directors through the creation of a beautiful bas relief in her honor.

I very much appreciate your kind consideration of this request.

With warmest wishes,

Matthew Shilcock
General Director



Claudio Abbado, created for the Berlin Philharmonic lobby



Johanna Frankenheim



Kurt Biedenkopf